

## EFFECT OF THE PRECEDING WINTER CROP AND NITROGEN FERTILIZATION ON YIELD AND YIELD COMPONENTS OF MAIZE AND SUNFLOWER

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### Abstract

Two field experiments were conducted at Shandaweel Agric. Res. Station in 1998 and 1999, summer seasons in a split-plot design with four replicates. Winter crops were in main plots and N rates in the sub plots. N rates were 90, 105 and 120 kg N/fed for maize and 45, 60 and 75 kg N/fed for sunflower.

Highly significant differences due to the preceding winter crop were obtained in plant growth characters and yield of maize and sunflower. Values were maximum after faba bean and minimum after wheat. Seed yield/fed. of maize and sunflower grown after faba bean were 15.2 and 17.72 higher than those grown after wheat, respectively.

All growth characters of maize and sunflower were increased by increasing N levels up to 120 kg N/fed for maize and 75 kg N/fed. for sunflower. The increments in grain yield of maize as affected by adding 120 kg N/fed. over 105 and 90; g N/fed. were 7.2 and 14.5 %, respectively. Seed yield of sunflower fertilized with 75 kg N/fed. was 6.3 and 13.3, respectively, higher than yields obtained with 60 and 45 kg N/fed. Yields of maize and sunflower grown after faba bean and fertilized with 90 kg N/fed. for maize and 45 kg N/fed for sunflower were similar to yields obtained after wheat and fertilized with 120 kg N/fed. for maize and 75 kg N/fed. for sunflower.

### INTRODUCTION

Yields of field crops, such as maize and sunflower, are positively affected by factors including the cropping system, preceding crop, fertilizer level and soil fertility. Results of Geith (1973) show that grain yield of maize is much higher when the rotation include legume crops. Shafshak *et al.* (1992), Wetch (1985), Remstw and Patile (1987), Durst *et al.* (1988) and Peterson and Varval (1989) noted that cereal crops produced greater yield followed by legumes than monoculture or followed by cereal crops. Crookston and Karle (1989) reported that the greatest relative increases in corn and soybean yields were due to rotation over continuous monoculture. Aly *et al.* (1993) found that yields of maize after faba bean were superior to those grown after berseem or wheat. El-Howary *et al.* (1994) reported that soil micro- and macro-

nutrients were affected by the preceding crops and consequently affected yield of the following crop and its components. Porter *et al.* (1997) found that corn yield was most suppressed by a previous corn crop in relatively low-yielding years. Abou Kresha *et al.* (1998) found that grain yields of maize grown after faba bean or berseem were higher than those grown after wheat.

Nitrogen fertilization is essential for the production of high yield of grain maize in Egypt (Abdella Hussein, 1980; Sorour and Attia, 1988; Zeiton, 1992; Ali, 1993 and Mohamed, 1993; Chen *et al.* 1994; Shafshak *et al.* 1994; Abdel Gawad and El-Batal, 1996). For sunflower, application of N significantly increased plant height, head diameter, seed index, seed husk percent and seed yield (Zeiton, 1992, Ali, 1993 and Mohamed, 1993). Maize ear length and diameter, number and weight of grains/ear, number of ears/plant and shelling % increased as N levels were increased. (El-Sheikh, 1993; Salwa, 1993; Shafshak *et al.* 1994, Hammam, 1995, Chen *et al.* 1994, Sangoi and Almeide 1994 and Moshtohry *et al.* 1995). Abdel Gawad and El-Batal (1996) found that increasing N fertilization rates progressively increased maize plant height, ear height, number of kernels/row, 1000-kernel weight, kernel weight/plant and kernels yield/fed. Sorour and Attia (1988) indicated that nitrogen was most effective in increasing sunflower plant height, head diameter, seed index, seed yield/plant, seed yield/fed. Ashoub (1985), Zeiton (1992), Aly (1993), Mohamed (1993), Shalaby, (1995) reported that N increased plant height, head diameter, seed yield/plant and seed yield per fed. In sunflower. Abdel Wahed (1996) found that 60 kg N/fed. of sunflower. resulted in the maximum plant height, head diameter, seed yield/plant, weight of 100 seeds, seed husk percent and seed yield/fed.

