PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSE OF WHEAT PLANT (Triticum aestivum L.) TO FOLIAR APPLICATION OF PIX AND ATONIK

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were conducted during 1997/1998 and 1998/1999, at the Experimental Station of the National Research Centre at Shalakan, Kalubia Governorate to study the physiological response of wheat plants to different concentration of atonik (0, 20, 40 and 60 mg/l) and Pix (0, 50, 100 and 200 mg/l) as well as their interaction on vegetative growth, yield and its components as well as the content of crude protein and total carbohydrate in produced grains. The data indicated that spraying atonik with different concentrations at all stages led to significant increases in plant height, number of tiller, number of spikes, blades area, leaf area index, dry weight of plant, spike weight and length, 1000- grains weight, grain and straw yield per plant and per fed. While, spraying pix led to significant decreases plant height, both number of tiller, and spikes/plant, leaf area, leaf area index and carbohydrate percentage in grains.

Spraying wheat plants with atonik at 60 mg/l or pix at 50 mg/l caused the highest values in most of growth characters. Spraying plant with 60 mg/l atonik and pix at 100 and 200 mg/l attained significant increases in economic yield and its components as compared with other treatments. Application of atonik treatments in general had a positive effect in most cases on protein and carbohydrate percentage, atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l was more effective, while, the highest value was obtained at 100 mg/l pix on crude protein content and 50 mg/l pix on total carbohydrate content.

Interaction between atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l and pix at 50 and 100 mg/l gave the highest values of growth characters. Application atonik at 60 mg/l with pix at 200 mg/l increased significantly yield and its components as compared with other treatments. Interaction between atonik 60 mg/l with pix at 100 mg/l and atonik at 20 mg/l with pix at 200 mg/l gave the highest values of crude protein and carbohydrate percentage in produced grains, respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Wheat is considered the most important strategic crop in Egypt. The strategic considerations of this crop are due to the gap between its current and steadily increasing consumption and its relatively unsufficient production at national level. Normal plant growth and development are at least in part controlled by substances produced by the plant itself including the endogenous plant growth regulators. Synthetic growth regulating substances are extremely valuable in controlling crop growth and yield.

Atonik (Sodium 5- nitroguaiacolate + Sodium 1- nitrophenolate + Sodium 4- nitrophenolate) is recently known to stimulate many aspects of plant growth and development. Kopecky (1995) on hops, Steger and Oosterhuis (1997) and Zhao et al., (1998) on cotton found that foliar application with atonik increased growth, yield and its components of both plants.

Pulkrabek et al., (1999) on sugar beet and Vostrel (2000) on hop plant concluded that application of atonik treatments gave higher growth, yield and chemical constituents. Recently, Abd El-Wahed et al., (2002) and Farahat (2002) found that spikes number/m², spikes and grain weight (g/m²) and grain yield kg/fed. of wheat significantly increased as a result of spraying atonik at 2.25 mg/l compared to untreated plants.

Mepiquate chloride (1,1-dimethyl piperidinium chloride) well known as pix is one of systemic plant growth regulator, which is used mainly to control of lodging in cereals due to its antigibberelline activity. Gaber et al., (1993) on soybean and Nowak et al., (1997) on bean found that increasing dose of mepiquate chloride from 500 up to 2000 ppm decrease plant height, leaf area, number of nodes as well as fresh and dry weight of plants compared with the control. While 100-seed weight was increased at low rate of pix application. Also, Carnstoun (1999) concluded that pix suppressed vegetative growth in spring barley by reducing plant height but did not affect on yield barley. However, Jayachandran et al., (1999) reported that the growth regulators with mepiquate chloride generally increased physiological parameters and grain yield of rice. Also, Youssef (1993) on sunflower plant, and Channakeshava et al., (1999) on Zea mays found that application of pix at 100 and 200 ppm concentration at 45 days after sowing gave significantly increased in grain yield compared with the control. While, Bangal et al., (1989) demonstrated that, spraying wheat plants with pix at 100 mg/l had no significant effect on grain yield, grain number/plant and 1000-grain weights. Similar results were obtained by Mekki (1999), Prasad and Prakash (2000) and Lamas et al., (2000) on cotton.

