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EFFECT OF PLANTING DATE AND COMPOST FERTILIZATION ON FENUGREEK PLANT

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons in Sharona Village, Eastern Desert Road, Maghagha City, Minia Governorate, to study the effect of compost fertilization levels (0.0, 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 t/fed.) and planting dates (15^{th} September, 1^{st} October and 15^{th} October), as well as their interactions on fenugreek plants performance.

The results indicated that all treatments of compost led to significant (p < 0.05) increase in plant height, leaves number/plant, number of pods/plant and seed yield/plant as well as protein and saponine (%) as compared with the control. The treatment of 10.0 t/fed. compost was superior than the other treatments.

Planting dates had significant (p < 0.05) effect on vegetative growth parameters, yields and some chemical composition. The suitable sowing date of fenugreek plants was 1st October for all previous traits.

Generally, it could be recommended that sowing fenugreek plants in 1st October and fertilizing plants with 10.0 t/fed. compost would obtain the good growth and yield productivity of fenugreek plant under Minia Governorate conditions.

INTRODUCTION

Fenugreek (*Trigoneila foenum-greecum*, L.) is an annual herbaceous plant commonly known as *methi*, belongs to the sub Family *Papilionaceae*, Family *Fabaceae*. it is used both as herb (the leaves) and as spice (the seed) (*Basu et al.*, 2014).Fenugreek seeds contain many compounds belong to glycosides and flavonoids that give the plant pigment. They are important compounds for treating diabetes, liver diseases, eye pressure protection and anemia treatments, also contain vitamins such as (A, B₁ and B₂), as well as rich in some minerals, including K, P, Ca, Mg, Fe and Mn. Also, seeds contain hormone precursors that can increase milk production in nursing mothers (*Muhammed*, 2017 and Meena et al., 2018).

The application of organic fertilization (compost) resulted in an improvement in the growth and yield of fenugreek plant (*Hegazy et al., 2013; Mafakheri, 2017; Lunagariya et al., 2018 and Ameziane et al., 2020*). Sowing date is one of the most important production factors, many authors concluded that planting date had significant effect on growth and yield of fenugreek plant (Sheorant et al., 2000; Bhutia and Sharangi, 2016; Sowmya et al., 2017; Kauser et al., 2018 and Majid et al., 2019).

Therefore, this study was to investigate the effect of sowing date and compost fertilization levels on fenugreek plant performance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was conducted during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons in Sharona Village, Eastern Desert Road, Maghagha City, Minia Governorate. The seeds of fenugreek plant were obtained from the Agricultural Research Station at Sids, Beni Sueif Governorate. The experimental unit (plot) was 1.2×2.2 m and contained 4 rows, 30 cm apart, and seeds were cultivated in hills, 10 cm apart on one side of the row, therefore, each plot contained 80 hills and plants were thinned to two plants/hill after 2 weeks (30^{th} September, 15^{th} October and 30^{th} October) from the sowing dates. The physical and chemical analysis of the used soil were presented in Table (1).

Table 1: Physical and chemical	analysis of	the used	soil during	the two	seasons	of
2018/2019 and 2019/2	020.					

Soil character	Va	alues	Soil	Val	Values				
	2018/2019	2019/2020	Character	2018/2019	2019/2020				
Ph	ysical properti	es:	Soluble cations (mg/100 g soil):						
Sand (%)	63	61	Ca ⁺⁺	1.16	1.21				
Silt (%)	16	16	\mathbf{Mg}^{++}	0.95	0.98				
Clay (%)	21	23	Na ⁺	0.52	0.55				
Soil type	Sandy loam	Sandy loam	\mathbf{K}^+	0.09	0.08				
Che	emical propert	ies:	Soluble anions (mg/100 g soil):						
pH (1:2.5)	8.33	8.34	CI.	0.96	0.98				
E.C. (dS/m)	0.66	0.68	HCO ₃ -	1.04	1.09				
O.M. (%)	0.03	0.03	CO ₃	0.00	0.00				
CaCO ₃ (%)	2.75	2.76	SO4	0.72	0.75				

The experiment was arranged in a randomized complete block design in a split-plot design with three replicates. The main plots (A) included four levels of compost (0.0, 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 t/fed.), while the sub-plots (B) involved three planting dates treatments (15^{th} September, 1^{st} October and 15^{th} October), therefore, the interaction treatments (A x B) were 12 treatments.Compost (plant residues) was obtained from Egypt Company for Circulate Solid Residues at New El-Minia City and added during preparing the soil to cultivation in both seasons. The chemical analysis of compost is shown in Table (2).