The main objective of this investigation was to study the effect of preceding crops and N fertilization rates on the yield of maize and sunflower.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experiments were conducted in the Summers of 1998 and 1999 at Shandaweel Agric. Res. Station, ARC where the soil is clay loam with total soluble N of 0.083%. One experiment designed as split-plot with three replications was conducted for each of maize and sunflower each season. The preceding winter crops; faba bean, sugar beet and wheat, were the main plots while the sub-plot were devoted to three fertilizer N levels viz., 90, 105 and 120 kg N/fed for maize and 45, 60 and 75 kg N/fed for sunflower. The proper cultivar of the preceding crop was used and the recommended cultural practices for its production were applied. Maize (cv. Single cross 10) and sunflow-

er (cv. Hybrid Viddoc) were sown at rates of 15 kg/fed for maize and 5 kg/fed. for sunflower on 11 and 15 of June in the first and second season, respectively. Sub plots were 4.2 x 5 m and included 6 ridges 70 cm wide with single plant spaced 30 cm apart for maize and 60 cm wide with 25 cm apart for sunflower. Superphosphate was applied at the rate of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/fed. during soil preparation. N was divided into two equal doses with the first and second irrigation. Plants were harvested on 18th and 15th of Oct. in the first and second season, respectively. Ten plants were chosen at random within each sub-plot to measure the following characters:

**Maize:** Plant height, ear height, ear diameter, ear length, number of rows/ear, number of kernels/row, weight/ear, weight of kernels/ear and shelling percentage. Grain yield of maize was obtained from the whole sub-plot area and expressed in ardab/fed.

**Sunflower:** Plant height, head diameter, head weight, seed yield/plant and 100-seed weight were recorded. Seed yield of sunflower was obtained from the whole sub-plot and expressed in kg/fed.

Data were statistically analyzed according to Snedecor and Cochran (1988) using MSTAT computer Ver. 4 (1986). L.S.D test at 0.05 level was used to compare treatment means.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. The effect of the preceding crop:

#### 1.1. Maize:

Data in Table (1) show that there are significant effects for faba bean, sugar beet and wheat on plant characters and yield of maize except ear diameter, number of rows/ear and shelling % in both seasons and ear length and number of kernels/row in the second season only. However, the highest values were observed for maize grown after faba bean in the first and the second seasons. The lowest values were observed for maize grown after wheat in the first and the second seasons. Grain yield of maize grown after faba bean was higher than after sugar beet and wheat by 4.5 and 15.12 % and 0.65 and 15.25 in the first and the second season, respectively.

Table 1. Effect of preceding winter crop on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of maize during 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Preceding winter crop	Plant height (cm)	Ear height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	Ear diameter (cm)	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Weight of ear (g)	Weight of kernel/ear (g)	Shelling %	Grain yield /fed.
Faba bean	244.33	120.22	19.64	4.47	12.48	46.58	259.11	228.88	0.883	22.63
Sugar beet	239.77	119.22	19.81	4.46	12.22	47.26	247.55	209.55	0.846	21.66
Wheat	223.44	109.11	18.12	4.36	12.00	44.27	220.22	197.22	0.888	19.66
L.S.D. at 0.05	17.12	8.17	0.39	NS	NS	2.44	20.90	25.09	NS	1.05
Faba bean	259.11	151.33	19.63	4.51	12.22	46.55	260.77	225.11	0.863	23.08
Sugar beet	257.11	140.22	19.35	4.47	12.20	46.22	253.88	221.11	0.873	22.93
Wheat	253.88	137.55	18.92	4.36	12.06	43.77	235.66	202.33	0.858	20.02
L.S.D. at 0.05	2.34	6.00	NS	NS	NS	NS	7.40	19.70	NS	0.61



## 1.2. Sunflower:

Data presented in Table (2) show significant differences in studied yield components of sunflower as affected by the preceding winter crop in both seasons. The highest values were observed for sunflower grown after faba bean except seed yield/plant and 100-seed weight, which were highest when grown after sugar beet in both seasons. The lowest values of the studied characters were observed when sunflower was grown after wheat in both seasons. Seed yield /fed of sunflower grown after faba bean was significantly higher than that grown after sugar beet and wheat by 1.47 and 18.33 %, 2.25 and 17.12 % in the first and second seasons, respectively.

These results could be attributed to the effect of faba bean as a legume crop in enriching the soil with nitrogen and organic matter and the effect of its residues in improving the physical, chemical and biological characters of the soil. These induced better growth of the following maize and sunflower. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Shafshak *et al.* (1982), Remstw and Patile (1987), Aly *et al.* (1992), Dornescu *et al.* (1994), Porter *et al.* (1997) and Abou-Kreshe (1998).