The objectives of the present study was to reveal the effect of foliar application of atonik and pix as well as their interaction on growth and yield and its components and their effect on crude protein and total carbohydrate of produced wheat grains.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were carried out at the Agricultural Experimental Station, National Research Center at Shalakan, Kalubia Governorate during two successive seasons of 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 to study the physiological response of wheat plants (*Triticum aestivum* L.) cv. Sakha 69 to growth regulators (atonik and Pix). The treatments were divided into two groups, the first group; plants were sprayed with three concentrations of atonik which were 20, 40 and 60 mg/l. Second group, plants were sprayed with three concentrations of mepiquat chloride (pix) which were 50, 100 and 200 mg/l in addition to the control (distilled water)and the interaction between atonik and pix treatments.

The plants were sprayed twice at 45 and 60 days after sowing. The experiment was arranged as split plot design, keeping pix in main plots and atonik treatments in subplots with four replicates. Wheat grains, variety sakha 69 were sown on 17^{th} and 19^{th} November 1997 and 1998 respectively, plot area was 12 m² (4 × 3m) in rows 4 meters long and 25 cm apart.

The recommended agricultural practices of growing wheat were applied. For sowing the grain rate was 60 kg/fed, calcium superphosphate (15.5 P₂ O₅ %) was added pre-sowing at 100 kg/fed, ammonium nitrate (33.5 % N) at 100kg/fed added applied at three equal doses; the first at (seedling stage); the others at third and fifth irrigation (tillering stage), potassium sulfate (48.52 % K₂O) at the rate of 50 kg/fed was added at two equal doses at the first and third irrigations. At elongation stage (100 days after sowing) and at milky stage (120 days after sowing) were recorded The following data per plant, i. e. plant height, number of tiller, number of spikes and dry weight, blades area (cm²/plant) was calculated according to Bremner and Taha (1966) and leaf area index (LAI) was calculated according to Watson (1952). At the harvest stage, the following plant characteristics were measured , i.e. plant height, number of both tiller and spikes/plant, spikes length, weight of spikes/plant (g), 1000-grain weight/(g), grain yield per_plant , straw yield/plant (g) and grain and straw yield per (tons/feddan). Grains samples from all treatments were dried at 70 °C till constant weight and then ground to determine total Nitrogen and protein percentage (according to the method A.O.A.C., 1970) and protein percentage was calculated by multiplying the value of total nitrogen content by 5.70. The total carbohydrates percentage was determined according to Dubois et al., (1956).

Combined analysis for data of two seasons and the values of L.S.D. were calculated as described by Snedecor and Cochran (1990).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1-Effect of atonik and pix on growth characteristics:

Date presented in Table (1, 2) indicate that plant height, tiller number, spikes number, blades area, leaf area index and dry weight per plant significantly responsed due to different treatments of atonik especially at 60 mg/l at elongation and milky stages as compared with other treatments. Foliar spraying with atonik treatments caused significant increases in growth characteristics as its concentration increased from 20 to 60 mg/l. This increase might be due to the stimulation effect of atonik for increasing N uptake and in turn reflected on increasing the metabolic processes and this in turn on their vegetative growth represented in number of tiller and dry weight of wheat. In accordance, Guo and Oosterhuis (1995), Pulkrabek et al., (1999) and Farahat (2002 b) supported this interpretation for the effect of atonik on sugar beet, cotton and wheat respectively. However, in case of pix treatment, the opposite was true as vegetative growth criteria and plant height decreased or slightly affected as pix concentration was increased from 50 to 200 mg/l at both elongation, and milky stages (Tables 1 and 2). These results could be in agreement with those obtained by Zhao et al., (1999) and Jones et al., (2000) found that pix treatment reduced vegetative growth of cotton. The inhibitory action of pix might be due to inhibiting GA biosynthesis.

