

**Supplemental Table S1.** Primers used for vector construction and qRT-PCR of *MdWRKY120*.

Primers name	Sequence (5'-3')	Description
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -F	GTCGACATGGACTACTCAGCTGCATAT	Primers of cloning and overexpression vectors
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -R	GGTACCTCAGTAAGTATTGCGTTGAAG	
Sense <i>WRKY120</i> -F	TCTAGATTGGATCTTAATTCCCTGCCT	Primes of RNAi vector forward fragments
Sense <i>WRKY120</i> -R	GTCGACTTGTGTGTTGTTGCTG	
Anti <i>WRKY120</i> -F	GGTACCTTGTGTGTTGTTGCTG	
Anti <i>WRKY120</i> -R	GAGCTCTGGATCTTAATTCCCTGCCT	
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -GFP-F	GTCGACATGGACTACTCAGCTGCATAT	Primers of constructing GFP fusion vector
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -GFP-R	GGTACCGTAAGTATTGCGTTGAAG	
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -QRT-F	TTGACGGTGATAGGAGACA	qRT-PCR primers
<i>MdWRKY120</i> -QRT-R	TGAAATCTTAGCCTTGACG	qRT-PCR primers

**Supplemental Table S2.** Prediction of putative *cis*-regulatory elements of *MdWRKY120* promoter

cis-regulatory element	Position (strand)	Sequence	Function
5UTR Py-rich stretch	-369 (+)	TTTCTTCTCT	<i>cis</i> -acting element conferring high transcription levels
A-box	-313 (+)	CCGTCC	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element
ACE	-779 (+)	ACGTGGA	<i>cis</i> -acting element involved in light responsiveness
TGAGTCA motif	-126 (+)	ATACAAAT	associated to the TGAGTCA motif
Box 4	-708 (-)	ATTAAT	part of a conserved DNA module involved in light responsiveness
Box I	-381 (+) -693 (+)	TTTCAAA	light responsive element
Box-W1	-921 (-)	TTGACC	fungal elicitor responsive element
CCGTCC-box	-313 (+)	CCGTCC	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element related to meristem specific activation
CGTCA-motif	-1105 (+)	CGTCA	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element involved in the MeJA-responsiveness
G-Box	-1113 (+)	GACACGTAG T	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element involved in light responsiveness
GARE-motif	-872 (+)	AAACAGA	gibberellin-responsive element
RY-element	-212	CATGCATG	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element involved in seed-specific regulation
Skn-1_motif	-903 (-) -1104 (-) -1036 (-)	GTCAT	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element required for endosperm expression
TC-rich repeats	-782 (-)	ATTTTCTTCA	<i>cis</i> -acting element involved in defense and stress responsiveness
TCA-element	-813 (+)	CAGAAAAGG A	<i>cis</i> -acting element involved in salicylic acid responsiveness
TGACG-motif	-1105 (+)	TGACG	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element involved in the MeJA-responsiveness
as-2-box	-668 (-)	GATAatGATG	involved in shoot-specific expression and light responses
chs-CMA2a	-496 (+)	TCACTTGA	part of a light responsive element
circadian	-81 (-)	CAANNNNAT	<i>cis</i> -acting regulatory element involved

		C	in circadian control
W-box	-921 (-)	TTGACC	