

## **EFFECT OF MINERAL FERTILIZERS ON THE GROWTH AND FLOWERING OF *Fuchsia hybrida***

**Khattab, M.; M. Ragab; Ola El-Shennawy and H. Salem**

**Dept. of Floriculture, Ornamental Horticulture and Garden Design, Fac. of Agriculture, Alexandria University.**

### **ABSTRACT**

The main objective of this research was to study the effect of three mineral fertilizers of different ratios and levels of NPK (+ Mg) on the vegetative growth and flowering of a local cultivar of *Fuchsia hybrida*. Also, to study the effect of these fertilizers on the mineral contents in the leaves of *Fuchsia* plants.

Three mineral fertilizers (19: 19: 19: 02), (19: 06: 20: 04) and (13: 40:13: 0) N, P, K and Mg were used at six levels 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 24 gram/plant/season. A control treatment (0 gram/plant/season) was used. The amount of fertilizer was divided into four equal doses and added to the plant at weekly intervals as a side dressing before irrigation.

The highest increase in plants height was obtained by adding 8 g/plant and 10 g/plant from the 19:19:19:02 fertilizer in both seasons. The fourth level (10 g/plant) of 19: 19: 19:02 fertilizer increased the shoot and the leaves fresh and dry weights in both seasons. The highest increase in the number of flowers per plant was obtained by adding 12 g/plant from the 19:06:20:04 fertilizer in both seasons.

There were significant increases in the nitrogen content in the leaves of *Fuchsia* plants over the control by using the different fertilizers. However, the fourth level (10 g/plant) of the 19:06:20:04 fertilizer gave the highest increase in both seasons. The highest increase in the phosphorus content was obtained by adding 24 g/plant from the 19:19:19:02 fertilizer. The fourth level (10 g/plant) from the 19:06:20:04 fertilizer gave the maximum increase in the potassium content in both seasons. Generally, the fifth level (12 g/plant) of the 19:19:19:02 fertilizer gave the maximum uptake of N, P and K compared with the other levels and fertilizers in both seasons.

### **INTRODUCTION**

*Fuchsia* (*Fuchsia hybrida* Voss) plants belong to the family *Onagraceae*. About 1000 species are known, most of them are from Mexico, South of Chile, but there are a few in the West Indies, Tahiti and New Zealand. A wide range of growth form is found, from small perennials to the tree-size. Most species are shrubs, some evergreen, others deciduous. *Fuchsia* flowers can be distinguished by colors. The four sepals flares back are usually red, white or pink. The skirt like corolla beneath the sepals is made up of petals that may range from regal purples and magnificent reds to subtle lavender, mauve, rose or salmon. Most blossoms are pendulous, with pistil and stamens hanging down.

*Fuchsia* flower may be single, having only four petals, semi-double, with five to seven petals, or double, with many layers of petals.

Most *Fuchsia* hybrids flourish in climates where summer temperatures are cool and air is moist with strong indirect light.

Fuchsias are heavy feeders before they bloom. A fertilizer high in nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus must be added before planting. An application once a month full strength or once every two weeks at half-strength is recommended (Beckett, 1985).

The aim of this work was to study the effect of different ratios and levels of three mineral fertilizers (19: 19: 19: 02), (19: 06: 20: 04) and (13: 40:13: 0) N, P, K and Mg respectively, on the vegetative growth and flowering of *Fuchsia hybrida* under the prevailing conditions in Alexandria.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present work was carried out in two successive seasons 1991/1992 and 1992/1993 in the Experimental Station, Department of Floriculture, Ornamental Horticulture, and Garden Design, Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt.

The plant used in this study was a "local cultivar" of *Fuchsia hybrida*. The cuttings were taken yearly (on September 8<sup>th</sup> 1991 in the first season and on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1992 in the second one) from the mother plants with a length of 10cm. These cuttings were planted in seed pans using 50 cuttings per pan. The cuttings were watered thoroughly after planting and placed in a partial shade place. After two months (on November 8<sup>th</sup> 1991 and on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1992 in the first and second seasons, respectively) when the roots were well formed, single rooted cuttings were transplanted in 10cm pots containing loamy soil (pH 7.5, contained 0.272% nitrogen, 0.002% phosphorus and 0.381% potassium). Six months later, the plants were transplanted to the 30cm pots containing the same medium used before. The plants were irrigated twice-a day during summer months, and at two days intervals during autumn to keep the soil moist. After four weeks from the last transplanting the inorganic fertilizer treatments were started.