Table (1): Effect of growth regulators (atonik and pix) and their interaction on vegetative growth of wheat plant at elongation stage (100 days after sowing)

(Combined analysis of 1997 and 1998). Growth regulators Plant height (cm) treatments (mg/l) Pix 00 50 100 200 Mean Atonik 00 83.7 86.9 78.5 73.9 80.75 20 92.7 99.9 87.6 82.9 90.77 40 99.4 97.20 102.5 95.5 91.4 60 102.3 100.12 105.7 98.4 94.1 Mean 90.01 94.53 98.75 85.57 Number of tiller/plant 00 3.61 3.41 3.96 3.89 3.72 20 4.58 5.23 4.52 4.31 4.66 40 5.35 5.28 5.16 4.73 5.13 60 5.59 6.13 5.69 5.36 5.18 4.75 4.92 4.90 Mean 4.53 Number of spikes/plant 00 3.65 3.53 3.78 3.97 3.95 20 4.68 5.25 4.62 4.75 4.44 40 5.44 5.32 5.24 4.79 5.20 60 5.29 6.02 5.71 5.18 5.55 Mean 4.95 4.95 4.78 4.59 Dry weight(g)/plant 00 10.01 8.95 12.40 11.63 10.75 20 9.63 9.93 10.27 11.79 10.41 40 9.52 11.03 11.06 12.34 10.99 60 10.09 12.36 12.38 11.24 11.52 10.57 Mean 9.81 11.53 11.75 Blades area (cm2) /plant (LA) 00 295.3 323.7 329.85 340.8 359.6 20 407.4 373.7 339.1 381.4 375.40 493.8 507.8 453.9 412.2 466.93 40 60 456.7 514.6 466.6 488.50 516.1 428.15 419.75 416.80 395.98 Mean Leaf area index (LAI) 00 3.01 3.41 3.59 3.24 3.31 20 4.07 3.73 3.39 3.81 3.75 4.94 5.08 4.54 4.67 40 4.12 5.16 4.57 5.14 4.67 4.89 60 4.30 4.20 4.17 3.96 Mean

L.S.D. at 5% for :	lant heigh	No. of tiller/plant	No. of spikes/plant	Dry weight/ plant	Blades area /plant	eaf area inde
Atonik (a)	3.12	0.34	0.29	0.67	27.6	0.37
Pix (b)	3.81	0.43	0.39	0.42	28.3	0.34
axb	4.38	0.92	0.83	2.20	114.5	0.77

Table (2): Effect of growth regulators (atonik and plx) and their interaction on vegetative growth of wheat plant at milky stage (120 days after sowing) (Combined analysis of 1997 and 1998).

Growth regulators Plant height (cm) treatments (mg/l) Pix 00 50 100 Mean Atonik 89.90 94.08 95.10 98.60 92.70 00 20 105.90 109.30 99.60 101.70 104.13 108.08 112.70 110.40 102.50 40 106.70 106.50 111.15 60 110.30 114.50 113.30 108.78 104 100.15 104.5 Mean Number of tiller/plant 4.73 00 4.58 5.23 4.61 4.50 4.94 4.84 5.04 4.54 5.34 20 5.40 5.32 5.32 5.01 5.53 40 5.21 5.66 60 5.60 5.67 6.15 5.21 5.11 Mean 5.09 5.24 Number of spikes/plant 4.61 5.18 4.69 4.51 4.75 00 5.07 5.35 4.95 20 4.83 4.56 40 5.31 5 06 5.57 5.44 5.35 5.68 60 5.55 5.73 6.19 5.26 5.14 5.08 5.26 5.25 Mean Dry weight(g)/plant 00 14.82 16.97 19.49 21.34 18.16 20 15.81 17,23 15.65 19.67 17.09 17.16 17.60 40 17.07 16.45 19.71 19.03 19.31 22.34 17.73 19.60 60 19.30 18.98 Mean 16.68 17,49 Blades area (cm2) /plant (LA) 00 467.50 498.30 387.30 441.30 412.10 20 515.60 464.50 501.00 477.90 489.75 40 547.80 578.60 503.10 535.40 512.10 617.80 587.00 577,28 60 573.20 531.10 528.25 516.23 474.85 Mean 524.40 Leaf area Index (LAI) 00 4.67 4.98 4.13 3.87 4.41 20 5.16 4.65 5.01 4.79 4.90 40 5.12 5.48 5.81 5.03 5.36 60 6.18 5.87 5.73 5.31 5.77 5.25 5.17 4.75 Mean 5.28