## 2. The effect of nitrogen fertilizer:

### 2.1. Maize:

Data in Table (3) show that all studied characters (growth, yield and yield components) were significantly increased by increasing N levels up to 120 kg N/fed in both seasons except number of rows/ear and shelling %. The highest increment in all characters resulted from 120 kg N/fed followed by 105 kg N/fed. in both seasons. The increments in grain yield as affected by adding 120 kg N/fed over 105 and 90 kg N/fed were 7.8, and 15.2, 4.5 and 18.6 % in the first and second season, respectively.

### 2.2. Sunflower:

As shown in Table (4), results indicate that increasing N levels up to 75 kg N/fed significantly increased all the studied characters of sunflower in both seasons. Maximum plant height, head diameter, head weight, seed yield/plant and 100-seed weight were observed with adding 75 kg N/fed. Fertilization with 75 kg N/fed. resulted in seed yield 6.6 and 13.3 % and 6.1 and 14.2 % more seed yields in first and second seasons, respectively.

These results reflect the well-known effect of N fertilizer on vegetative growth and interception of light energy through photosynthesis (product accumulation and

Table 2. Effect of the preceding winter crop on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of sunflower during in 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Preceding winter crop	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Head weight (g)	Seed yield/plant (g)	100-seed weight (g)	Seed yield/fed.
Faba bean	174.66	15.84	104.11	52.70	8.71	819.51
Sugar beet	172.13	15.20	94.33	55.78	8.86	807.61
Wheat	162.91	13.45	86.77	43.88	8.68	692.56
L.S.D. at 0.05	2.35	1.47	5.03	5.17	0.13	4.93
Faba bean	178.11	19.08	100.05	61.68	9.00	839.88
Sugar beet	175.22	18.47	110.88	65.16	9.09	821.33
Wheat	170.22	15.86	92.11	59.94	8.74	717.11
L.S.D. at 0.05	5.00	1.49	3.50	2.83	0.12	12.04

Table 3. Effect of nitrogen rate on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of maize in 1998 and 1999 seasons.

N rate Kg/fed.	Plant height (cm)	Ear height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	Ear diameter (cm)	1998 season			Weight of kernel/ear (g)	Shelling %	Grain yield/fed. ard.
					No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Weight of ear (g)			
9.0	227.66	111.61	18.66	4.37	12.20	44.53	228.33	200.00	0.875	19.85
10.5	236.00	116.55	19.20	4.42	12.28	45.70	243.55	211.22	0.867	21.22
12.0	243.88	120.33	20.40	4.50	12.22	47.90	255.00	224.44	0.880	22.88
L.S.D. at 0.05	3.57	2.59	0.30	NS	NS	0.83	5.08	12.80	NS	0.41
1999 Season										
9.0	250.66	136.77	18.53	4.37	11.93	44.22	240.77	203.00	0.860	20.18
10.5	256.77	144.22	19.17	4.43	12.04	45.46	248.66	218.55	0.874	22.90
12.0	262.66	148.11	20.20	4.54	12.01	46.88	260.88	227.00	0.868	23.95
L.S.D. at 0.05	3.96	1.85	0.36	0.03	NS	0.82	3.67	4.70	NS	0.36

Table 4. Effect of nitrogen rate on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of sunflower during in 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Nitrogen rate Kg/fed.	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Season 1998			Season 1999		
			Head weight (g)	Seed yield/plant (g)	100-seed weight (g)	Seed yield/plant (g)	100-seed weight (g)	Seed yield/fed. kg
4.5	164.11	14.18	80.50	45.85	8.57	725.44		
6.0	171.24	14.96	92.82	51.03	8.75	771.66		
7.5	174.35	15.34	110.55	55.48	8.93	822.57		
L.S.D. at 0.05	2.93	0.418	4.24	2.59	0.04	4.39		
4.5	169.77	17.26	85.88	55.30	8.69	739.22		
6.0	173.88	17.83	98.94	63.42	8.96	795.11		
7.5	179.88	18.04	118.22	68.05	9.19	843.99		
L.S.D. at 0.05	3.86	2.32	0.62	1.76	0.03	8.35		



source/sink relation). Similar results were reported by Sorour and Attia (1988), Zeiton (1992), Shafshak *et al.* (1994), Shalaby (1995), Hammam (1995), Chen *et al.* (1994), Abdel Gawad and El-Batal (1996) and Abdel Wahed (1996).