Three inorganic fertilizers were used in this study. These fertilizers were (19: 19: 19: 2), (19: 6: 20: 4) and (13: 40: 13: 0) N: P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: K<sub>2</sub>O: MgO. Six levels from each fertilizer i.e. 4.0, 6.0, 8.0, 10.0, 12.0 and 24.0g/plant/season beside a control treatment (zero g/plant/season) were used. The amount of each fertilizer was divided into four equal doses and they were added to the plants as side dressing before irrigation (Joiner and Poole, 1967 and Johnson, 1976). Each quantity was added at weekly intervals (Joiner and Poole, 1967 Boodley *et al.*, 1968). This is necessary because the frequent watering in the summer leaches some of the elements from the soil and it must be replenished regularly. The final application of the fertilizer was done two to three weeks before the terminal buds reached the showing color stage (Lunt and Kofranek, 1958 and Hiroyasu *et al.*, 1971).

### **Growth measurements:**

**Plant height (cm):** Every plant was measured from the surface of the soil to the top of the highest point of the plant at the end of the experiment and the average was calculated and recorded.

**Leaves fresh weight (g):** All leaves of each plant in the replicate were taken at the end of the experiment to determine the fresh weight, and then the averages were calculated and recorded.

**Shoots fresh weight (g):** All the shoots of each plant (without leaves) of each treatment in each replicate were taken at the end of the experiment to determine their fresh weight, and then the averages were calculated.

**Leaves dry weight (g):** At the end of the experiment, leaves of each plant were dried in an oven at 75°C for 72 hours to a constant weight. The averages were calculated.

**Shoots dry weight (g):** The dry weight of the shoot of every plant in every replicate was done at the end of the experiment by drying them in an oven at 75°C for 72 hours to a constant weight, then the averages were calculated and recorded.

**Flower number per plant:** All flowers of each plant were counted. The flowers count started from October 9<sup>th</sup> 1992 to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1992 and from October 11<sup>th</sup> 1993 to December 25<sup>th</sup> 1993 for the first and second seasons, respectively. The averages were recorded.

**Chemical analysis of the leaves:**

**Nitrogen (N) content in leaves:** Total nitrogen was determined by micro-Kjeldahl method reported by Page *et al.* (1982).

**Phosphorus (P) content in leaves:** Samples from the leaves were dried and the ash was used for analysis. Phosphorus (P) was determined colorimetrically by using Vanada molybdate method. (Chapman and Pratt 1961).

**Potassium (K) content in leaves:** Potassium was determined colorimetrically using Vanadate molybdate yellow method at 470 nm wave length, (Chapman and Pratt 1961).

**Nitrogen (N) uptake:** The plant uptake of nitrogen is calculated according to the mathematical formula:

$\text{mg N /plant} = (\text{mg N /g plant tissue}) \times \text{weight of plant (g)}$

**Phosphorus (P) uptake:** The uptake of phosphorus can result depending on the formula:

$\text{mg P /plant} = (\text{mg P /g plant tissue}) \times \text{weight of plant (g)}$

**Potassium (K) uptake:** The uptake of K is calculated according to the formula:

$\text{mg K /plant} = (\text{mg K /g plant tissue}) \times \text{weight of plant (g)}$

The experimental lay-out was designed to provide randomized complete blocks design with three replicates (Snedecor and Cochran, 1974). Every replicate contained 19 treatments and three plants were used for each treatment/ replicate (one plant per pot), in both seasons.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Plant height:** Data presented in Table (1) show that using the fertilizer (19:19:19:02) at 8 g/plant or 10 g/plant gave significant increases in the plant height of Fuchsia in the two seasons compared with the control treatment. These results were probably due to the high ratio of phosphorus in the

fertilizer. Phosphorus is an essential element for root formation and a source of energy, thus the plant height could be increased

Similar trend of results was reported by Khargakharate and Nirwal (1991) on sunflower, Avtar *et al.*, (1993) on *Anethum graveolens L.* and El-Nakhlawy (1993) on sunflower.