Table 2: Chemical	analysis of the used compost in both seasons of 2018/2019 and
2019/2020.	

Properties	Value	Properties	Value
Organic carbon (%)	26.25	Total P (%)	0.4
Humidity (%)	25	Total K (%)	1.0
Organic matter	44	Fe (ppm)	1740
C/N ratio	17.5	Zn (ppm)	58
pH (1:2.5)	8.0	Mn (ppm)	130
E.C. (m. mhos/cm.)	4.5	Cu (ppm)	189

Total N (%) 1.5

The end of the growth seasons was at 1st April, 15th April and 1st May for the first, second and third sowing date, respectively.

Data recorded: vegetative growth (plant height and number of leaves/plant), yield components (number of pods/plant and seeds yield per plant) as well as chemical composition (protein and saponine %) were evaluated.

- Saponin (%) determination:

After oil extraction by Soxhlet apparatus, 0.1 g of the defatted residue was collected in a falcon centrifuge tube where 3 ml methanol was added and left overnight on the shaker, followed by centrifugation. The same extraction procedure was done twice more. At the end, supernatant of methanol extracts of the three extraction times were pooled together and the solvent was evaporated by rotary evaporator. A yellowish crystal powder was finally which contained the crude saponins which was spectrophotometrically determined according to the method described by *Baccou et al.* (1977).

- **Protein (%) determination:**

The percentage of N in the seeds was measured according to *Page et al. (1982)*, then the values were multiplied by 6.25.

The obtained data were tabulated and statistically analyzed according to MSTAT-C (1986), and LSD test at 5% was followed to compare between the means of treatments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Vegetative growth:

Obtained data in Table (3) indicated that fertilizing fenugreek plants with compost at 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 t/fed. led to significant (P < 0.05) increase in both plant height and leaves number/plant comparing to control plants. The addition of high level of compost (10.0 t/fed.) recorded the tallest plants (78.7 and 80.0 cm) in both seasons, respectively, and the highest number of leaves (50.7 and 51.1 leaves/plant) in the first and second seasons, respectively. These results agree with many authors who reported that compost supplied fenugreek plant with good nutrition (*Biswas and Anusuya, 2014; Jasim et al., 2016; and Balakrishnan and Arunprasath, 2018*).

Results in Table (3) revealed that plant height and leaves number/plant were differed according to the difference in sowing date in both seasons. Planting fenugreek on 1st October gave the tallest plants (73.8 and 83.0 cm in both seasons) and the highest number of leaves (50.65 and 50.98 leaves/plant) in the first and second seasons, respectively. *Sultana et al.* (2016); *Kauser et al.* (2018) and Majid et al. (2019) proved that the suitable sowing date augmented good vegetative growth of fenugreek plants.

The interaction between the two was significant (P < 0.05) for plant height and leaves number/plant in the both seasons. The best interaction treatment was the second planting date (1st October) in combination with compost of 10.0 t/fed. or 7.5 t/fed. in both seasons.

Table (1): Effect of compost, planting dates and their interactions on plant height and
leaves number/plant of fenugreek during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons.