### **3. Interaction effects:**

#### **3.1. Maize:**

Data presented in Table (5) show that grain yield of maize was not significantly affected by the interaction between the preceding winter crop and the rate of N applied to maize in 1998 and 1999. However, plant height, ear height, ear diameter, number of kernels/ear and weight/ear in the first season and ear height and weight/ear in the second season were significantly affected by the interaction. Results also show that maize grown after faba bean and receiving 120 kg N/fed showed maximum ear height, ear diameter, ear weight and weight of kernel/ear in both seasons. The lowest values for growth, yield and yield components were obtained when maize was grown after wheat and fertilized with 90 kg N/fed in both seasons. The highest grain yield was achieved from maize fertilized with 120 kg N/fed grown after faba bean in both seasons. Maize grown after faba bean with 105 kg N/fed produced greater yield than when grown after wheat with 120 kg N/fed in both seasons.

#### **3.2. sunflower:**

Results in Table (6) show a significant effect on head weight and seed yield/fed in the first season; and head diameter, 100-seed weight and seed yield per fed in the second season. Sunflower grown after faba bean and fertilized with 75 kg N/fed gave maximum values for most of studied characters in both seasons. The lowest values were observed when sunflower was grown after wheat and fertilized with 45 kg n/fed. Seed yield of sunflower grown after faba bean and fertilized with 45 kg N/fed was higher than when grown after wheat and fertilized with 75 kg N/fed.

Finally, from data in tables 5 and 6 observed that maize and sunflower followed faba bean a beneficial effect equal to 20-30 kg N/fed.

Table 5. Effect of the interaction between the preceding winter crop and rate of N applied on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of the following maize crop in 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Preceding winter crop	N rate	Plant height (cm)	Ear height (cm)	Ear length (cm)	Ear diameter (cm)	No. of rows/ear	No. of kernels/row	Weight of ear (g)	Weight of kernel/ear (g)	Shelling %	Grain yield/ha
Faba bean	9.0	239.3	114.0	19.03	4.41	12.33	45.26	240.0	214.66	0.894	20.98
	10.5	244.0	120.6	19.26	4.46	12.53	46.20	262.0	229.33	0.875	22.53
	12.0	249.6	126.0	20.63	4.55	12.60	48.30	275.3	242.66	0.881	24.38
Sugar beet	9.0	228.0	115.2	19.00	4.41	12.20	45.33	234.7	199.33	0.849	20.33
	10.5	239.3	120.0	19.80	4.44	12.26	46.73	248.7	208.66	0.839	21.55
	12.0	252.0	122.5	20.63	4.54	12.20	49.73	259.3	220.66	0.851	23.10
Wheat	9.0	215.6	105.7	17.50	4.30	12.07	43.00	210.3	186.00	0.888	18.25
	10.5	224.6	109.0	17.90	4.38	12.06	44.16	220.0	195.66	0.885	19.58
	12.0	230.0	112.7	18.96	4.41	11.86	45.66	230.3	210.00	0.893	21.15
L.S.D. at 0.05		4.07	2.96	NS	0.13	NS	0.94	5.79	NS	NS	NS
Season 1999											
Faba bean	9.0	252.66	140.66	18.76	4.43	12.00	45.33	250.66	212.00	0.845	21.26
	10.5	260.33	155.00	19.63	4.51	12.13	46.00	260.33	227.33	0.872	22.95
	12.0	264.33	158.00	20.50	4.60	12.13	48.33	271.33	236.00	0.869	25.05
Sugar beet	9.0	251.33	136.33	18.63	4.37	12.00	44.66	247.33	205.66	0.831	21.16
	10.5	255.66	140.33	19.20	4.44	12.00	46.33	251.66	225.00	0.884	22.88
	12.0	264.33	144.00	22.33	4.60	12.10	47.66	262.66	232.66	0.886	24.75
Wheat	9.0	248.00	133.33	18.20	4.30	11.80	42.66	224.33	191.33	0.854	18.11
	10.5	254.33	137.00	18.70	4.35	12.00	44.16	236.00	203.33	0.861	19.87
	12.0	259.33	142.33	19.86	4.43	11.90	44.66	248.66	212.33	0.856	22.05
L.S.D. at 0.05		NS	2.08	NS	NS	NS	NS	4.19	NS	NS	NS

Table 6. Effect of the interaction between the preceding winter crop and rate of N applied on plant characteristics, yield and yield components of the following sunflower crop in 1998 and 1999 seasons.