**Table 1: Mean values of plant height (cm), leaves fresh weight (g) and shoots fresh weight (g) of a local cultivar of *Fuchsia hybrida* as affected by the different fertilizers (ratios and levels) in the two seasons of 1991/1992 and 1992/1993.**

Treatments		Plant height (cm)		Leaves fresh weight (g)		Shoots fresh weight (g)	
Fertilizer Ratios N: P: K: Mg	Levels (g)	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season
19:19:19:02	4.0	48.11	51.10	170.92	166.61	94.10	86.65
	6.0	50.99	52.13	111.65	122.65	67.06	62.78
	8.0	56.44	52.60	157.18	154.72	76.57	81.58
	10.0	55.05	63.41	176.44	179.02	102.20	93.57
	12.0	50.78	50.51	165.08	157.35	96.35	91.10
	24.0	45.11	51.90	133.64	144.37	99.96	89.74
Average		51.08	53.61	152.48	154.12	89.37	84.24
19:06:20:04	4.0	55.22	62.38	112.16	123.17	74.71	81.16
	6.0	51.11	53.51	104.17	114.09	62.87	66.50
	8.0	54.88	52.11	129.37	132.09	88.98	85.08
	10.0	46.33	51.43	109.25	111.14	76.52	76.58
	12.0	50.78	58.70	137.22	136.85	94.17	93.44
	24.0	45.99	51.80	138.58	140.10	67.29	63.47
Average		50.72	53.51	121.79	126.24	77.42	77.71
13:40:13:0	4.0	55.44	60.31	110.57	115.54	79.29	81.12
	6.0	48.66	58.15	107.79	120.51	61.23	72.06
	8.0	45.55	51.48	103.90	118.91	58.63	57.60
	10.0	49.88	48.08	113.68	117.07	68.13	74.54
	12.0	54.44	61.05	144.40	139.19	56.99	63.93
	24.0	50.11	53.75	102.58	113.04	62.55	59.57
Average		50.68	55.47	113.82	120.71	64.47	68.14
Control	0	40.75	46.02	95.54	96.75	54.71	52.79
LSD at 0.05		10.621	8.588	32.51	27.697	12.308	15.636

LSD at 0.05 : Least significant difference test at 0.05 level of probability.

**Leaves fresh weight:** Data presented in Table (1) show that, using the first fertilizer (19:19:19:2) at 10g/plant gave the maximum increase in leaves fresh weight compared with the two other fertilizers. This result was probably due to that the first fertilizer had the suitable element's ratio for a good vegetative growth, consequently the leaves fresh weight of the *Fuchsia* would be increased.

Similar results were reported by Chase and Poole (1987) on *Syngonium podophyllum*, Keever and Coob (1987) on *Euonymus japonicus*, Beech (1990) on lemongrass, Munsri (1990) on Japanese mint, EL Saeid *et al.*;

(1996) on *Tagetes patula* plants and Van Iersel *et al.*, (1998) on *Impatiens*, *Petunia*, *Salvia* and *Vinca*.

However, increasing the fertilizer level over 10g/plant led to a reduction in the leaves fresh weight. These results were probably due to that using 10 g/plant from the first fertilizer was in adequate amount for *Fuchsia* plants to produce the maximum vegetative growth characteristics.

Similar trend of results was found by Lieres *et al.*, (1995) on *Salvia sclarea*.

**Shoot fresh weight:** Generally, the highest increase in shoot fresh weight was obtained by applying the fourth level (10 g/plant) of the fertilizer (19: 19: 2) (Table 1). This result might be due to that this fertilizer had the suitable element's ratio for a good shoot fresh weight, consequently the shoot fresh weight of the *Fuchsia* would be increased.

Similar trend of results was found by El-Mahrouk *et al.* (1992) on *Helipterum roseum*, and *Delphinium ajacis* L.

**Leaves dry weight:** Data of the two experimental seasons indicate that, the fertilizer (19: 19: 2) was more effective in increasing the leaves dry weight than the two other fertilizers (Table 2). These results were probably related to that using this fertilizer at 10g/plant supplied the *Fuchsia* plants with enough amount of N, P, K and Mg to allow the plants to grow well, consequently the dry weight of leaves would be increased.

Similar results were reported by Feigin *et al.* (1986) on greenhouse roses, El-Saeid *et al.* (1996) on *Tagetes patula*, Hosni and El-Shoura (1996) on carnations.

**Shoot dry weight:** The fertilizer (19: 19: 2) was more effective in increasing the shoots dry weight than the two other fertilizers (Table 2). These results were probably due to that using this fertilizer at 10g/plant supplied the *Fuchsia* plants with enough amount of N, P, K and Mg to allow the plants to grow well, consequently the dry weight would be increased.