L.S.D. at 5% for:	Plant height	No. of tl(ler/plant	No. of spikes/plant	Dry weight/ plant	Blades area /plant	Leaf area Index
Atonik (a)	3.05	0.42	0.35	1.97	36.7	0.35
Pix (b)	3.22	0.37	0.38	1.45	33.7	0.32
axb	5.05	0.93	0.87	2.71	118.1	0.94

Concerning the combined effect of atonik and pix treatments, significant increases were obtained in some characteristics of growth. The most promising of the combined effect of these two bioregulators was noticed with atonik at 60 mg/l and pix at 50 mg/l, at the elongation stage. However, at milky stage the combined treatment of atonik at 60 mg/l and pix at 100 mg/l was the most effective ones for increasing some criteria of vegetative growth of wheat plants.

The data in Table (1 and 2) showed that tiller and spikes number per plant were significantly increased as a result of atonik alone or combined with pix especially atonik at 60 mg/l with pix at 100 mg/l, at both elongation and milky stages. While the lowest values were obtained at atonik treatment 20 mg/l and pix 100 mg/l at the same tables. The data clearly indicate that atonik and pix especially at combined treatment 40 mg/l atonik and 200 mg/l pix had significant effects on blades area, leaf area index and dry weight per plant at elongation and milky stages.

These increases in tiller number as well as spike number could be interpreted as a result of the promoting significant effect of the combination of atonik and pix treatments especially at 40 and 60 mg/l atonik and 100 and

200 mg/l pix on growth criteria.

2-Effect of Atonik and pix on yield and its components :-

The date presented in Tables (3 and 4) and Figs (1, 3) reveal that plant height, No. of tiller, No. of spikes, weight of spikes / plant (g), spike length, 1000-grains weight, grain and straw yield / (g / plant) and grain and straw yield (ton/fed.) significantly responsed due to different treatment of atonik. The highest values were obtained with atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l. These results are in agreement with those results obtained by Ceter and Sepetoglu (1995) on faba beans, Pulkrabek et al (1999) on sugar beet and Vostrel (2000) on hop . Recently , Farahat (2002 b) indicated that foliar application with atonik 2.25 mg/l gave higher spikes weight (g/m²), spikes number / m², grain weight g/m² and grain and straw yield kg / fed of wheat. Also, Guo and Oosterhuis (1995) reported that atonik is a yield and growth which increased cotton crop yield through enhanced assimilation nutrient uptake, nitrate reduction, and photosynthesis, improved flow of assimilates(translocation and cytoplsmic streaming) and increased cell integrity. However in case of pix treatment (Tables 3 and 4) indicate that plant height, No. of tiller / plant , No. of spikes/plant decreased or slightly affected as pix concentration was increased from 50 to 200 mg/l . Thus , foliar pix at 200 mg/l as compared with other concentrations caused the highest values of spike length, spikes weight (g), grain and straw yield per plant, and ton / fed. as well as 1000 - grain weight (g). Similar results had been obtained on other cereals plants e.g. Channakeshava et al., (1999) on zea mays, Oosterhuis et al., (2000 b) on cotton Jayachandran et al., (1999) on rice.