	Compost levels (ton/feddan) (A)										
Planting dates	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n (B)	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n (B)	

			1 st s	eason (20	18/2019	2 nd season (2019/2020)					
Plant height (cm)											
15 th September		44.0	54.	1 74.8	77.1	62.6	54.2	55.1	66.6	71.1	61.8
1 st October		63.7	67.	0 81.3	83.0	73.8	71.9	83.1	86.2	90.8	83.0
15 th October		56.3	71.	9 72.9	75.9	69.3	62.9	65.8	73.2	78.1	70.0
Mean		54.7	64.	3 76.3	78.7		63.0	68.0	75.3	80.0	
L.S.D at 5%		A:	2.5	B: 2.	0 4	AB: 4.0	A: 2	2.9	B: 2.2	AI	3: 4.4
	Leaves number/plant										
15 th Sept.	45	5.1	46.8	48.1	49.1	47.2 8	45.3	46.5	48.8	49.9	47.6 3
1 st October	48	8.3	70.0	51.6	52.7	50.6 5	48.6	50.1	52.3	52.9	50.9 8
15 th October	46	5.2	47.9	49.3	50.3	48.4 3	46.4	47.8	49.9	50.5	48.6 5
Mean		6.5 3	48.2 3	49.6 7	50.7 0		46.7 7	48.1 3	50.3 3	51.1 0	
L.S.D at 5%	A	A: 0.6	59	B: 0.55	AE	8: 1.10	A: 0.	85	B: 1.20	AB	: 2.40

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Yield and its components:

Data in Table (4) showed that adding compost at the three levels significantly increased pod number/plant and seed yield/plant in both seasons as compared with control. By increasing the level of compost from zero to 10.0 t/fed., pods number and seed yield/plant were raised from 27.00 to 36.00 pod/plant and from 3.431 to 7.605 g/plant in the first season, respectively; and 31.67 to 38.33 pod/plant and from 4.933 to 8.888 g/plant in the second season, respectively. Application of compost may be enhanced the availability of N, P and K in the soil as a major plant nutrients. Our results on fenugreek are in agreement with those obtained by **Godara** *et al.* (2012); Alaghemand *et al.* (2017) and Sahu *et al.* (2020).

Table (4): Effect of compost, planting dates and their inateractions on pods number/plant and seed yield/plant of fenugreek during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons.

			(Compos	t levels (ton/fedd	lan) (A)			
Planting dates treatments	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n (B)	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n (B)
		1 st seas	on (2018	/2019)			2 nd seas	on (2019)/2020)	
			Pods	numbe	r/plant					
15 th September	22	25	27	30	26.0	27	30	31	34	30.5
1 st October	31	33	36	40	35.0	37	39	41	42	39.8
15 th October	28	32	35	38	33.3	31	34	36	39	35.0
Mean	27.0	30.0	32.7	36.0		31.7	34.3	36.0	38.3	
L.S.D at 5%	A: 1.1	11	B: 0.91	91 AB: 1.82		A: 1.00		B: 1.20 AB		: 2.40
			See	d yield/	plant					
15 th September	2.015	3.474	4.469	5.541	3.875	3.177	4.147	5.859	6.680	6.105
1 st October	4.364	5.951	7.546	10.27 3	7.034	7.235	8.483	9.818	11.09 1	12.86 5
15 th October	3.914	5.611	6.466	7.179	5.793	4.388	5.893	7.704	8.892	8.178
Mean	3.431	5.012	6.160	7.605		4.933	6.174	7.794	8.888	
L.S.D at 5%	A: 1.0	38	B: 1.075	AB:	2.150	A: 1.0	90	B: 0.650	AB:	1.210

Regarding the effect of planting date, data in Table (4) showed significant (P < 0.05) differences among the three planting dates for pod number/plant and seed yield/plant in both seasons. The second planting date (1st October)was superior than the other two planting dates. This might be due to favourable environmental conditions available to the crop that was sown in 1st October as compared to the other two planting dates.

Many researchers proved that suitable sowing date increased the number of pod/plant and seed yield/plant such as *Farhad et al. (2015); Anitha et al. (2018) and Majid et al. (2019)* on fenugreek plant.

The best overall treatment was the interaction of planting fenugreek in 1st October and fertilized plants with 10.0 t/fed. compost.