Similar results were reported by Bezzi (1987) on *Salvia officinalis*, Feigin *et al.* (1986) on greenhouse roses, El Saeid *et al.* (1996) on *Tagetes patula* plants and Van Iersel *et al.* (1998) on *Impatiens*, *Petunia*, *Salvia* and *Vinca*.

**Flower number per plant:** Generally, the results of the two experimental seasons show that using any fertilizer at more than 10 g/plant gave significant increases in the number of flowers per plant compared with the control treatment (Table 2). This result was probably attributed to that using a suitable amount from any fertilizer could encourage flower formation, thus the flower number per plant could be increased.

Similar results were reported by Arora and Khanna (1986) on *Tagetes erecta*, Mukhopadhyay and Bankar (1986) on *Polianthus tuberosa*, Vass (1986) on *Gerbera* and Dufault *et al.* (1990) on *Gerbera*.

Furthermore, using 12g/plant from the fertilizer (19: 6: 20: 4) gave the maximum flower number per plant, in the two seasons. This result could be

due to the presence of N, P and K at a proper ratio, which could encourage the vegetative growth; consequently the flower formation on Fuchsia plant would be increased.

Similar results were reported by Feigin *et al.* (1986) on greenhouse roses, Bhattacharjee (1988) on *Jasminum grandiflorum*, Khargakharate and Nirwal (1991) on sunflower and Avtar *et al.* (1993) on Anethum graveolens.

**Table 2: Mean values of leaves dry weight (g), shoots dry weight (g) and number of flowers per plant of a local cultivar of *Fuchsia hybrida* as affected by the different fertilizers (ratios and levels) in the two seasons of 1991/1992 and 1992/1993.**

Treatments		Leaves dry weight (g)		Shoots dry weight (g)		Number of flowers per plant	
Fertilizer Ratios N: P: K: Mg	Levels (g)	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season
19:19:19:02	4.0	21.48	20.00	17.74	16.32	133.33	142.00
	6.0	13.84	15.30	13.67	13.80	143.33	136.67
	8.0	19.52	19.93	14.61	14.33	189.33	181.33
	10.0	21.81	20.72	19.32	18.71	131.33	133.67
	12.0	21.28	21.57	18.23	19.94	202.00	202.00
	24.0	17.31	16.82	18.36	19.10	218.33	204.33
Average		19.21	19.06	16.99	17.03	169.61	166.67
19:06:20:04	4.0	14.46	15.06	15.71	17.65	133.67	139.00
	6.0	12.74	13.61	11.78	12.47	192.33	206.00
	8.0	16.27	17.90	18.48	18.09	185.67	196.33
	10.0	13.07	14.48	15.01	15.81	210.00	211.67
	12.0	16.88	18.21	17.16	20.04	250.00	250.67
	24.0	18.67	17.49	12.04	13.68	197.67	195.67
Average		15.35	16.13	15.03	16.29	194.89	199.89
13:40:13:0	4.0	13.54	19.67	15.76	14.70	180.00	178.67
	6.0	12.49	19.26	11.12	13.66	123.67	129.33
	8.0	12.39	17.65	12.17	14.74	152.33	151.67
	10.0	14.21	19.16	12.79	14.26	199.00	196.33
	12.0	14.74	20.31	10.40	12.92	171.00	199.33
	24.0	13.05	17.26	10.67	13.26	221.33	242.00
Average		13.40	18.88	12.15	13.92	174.56	182.89
Control	0	10.02	9.37	9.41	9.90	110.33	120.00
LSD at 0.05		4.278	3.850	3.851	3.861	44.346	41.213

LSD at 0.05 : Least significant difference test at 0.05 level of probability.

**Chemical analysis:**

**Nitrogen content and uptake:** Generally, data of the two experimental seasons show that using any fertilizer, especially at suitable levels, led to a significant increase in the percentage of N in the leaves of Fuchsia plant and the amount of N- uptake compared with the control treatment (Table 3). These results was probably related to that the used medium had no enough amount of N, consequently any addition of N to the soil could be absorbed and translocated in the leaves.

Similar results were reported by Lang and Punnkuk (1998) on Guinea impatiens.

The fertilizer (19: 6: 20: 4) at 10 g/plant gave the maximum N content in Fuchsia leaves, compared with the control treatment in the two seasons. These results were probably attributed to that using 10gm/plant from this fertilizer led to increase the amount of N in the soil to the maximum value, consequently the Fuchsia plants could absorb high amount of N and store it in the leaves. Nitrogen is of extreme importance because it is a constituent of proteins and nucleic acids (Bidwell, 1974).