The combined effect of atonik and pix treatments led to significant increases in some criteria of yield and its components especially atonik at 60

mg/l with pix at 200 mg/l.

The data in Table (3) show that number of spikes and tillers per plant as well as spike length were significant increased as result of atonik alone or in combination with pix. However, Atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l and pix at 100

and 200 mg/l were more effective in this respect.

The result in the same table indicate that atonik and pix had a significant effect on spike weight, grain and straw yield (g)/plant. This effect of atonik and pix could be due to the increases in spike weight as well as grain and straw yield (g)/plant over their controls, especially atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l and pix at treatments of 100 and 200 mg/l, respectively

Table (3): Effect of atonik and pix and their interaction on yield and its components of wheat plant.(Combined analysis of 1997 and 1998)

	Plant height (cm)							
× 00	50	100	200	Mean				
101.00	104.10	00.70	05.10	100.13				
1150,080,000,000,000,000				103.63				
				111.43				
				113.30				
				113.30				
107.30	110.93		and the contract of the contra					
Spike length (cm)								
				14.33				
				14,33				
				15.20				
				16.25				
14.40	14.73							
Number of tillers/plant								
4.59	4.67	4.33	4.21	4.45				
4.69	5.02	4.56	5.23	4.88				
5.41	4.84	5.31	5.42	5.25				
5.45	4.96	5.94	5.27	5,41				
5.04	4.87	5.04	5.03					
Number of spikes/plant								
4.66	4.72			4.57				
				4.98				
				5 35				
				5.63				
				3.03				
5.60	6.00			6.98				
				7.27				
				7.27 7.60				
				8.09				
7.15								
		6.72		6.38				
				6.84				
				7.34				
				7.65				
6.10	7.09							
				8.03				
	9.12		9.48	8.39				
	8.89	9.26	9.82	8.82				
	9.13	10.16	10.26	9.43				
7.38	8.76	8.93	9.61					
	101.60 102.80 110.10 114.70 107.30 13.10 13.80 14.20 16.50 14.40 4.59 4.69 5.41	101.60	Name	Namber of tiller Namber of spike Namber of				

L.S.D. at 5% for :	Plant height	Spike length	No. of Tillers/ plant	No. of spikes / plant	Weight of spikes / plant	Grain yield/ plant	Straw yield/ plant
Atonik (a)	3.03	0.80	0.50	0.40	0.48	0.61	0.38
Pix (b)	2.99	0.61	0.52	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.40
axb	4.46	1.30	0.83	0.40	0.78	0.74	0.60

Table (4): Effect of atonik and pix and their interaction on yield and its components and chemical constituents of grains.

(Combined analysis of 1997 and 1998)

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Growth regulators treatments (mg/l)	1000-grain weight (g)							
Pix Atoník	00	50	100	200	Mean			
00	42.00	43.30	46.40	48.30	45.00			
20	45.10	42.90	44.50	46.50	44.75			
40	47.60	50.10	48.30	51.30	49.33			
60	49.90	47.60	50.40	49.20	49.28			
Mean	46.15	45.98	47.40	48.83				
	Grain yield (ton/fed)							
00	1.35	1,56	2.04	2.11	1,77			
20	1.47	2.21	1.96	2.36	2.00			
40	1.93	2.40	2.71	2.53	2.39			
60	2.04	2.57	2.80	2.76	2.54			
Mean	1.70	2.19	2.38	2.44				
	Straw yleld (ton/fed)							
00	2.06	2.36	2.71	2.88	2.50			
20	2.15	2.89	2.70	2.96	2.68			
40	2,36	2.98	3.38	3.09	2.95			
60	2.76	3,11	3.61	3.39	3.22			
Mean	2.33	2.84	3.10	3.08				
	Crude protein %							
00	8,17	9.19	12.30	10.25	9.98			
20	9.13	12.28	11.18	9.36	10.49			
40	9.23	12.17	13.48	10.34	11.31			
60	10.20	12.13	14.35	13.34	12.51			
Mean	9.18	11.44	12.83	10.82				
	Total carbohydrate %							
00	79.90	76.90	71.50	74.80	75.78			
20	76.80	71.60	75.40	77.80	75.40			
40	76.30	72.40	69.10	75.20	73.25			
60	76.90	74.20	69.20	72.20	73.13			
Mean	77.48	73.78	71.30	75.00				

