

# **PRUNING BRANCHES AND FRUIT THINNING ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF TOMATOES (*Lycopersicum esculentum* Mill)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Increasing tomato production must be accompanied by improving quality according to market demand. This study aims to determine the interaction between branch pruning and fruit thinning that yields the best results for the growth and yield of tomatoes. The research was conducted from May to August 2023 in Karangwuni, Bangun Kerto, Turi, Sleman. The experimental field research used a Completely Randomized Block Design (CRBD) with two factors, each repeated three times. The first factor was branch pruning, consisting of three levels: pruning to leave 2 branches, 3 branches, and 4 branches. The second factor was fruit thinning, consisting of three levels: no fruit thinning, 10% fruit thinning, and 30% fruit thinning. Observational data were analyzed using ANOVA and further tested with DMRT at a 5% significance level. The research results showed an interaction between branch pruning and fruit thinning treatments on the plant height parameter at 56 days after planting (DAP). Pruning by leaving 2 branches provided the best results for the plant height parameter at 42 DAP. The 30% fruit thinning treatment yielded the best results for the parameters of the first harvest age, fruit length, fruit weight per fruit, and fruit sweetness level.

**Keywords: Tomato, Branch Pruning, Fruit Thinning**