Similar trend of results was found by Vass and Hargital (1986) on Gerbera plants, and Yang *et al.* (1989) on Chrysanthemums.

**Phosphorus content and uptake:** Data presented in Table (3) indicate that using any level from any used fertilizer led to significant increase in the percentage of phosphorus in the leaves of Fuchsia plants and the amount of P uptake compared with the control treatment. These results were probably due to that the used media did not contain enough amount of phosphorus, thus any addition from any fertilizer led to increase the phosphorus content in the leaves of Fuchsia plants. Phosphorus is important as a structural part of many compounds notably, nucleic acids and phospholipids, in addition to its role in energy metabolism (Bidwell, 1974)

Similar results were reported by Kacperska (1985) on Gerbera.

The fertilizer (19:19:19:2) at the highest level (24g/plant) gave the maximum phosphorus content in leaves of Fuchsia plants, compared with the other levels and fertilizers during the two seasons. These results may be attributed to that using enough amount from the suitable fertilizer led to increase the amount of P in the soil, consequently the plants could absorb high level of it.

Similar results were reported by Tesi *et al.* (1995) on sweet basil.

**Potassium content and uptake:** Data presented in Table (3) show that using any level from any used fertilizer led to significant increase in the percentage of K in the leaves of Fuchsia plants and the amount of K- uptake compared with the control treatment. These results may be probably due to that the used soil did not contain enough amount of K, consequently any addition from any fertilizer led to increase the amount of available potassium in the soil and the plants absorbed the element and translocated it in its leaves. Potassium is important in respiration, carbohydrate metabolism and overall metabolism of plants (Bidwell, 1974).

Similar trend of results was reported by Tripathi and Sawhney (1989) on sunflower, and Tesi *et al.* (1995) on sweet basil.

Furthermore, the data of the two experimental seasons show that using 10g/plant from the fertilizer (19:6:20:4) gave the maximum percentage of K in the leaves of Fuchsia plants, compared with the other levels and fertilizers. This result was probably due to that using the suitable amount from the suitable fertilizer which had a high ratio of potassium led to increase the percentage of K in the soil and in the leaves.

Similar results were reported by Zile and Gupta (1996) on *Dahlia variabilis* and Lang and Pannkuk, (1998) on Guinea impatiens.





## REFERENCES

- Arora, J. S and K. Khanna (1986). Effect of nitrogen and pinching on growth and flower production of Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*). Indian Journal of Horticulture, 43: 291-294.
- Avtar, S.; G. Randhawa.; R. Mahey and A. Singh. (1993). Growth and yield of dill (*Anethum graveolens* L.) as affected by Onitrogen and harvesting stages. Crop Res. Hisar., 6: 217-221.
- Beckett, K (1985). Fuchsia. Collins Aura Garden Handbooks. Collins Sons and Co. Ltd, London.
- Beech, D. (1990). The effect of carrier and rate of nitrogen application on the growth and oil production of lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) in the Ord Irrigation Area, Western Australia. Austr. J. Exp. Agr., 30: 243-250.
- Bezzi, A. (1987). A fertilizer trial on *Saliva officinal* L. (Villazzano, Trento). Ministero delle Agricoltura edella forest 315-335 (C.F. Hort Abstract 58: 6881).
- Bhattacharjee, S. K. (1988). Studied on the effect of split doses of nitrogen on *Jasminum grandiflorum* L. Indian Perfumer, 32 (4): 321-326.
- Bidwell. R. (1974). Plant Physiology. Macmillan Publishing Co. Inc. New York. pp 1002.
- Boodley, J. W. (1968). Fertilizer proportioners for floriculture and nursery crop production management. Cornell Ext. Bull., 1175: 40.
- Chapman, H. D. and Pratt, P. F. (1961). Methods of analysis for soil, plants and waters. Univ. of California, Dic. of Agric., Sci. pp 309.
- Chase, A. R and Poole, R. (1987). Effect of fertilizer, temperature, and light level on growth of *Syngonium podophyllun* "White Butterfly". J. Am.Soc.Hort.Sci., 112 (2): 296-300.
- Dufault R.; Phillips T. and K. John (1990). Nitrogen and potassium fertility and plant populations influence field production of Gerbera. HortScience., 25: 1599-1602.
- El-Mahrouk, E. M.; F. A. Menesy and B. A. Abdel-Maksoud. (1992). Response of *Helipterum Roseum*, Benth. and *Delphinium ajacis* L. to NPK fertilization. I- Vegetative growth and flowering. J. Agric. Res. Tanta. Univ., 18 (4): 703-714.
- El-Nakhlawy, F. (1993). Defoliation effect on yield. Yield components and quality of sunflower. Alex. J. Agr. Res. 38: 257-267.
- El-Saeid. H.; M. Hussein.; S. EL-Sherbeny and E. Omer. (1996). Effect of nitrogen on yield and active constituents of *Tagetes patula*. Egy. J. Hort. 23: 101-112.
- Feigin, A.; Ginsburg, C.; S. Gilead and A. Ackerman (1986). Effect of NH<sub>4</sub>/NO<sub>3</sub> ratio in nutrient solution on growth and yield of greenhouse roses. Acta Horticulture., 189: 127-135.
- Hiroyasu, T.; Yano, S.; and M. Morinsaga (1971). The effects of time of nitrogen application on the growth of Chrysanthemums. Hort. Abst., 41: 9297.
- Hosni, A. M. and H. A. S. EL-Shoura (1996). Effect of potassium fertilization on yield, quality and anatomical structure of carnation (*Dianthus*