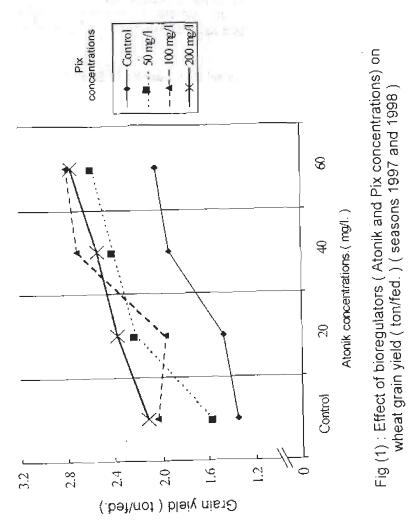
L.S.D. at 5% for:	1000- grain weight (g)	Grain yield (ton/fed)	Straw yield (ton/fed)	Crude protein %	Total carbohydrate %
Atonik (a)	2.0	0.17	0.12	0.49	2.70
Pix (b)	2.4	0.15	0.15	0.44	1.90
axb	3.4	0.22	0.42	1.06	

It is evident from the data presented in Table (4) that the most significant effect for increasing in 1000- grain weight (g), grain yield and straw yield (ton) / fed, were noticed with atonik at 40 and 60 mg/l and pix at 100 and 200 mg/l. However, Radwan and Farahat (2002) found that application of pix at the rates of 50 and 100 ppm increased yied, chlorophyll and total carbohydrates contents as well as nitrogen content of coriander plants. The increase in yield and its components attributed by foliar application of atonik might be due to that, the atonik enhanced photosynthetic apparatus, growth parameters, cell division and enzymatic activity (Guo and Oosterhuis, 1995).

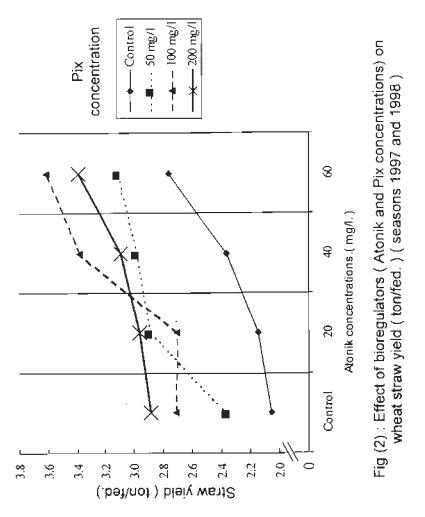
3-Effect of atonik and pix on chemical constituents of grains :-

