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Organ-dependent seasonal dynamism of three forms of carbohydrates in Japanese apricot

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Abstract

Changes in concentration of carbohydrates in three forms—soluble sugars, starch, and cell-wall material (CWM) assimilated each month from summer (August; 2 months after harvest) to late fall (November; just before defoliation)—in organs of Japanese apricot (Prunus mume Siebold et Zucc.) Nanko were deter-mined until May of the following season by providing ¹³CO₂. ¹³C concentrations in the nonstructural carbohydrates (soluble sugar and starch) in the foliar and flower buds were higher than those in the cur-rent twigs and fine roots, suggesting that these organs are large sinks of reserve carbohydrates. However, they decreased sharply along with growth and were low in all the organs at the beginning of May. In contrast, a large amount of ¹³C was fixed in the CWM of older twigs. These results indicate that reserve carbohydrates contribute to the growth of young shoots and fruits until the beginning of May, after which their growth depends on current assimilates. Carbohydrates assimilated in August–November were mainly transported to twigs, roots, trunk, and flowers, respectively. These findings show that carbohydrates assimilated in each month contribute to different organs. Thus, leaves should be maintained healthy until defoliation to produce substantial amounts of carbohydrate reserves for stable fruit production from Japanese apricot tree.

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ウメ樹の各器官中の3形態の炭水化物の季節変化

8月から落葉直前の11月までの各月にウメ '南高' 樹体に安定同位体 ¹³C を含んだ二酸化炭素を与えた. 各器官中の3 つの形態の炭水化物(可溶性糖,デンプン,細胞壁)に含まれた ¹³C の濃度変化を翌年5月まで測定した. 花芽および葉芽中の可溶性糖およびデンプン中の ¹³C 濃度は,当年枝や細根に比べて高かった. このことは,花芽と葉芽は貯蔵炭水化物の強いシンクであることを示唆している. しかし,これらの器官中の ¹³C は生育にともなって大きく減少し,翌年5月には器官中で最も低くなった.一方で古い枝の細胞壁に ¹³C が高い濃度で存在しており,樹体中の全 ¹³C の約7割という高い割合であった. これらの結果は,前年の貯蔵炭水化物は,糖やデンプンの形態で主に新梢や幼果の生育に利用されるが,5月以降はほとんどが細胞壁に固定されるため,新梢や幼果の生育は当年に合成された炭水化物に依存することを示している. 8,9,10,および11月の各月に合成された炭水化物中の ¹³C は,それぞれ主に枝,根,幹および花で濃度が高かった. この結果は,炭水化物は合成された月によって貢献する器官が異なることを示している. よって,ウメの安定生産のためには,葉を落葉期まで健全に維持することが重要である.