- caryophyllus* L.) cv. "Lucena" Annals of Agriculture Science (Cairo), 41 (1): 351-365.
- Johnson, E. W. (1976). The nitrogen and potassium manuring of Chrysanthemums in heated glasshouse borders I- crop response. Exp. Hort., 27: 1-7.
- Joiner, J. N. and R.T. Poole. (1967). Relationship of fertilization frequency to Chrysanthemum yield and nutrient levels in soil and foliage. Proc. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 90: 397-402
- Kacperska, I. (1985). The effect of NPK fertilizer doses on yield of Gerbera cv. Appelbloesem prace Instytutu Sadaownictwa I Kwaiacia rstwa w skierniewica ch, B (Rosliny ozdobne) 10: 115-125.
- Keever, G.J. and Coob, G.S. (1987). Effect of container volume and fertility rate on growth of two woody ornamentals. HortScience, 22 (5): 891-893.
- Khargkharate, V. and B. Nirwal (1991). Growth and yield of sunflower as influenced by inter and intra row spacing and nitrogen. J. of Maharashtra Agr. Univ., 16: 291-292.
- Lang, H. J. and T.R. Pannkuk (1998). Effects of fertilizer concentration and minimum-leach drip irrigation on the growth of New Guinea Impatiens. HortScience, 33 (4): 683-688.
- Lieres, A; R. Henny and L. Von (1995). Fertilizer trial with clay. Gemuse Munchen, 31: 655-656.
- Lunt, O. R. and A. M. Kofranek (1958). Nitrogen and potassium nutrition of Chrysanthemum and Poinsettia. Proc. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 84: 582-578.
- Mukhopadhyay, A. and J. Bankar (1986). Studies on nutritional requirement of tuberose. South Indian Horticulture, 34: 167-172.
- Munsi, P. (1990). Nitrogen and phosphorus nutrition response in Japanese mint cultivation. XXIII International horticulture., 306: 436 - 443.
- Page, A. L; R. H. Miller and D. R. Keeny. (Eds) (1982). Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 2. American Society of Agronomy, Madison, W.I.
- Snedecor, G. and W. Cochran (1974) Statistical Methods. Sixth Ed. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, U.S.A.
- Tesi, R.; G. Chisci.; A. Nencini.; R. Tallarico.; K. Svoboda.; J. Laughlin. and V. Brown. (1995). Growth response to fertilization of sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.). Acta Hort., 390: 93-96.
- Tripathi, H.; and j. Sawhney. (1989). Nutrient uptake and quality of sunflower as influenced by irrigation and nitrogen levels. Narendra Deva J. Agr. Res., 4: 83 - 87.
- Van Iersel, R.B.; Beverly, P.A.; Thomas, J.G. Latimer, and H. A. Mills. (1998). Fertilizer effects on the growth of *Impatiens*, *Petunia*, *Salvia*, and *Vinca* plug seedlings. HortScience, 33 (4): 678-682.
- Vass, E. (1986). Changes in the water-soluble salt content of various soil mixtures in response to nutrient solution treatments of Gerbera. Kerteszeti Egyetem Kozlemenyei, 50: 289-295.
- Vass, E. and L. Hargital (1986). Correlations between the changes in readily hydrolysable nitrogen content and the supply of nutrient solution to Gerbera. Kerteszeti Egyetem Kozlemrnyei, 50: 281-287.