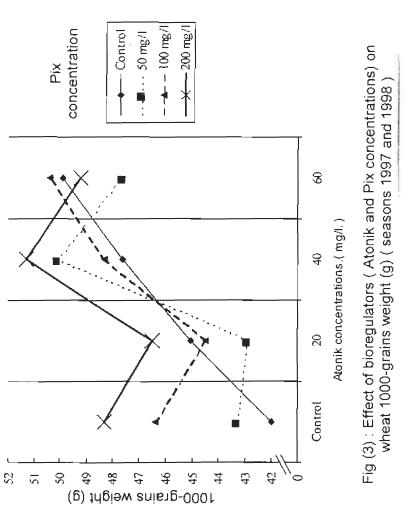
Data presented in Table (4) that protein percentage significantly responsed due to different treatments of atonik, especially at treatment 60 mg/l atonik. These results might be attributed to favorable effect of atonik for encouraging nitrogen uptake. Farahat (2002) found that increasing atonik concentration from 0.75 to 2.25 mg/l caused the highest increase in grain nitrogen percentage and nitrogen uptake of wheat plants. Sharma et al., (1990) found that no differences in protein content of soybean by foliar application of atonik. However, pix with atonik treatments the opposite was true as carbohydrate percentage decrease or slightly affected as pix concentration was increased from 50 to 200 mg/l and atonik from 20 to 60 mg/l. It is evident from the data presented in Table (4) that foliar pix at 200 mg/l and atonik at 20 mg/l caused the highest values of total carbohydrate percentage. This might be due that atonik stimulate a variety of physiological responses including changes in enzymatic activities, membrance potential, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, photosynthetic activity and changes in the balance of the endogenous phytohormones. Sawan et al., (1991) on cotton, Szekeres and Knocz (1998) on Arabidopsis and Vostrel (2000) on hop. The data in Table (4) reveal that atonik at 60 mg/l with pix at 100 mg/l gave the maximum values of protein as compared with other treatments. While, atonik at 20 mg/l with pix at 200 mg/l, caused the highest values of carbohydrate percentage.

From the above mentioned results, it can be concluded that the application of different concentrations of atonik and pix, resulted in pronounced increases in growth characters, yield components and some chemical constituents grains of (protein and carbohydrate percentage). However, most of the previous characteristics, were increased by increasing atonik treatment from 20 to 60 mg/l. and pix treatment from 50 to 200 mg/l.



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الاستجابة الفسيولوجية لنبات القمح للرش بالأتونك والبكس أبو بكر أحمد السيد أمين قسم النبات المركز القومي للبحوث الدقى القاهرة -مصر

أجريت تجربتان حقليتان بمحطة التجارب الزراعية للمركز القومي للبحوث – بشاقان -محافظـــة القليوبية موسمي ١٩٩٧ / ١٩٩٨ – ١٩٩٩ / ١٩٩٩ – لدراسة تأثير الاتونـــك يتركــيز (٢٠ ، ٤٠ ، ٢٠ مليجرام/لتر) وكذلك التفاعل بينهما على صفات النمـــو مليجرام/لتر) والبكس بتركيز (٥٠ ، ١٠٠٠ مليجرام/لتر) وكذلك التفاعل بينهما على صفات النمـــو والمحصول ومحتوى حبوب القمح من البروتين والكربو هينرات ولقد اظهرت النتائج مايلي :-

١- أن معاملة نباتات القمح بالأتونك إلى وجود اختلافات معنوية في صفات النمو والمحصول المتمثلة في الرتفاع النبات وعدد الخلفات/نبات ، وعدد ووزن السنابل / نبات ومساحة الورقة ودليل مساحة الأوراق والوزن الجاف/نبات (وذلك عند عمر ١٠٠٠ يوم من الزراعة) وطلول السينيلة ، وزن ١٠٠٠ حبة – ومحصول الحبوب والقش/فدان وقد أعطى الرش بالاتونك عند تركيز ١٠٠ مليجرام / لنر أفضل النتائج لكل من صفات النمو والمحصول

٧- أدت معاملة نباتات القمح بالبكس إلى وجود اختلافات معنوية في صغاب النمـــو والمحصــول والــوزن الجاف/نبات ، ومساحة الورقة ، دليل مساحة الاوراق بينما أدى زيادة تركيز الرش بالبكس إلى انخفــاض معنوى في ارتفاع النبات ، وعدد للخلفات وعدد السنابل/نبات وذلك عند مرحلة الاستطالة ومرحلة الطـور اللهني - كما أعطى الرش ٥٠ ملوجرام/لتر بالبكس إلى استجابة معنوية في صفات النمو وكــانت أحســن النتانج للمحصول عند تركيز ٥٠٠ ، ٢٠٠ ملوجرام/لتر عند الرش بالبكس.