Chemical composition:

Data in Table (53) clarified that the treatments of 5.0, 7.5 and 10.0 t/fed. compost significantly (P < 0.05) increased both of protein and saponine (%) as compared with control, with the best treatment of 10.0 t/fed. compost. These results are in harmony with those recorded by Ahmed et al. (2012); Naimuddin et al. (2014); Anitha et al. (2015); Mufti et al. (2017); Alaghemand et al. (2017); Balakrishnan and Arunprasath (2018) and Abdul-Hafeez (2019) on fenugreek plants.

In respect to the effect of planting dates, data in Table (3) showed that planting dates had significant differences for the percentages of protein and saponine of fenugreek seeds. The greatest percentages resulted from plants sown in 1^{st} October as compared with the other two treatments. Similar results on fenugreek plants were obtained by **Obour** *et al.* (2015) and **Sowmya** *et al.* (2017).

The interaction treatments were significant (P < 0.05) for protein and saponine (%) in both seasons. The highest percentages were obtained when sowing fenugreek in 1st October and fertilized with compost at 10.0 t/fed.Conclusively, it was preferable from the above results that, planting fenugreek plant in 1st October and fertilized it with compost at 10 t/fed. played an important role in improving growth, yield and chemical constituents of fenugreek plants. Therefore, the present study strongly admit the use of such treatment to provide good and high exportation characteristics due to its safety role in human health.

		Compost levels (ton/feddan) (A)									
Planting dates treatments	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n	0.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	Mea n	
		1 st seas	on (2018	3/2019)	(B)		2 nd seas	son (2019	9/2020)	(B)	
	Protein (%)										
15 th September	24.1	24.6	25.1	25.8	24.9	24.2	24.6	25.1	25.7	24.9	
1 st October	25.3	26.0	26.8	26.7	26.2	25.8	26.4	27.1	27.9	26.8	
15 th October	24.9	25.5	26.1	26.4	25.7	25.1	25.6	26.1	26.8	25.9	
Mean	24.77	25.37	26.0	26.3	24.9	25.03	25.53	26.1	26.8		
L.S.D at 5%	A: 0.	.2	B: 0.2	AF	B: 0.4	A: 0.	5	B: 0.4	AB	B: 0.8	
			S	aponine	e (%)						
15 th September	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.25	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.28	
1 st October	4.3	4.6	4.8	5.3	4.80	4.4	4.7	4.9	5.4	4.90	
15 th October	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.43	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.43	
Mean	4.20	4.40	4.53	4.77		4.13	4.47	4.60	4.87		
L.S.D at 5%	A: 0.2	13	B: 0.12	AB	: 0.24	A: 0.1	12	B: 0.11	AB	: 0.22	

Table (5): Effect of compost, planting dates and their combinations on protein and
saponine (%) in fenugreek seeds during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons.

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الملخص العربى

تأثير مواعيد الزراعة والتسميد العضوي على نبات الحلبة

محمود عبدالهادي حسن – استاذ الزينة – قسم البساتين – كلية الزراعة - جامعة المنيا. علي أحمد عبدالفتاح أُجري هذا العمل بموسمي 2019/2018 و 2020/2019 بقرية شارونة – شرق الطريق الصحراوي الشرقي – مدينة مغاغة – محافظة المنيا، لدراسة تأثير مستوي الكمبوست (صفر – 5.0 – 7.5 – 10.0 طن/فدان) ومواعيد الزراعة (15 سبتمبر، أول أكتوبر، 15 أكتوبر) والتفاعل بينهما علي أداء نبات الحلبة.

أشارت النتائج إلي أن كل معاملات التسميد بالكمبوست أدت إلي زيادة في إرتفاع النبات، عدد الأوراق للنبات، عدد القرون/نبات، وزن البذور للنبات، والنسبة المئوية للبروتين والصابونين في البذور مقارنة بالكنترول.

مواعيد الزراعية كمان لها تتأثير معنوي على كمل الصيفات المدروسية. وكمان أنسب موعد للزراعية هو أول أكتوبر مقارنة بالمواعيد الأخري.

يمكن التوصية: بزراعة نبات الحلبة في أول اكتوبر مع التسميد بالكمبوست بمعدل 10 طن/فدان للحصول علي نمو خضري وإنتاجية جيدة لنبات الحلبة تحت ظروف محافظة المنيا.