- Yang, S. B.; K. W. Park and M. H. Chiang (1989). The effect of fertilizer application, spacing and sowing date on the growth and quality of *Chrysanthemum L.* (Horticulture Abstracts) Abstracts of Communicated papers, Korean Society for Horticulture Science, 7: 72-73.
- Zile, S. and A. Gupta (1996). Effect of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium application on the mineral composition of *Dahlia variabilis*. Environment and Ecology, 14: 940-943.

### تأثير الأسمدة المعدنية على نمو وإزهار نباتات الفوكسيا محمود خطاب، محمد رجب، علا الشناوى وحسنى سالم قسم الزهور ونباتات الزينة وتنسيق الحدائق، كلية الزراعة جامعة الإسكندرية

أجرى هذا البحث في مزرعة قسم الزهور ونباتات الزينة وتنسيق الحدائق -كلية الزراعة- جامعة الإسكندرية وذلك خلال الموسمين ١٩٩٢/١٩٩١ و ١٩٩٢/١٩٩٢ بهدف دراسة تأثير ثلاثة أسمدة مركبه بمستويات مختلفة من النتروجين والفسفور والبوتاسيوم والمغنسيوم على النمو الخضري والزهرى واثرت ذلك على المحتوى النتروجينى والفسفورى والبوتاسي فى أوراق نباتات الفوكسيا *Fuchsia hybrida* وكانت الأسمدة المستخدمة هي:-

(١٩:١٩:٢)، (١٩:٦:٢٠:٤)، (١٣:٤٠:١٣) صفر) نتروجين ، فوسفور، بوتاسيوم ، ماغنسيوم على التوالى وقد استخدمت ستة مستويات من كل سماد بالإضافة الى معاملة المقارنة ، وكانت المستويات على النحو التالى ٤، ٦، ٨، ١٠، ١٢، ٢٤ جرام/نبات/موسم.

و قد تم تقسيم كل مستوى الى أربعة أقسام أضيفت للنبات أسبوعيا وكان عدد المعاملات ١٩ معاملة فى ثلاث مكررات و كل مكرره اشتملت على ثلاث نباتات بحيث تم زراعة كل نبات فى أصيص قطره ٣٠ سم وكان تصميم التجربة تصميما عشوائيا كاملا. ويمكن تلخيص أهم النتائج المتحصل عليها فى النقاط الأساسية التالية:

- أدت أضافه المعاملات السمادية المختلفة الى حدوث تأثيرات معنوية على معظم صفات النمو الخضري.
- كان أقصى ارتفاع للنبات عند استخدام السماد (١٩-١٩-٢) بمعدل ٨، ١٠ جرام/نبات فى كلا الموسمين.
- أقصى وزن طازج وجاف للأوراق تم الحصول عليه باستخدام السماد الأول (١٩-١٩-٢) بمعدل ١٠، ١٢ جرام/نبات فى كلا الموسمين
- استخدام السماد (١٩-١٩-٢) وبمعدل ١٠/١٢ جرام/نبات أعطى أعلى زيادة معنوية فى الوزن الطازج والجاف للافرع فى كلا الموسمين.
- أظهرت نتائج النمو الزهرى فى الموسمين المتتالين أن استخدام المعاملات السمادية المختلفة أدت الى زياده معنوية فى عدد الأزهار على النبات، وكانت أعلى زيادة معنوية فى عدد الأزهار نتيجة استخدام السماد (١٩-٦-٢٠-٤) بمعدل ١٢ جرام/نبات.
- أوضحت نتائج التحليل الكيماي أن النسبة المئوية للنيتروجين و الفوسفور والبوتاسيوم زادت زيادة معنوية جدا فى الأوراق المعاملة بالمعاملات السمادية المختلفة مقارنة بالكنترول.
- استخدام السماد (١٩-٦-٢٠-٤) بمعدل ١٠ جرام/نبات أعطى أعلى زيادة معنوية فى النسبة المئوية للنتروجين فى أوراق نبات الفوكسيا فى الموسمين المتتالين.
- استخدام السماد (١٩-١٩-٢) بمعدل ٢٤ جرام/نبات أعطى أعلى زيادة معنوية فى النسبة المئوية للفسفور فى أوراق نبات الفوكسيا فى الموسمين المتتالين.
- استخدام السماد (١٩-٦-٢٠-٤) بمعدل ١٠ جرام/نبات أعطى أعلى زيادة معنوية فى النسبة المئوية للبوتاسيوم فى أوراق نبات الفوكسيا فى الموسمين المتتالين.
- أعلى معدل امتصاص للعناصر الثلاثة (نتروجين وفوسفور وبوتاسيوم) كانت نتيجة لاستخدام السماد (١٩-٦-٢٠-٤) بمعدل ١٢ جرام/نبات فى الموسمين المتتالين.