Preceding winter crop (A)	N rate	Plant height (cm)	Head diameter (cm)	Head weight (gm)	Seed yield/plant (gm)	100-seed weight (gm)	Seed yield/ha (kg)
Faba bean	4.5	169.00	15.26	83.50	47.90	8.52	776.33
	6.0	175.33	15.80	102.16	52.06	8.72	812.16
	7.5	179.66	16.46	126.66	58.13	8.89	870.03
Sugar beet	4.5	167.16	14.43	80.16	50.50	8.87	765.66
	6.0	173.53	15.60	91.16	56.53	8.87	799.50
	7.5	175.70	15.56	111.66	60.33	9.06	857.66
Wheat	4.5	156.16	12.86	77.83	39.16	8.53	634.33
	6.0	164.86	13.35	85.16	44.50	8.66	703.33
	7.5	167.70	14.00	97.33	48.00	8.85	740.03
L.S.D. at 0.05		NS	NS	4.84	NS	NS	7.608
Season 1999							
Faba bean	4.5	173.33	18.53	94.50	53.43	8.74	785.00
	6.0	176.33	19.20	109.00	62.46	9.05	843.00
	7.5	184.66	19.53	126.66	69.16	9.22	891.66
Sugar beet	4.5	169.66	17.20	95.50	56.66	8.81	752.33
	6.0	175.66	18.26	107.66	67.16	9.12	821.66
	7.5	180.33	19.96	129.50	71.66	9.34	890.00
Wheat	4.5	166.33	15.33	67.66	55.83	8.52	680.33
	6.0	169.66	15.93	80.16	60.66	8.70	720.66
	7.5	174.66	16.33	98.50	63.33	9.01	750.33
L.S.D. at 0.05		NS	2.65	NS	NS	0.05	14.46

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## تأثير المحصول الشتوي السابق والتسميد الأزوتي على المحصول ومكوناته في الذرة الشامية وعباد الشمس

بدر سعد فرغلي

معهد بحوث المحاصيل الحقلية - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزة - مصر.

أقيمت تجربتان حقليتان بمحطة البحوث الزراعية بشندويل (مصر العليا) خلال موسمي ١٩٩٨، ١٩٩٩ لدراسة تأثير المحصول السابق (فول بلدى - بنجر سكر - قمح) ومعدلات التسميد الأزوتي للذرة الشامية وعباد الشمس اللاحقين. وكان التصميم هو القطع المنشقة مرة واحدة في أربعة مكررات حيث كانت المحاصيل السابقة هي القطع الرئيسية بينما اشتملت القطع المنشقة على معدلات التسميد الأزوتي ٩٠، ١٠٥، ١٢٠ كجم/فدان للذرة الشامية، ٤٥، ٦٠، ٧٥ كجم/فدان لعباد الشمس. وتتلخص أهم النتائج المتحصل عليها فيما يلي:

١- ظهرت اختلافات عالية المعنوية في تأثير المحصول السابق على معظم الصفات المدروسة للذرة الشامية وعباد الشمس اللاحقين حيث أعطت الذرة الشامية أو عباد الشمس المنزرعة بعد فول بلدى قياسات أكبر بالمقارنة بالزراعة عقب قمح. كما أوضحت النتائج ان محصول الفدان من الذرة الشامية وعباد الشمس المنزرعة بعد فول بلدى كان أعلى بالمقارنة بالمنزرع عقب قمح بحوالى ١٧،٧، ١٥، ٢ % على التوالي.

٢- أوضحت النتائج ان كل الصفات المدروسة للذرة الشامية وعباد الشمس زادت مع زيادة معدلات التسميد الأزوتي المضافة حتى ١٢٠ كجم/فدان فى الذرة الشامية و٧٥ كجم/فدان فى عباد الشمس. كما أظهرت النتائج ان محصول الفدان من الذرة الشامية المضاف له ١٢٠ كجم أزوت زاد عن معدل ١٠٥، ٩٠ كجم أزوت/فدان بنسبة ١٤، ٦، ٩، ١٦، ٩ % على التوالي. كذلك محصول الفدان من عباد الشمس المضاف له ٧٥ كجم أزوت زاد بحوالى ٦، ٣٧ % و ١٢، ٨ % عن المضاف له ٤٥، ٦٠ كجم أزوت على التوالي.

٣- أظهرت النتائج أن محصول الذرة الشامية أو عباد الشمس المنزرعة عقب فول بلدى والمسمدة بالمعدل المنخفض (٩٠ كجم أزوت للفدان و ٤٥ كجم أزوت لعباد الشمس) تساوت تقريباً مع المنزرع عقب قمح والمسمد بالمعدل المرتفع (١٢٠ كجم أزوت للفدان للذرة الشامية و ٧٥ كجم أزوت للفدان لعباد الشمس)