Abstract
The objective of this study was to analyze the effect of whitewashing entire apple trees (Malus domestica Borkh) at the onset of winter on the internal tree temperature and accumulation of cold units (CU), fruit yield and quality, and its relationship to the application of chemical bloom stimulants. The study was conducted in two orchards of the Sierra de Arteaga, Coahuila, during the winters of 1997-1998 and 1998-1999. Total whitewashing of the trees reduced internal temperature of the branches by up to 5 °C and that of the trunks by up to 15 °C. The average daily accumulated (CU) in function of the internal temperature of the whitewashed trees was 51.68% higher than that of the nonwhitewashed trees (controls) in one of the orchards and 43.96% in the other. In one of the orchards, weight of fruits from the whitewash treatment was 5.20 times higher than the treatment with bloom stimulators and 3.12 times higher than the control treatment (without applications). In the other, no difference in fruit yield was observed among treatments.

Keywords
Malus domestica, whitewashing, fruit yield, temperature, cold units