**Table 3: Mean values of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium contents (%) and uptakes (mg/plant) of a local cultivar of *Fuchsia hybrida* as affected by the different fertilizers (ratios and levels) in the two seasons of 1991/1992 and 1992/1993.**

Treatments		Nitrogen content (%)		Nitrogen uptake (mg/plant)		Phosphorus content (%)		Phosphorus uptake (mg/plant)		Potassium content (%)		Potassium uptake (mg/plant)	
Fertilizer Ratios N: P: K: Mg	Levels (g)	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season	First season	Second season
19:19:19:02	4.0	1.978	1.946	774.78	706.79	0.348	0.373	136.31	135.47	0.937	0.896	367.02	325.43
	6.0	1.855	2.041	491.20	593.93	0.362	0.369	95.86	107.38	1.141	1.233	302.14	358.80
	8.0	1.542	1.617	526.75	553.98	0.341	0.378	116.49	129.50	1.328	1.148	453.64	393.30
	10.0	2.095	2.042	861.46	805.16	0.341	0.363	140.22	143.13	1.065	1.099	437.93	433.34
	12.0	2.102	2.239	830.71	929.41	0.366	0.352	144.64	146.12	1.417	1.323	560.00	549.18
	24.0	2.082	2.142	742.86	769.62	0.379	0.387	135.23	139.05	1.409	1.178	502.73	423.26
Average		1.942	2.005	704.63	726.48	0.356	0.370	128.13	133.44	1.216	1.146	437.24	413.89
19:06:20:04	4.0	2.141	2.363	645.49	772.94	0.350	0.362	105.5	118.6	1.027	1.033	309.85	337.89
	6.0	1.791	1.573	446.32	410.24	0.340	0.349	86.36	91.19	0.907	0.496	226.02	246.72
	8.0	2.091	2.192	723.07	788.68	0.366	0.343	126.6	124.1	1.107	1.271	393.87	457.31
	10.0	2.455	2.467	689.36	747.25	0.330	0.346	92.58	104.9	1.440	1.335	404.35	404.37
	12.0	1.775	1.681	607.23	642.98	0.344	0.379	117.2	144.9	1.316	1.271	450.20	486.16
	24.0	1.457	2.088	423.70	650.83	0.361	0.366	104.8	114.2	1.379	1.192	401.01	371.15
Average		1.952	2.061	589.27	668.82	0.349	0.358	105.37	115.79	1.196	1.175	364.22	383.93
13:40:13:0	4.0	2.119	2.019	620.87	595.20	0.313	0.364	91.71	107.31	1.220	1.400	357.46	412.72
	6.0	1.618	1.692	380.88	496.36	0.328	0.372	77.21	103.19	1.235	1.118	290.72	310.13
	8.0	1.880	2.021	459.66	597.81	0.366	0.341	89.49	100.87	0.926	1.242	226.41	376.38
	10.0	2.203	2.474	594.81	659.07	0.358	0.366	96.66	97.50	0.957	1.076	258.39	286.65
	12.0	1.400	1.587	384.02	497.37	0.376	0.359	103.14	112.51	1.251	1.312	343.15	411.18
	24.0	2.037	2.228	506.90	648.13	0.341	0.384	80.89	111.71	1.356	1.238	321.64	360.13
Average		1.893	2.004	491.19	577.82	0.347	0.364	89.85	105.52	1.158	1.231	299.63	358.03
Control	0	1.247	1.242	269.98	239.46	0.293	0.304	63.73	58.61	0.709	0.690	153.50	133.03
LSD at 0.05		0.522	0.392	236.00	190.96	0.030	0.013	25.18	23.31	0.180	0.152	104.4	96.16

LSD at 0.05 : Least significant difference test at 0.05 level of probability.