

## Effect of Different Nitrogen Rates on Productivity and Quality Traits of Wheat Cultivars

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**T**HIS STUDY quantified the optimum doses of nitrogen (N) fertilizers for wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). A field experiments were conducted in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons in a farm of the Faculty of Agriculture at Kafrelsheikh University. This study was laid out in a split plot design with three replications in RCBD. Wheat cultivars, Gemmeiza 11, Giza 171, Giza 168 and Sakha 94 were allocated in the main plots. Six different doses of nitrogen, *i.e.* 0, 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125 kg N/fad were used. The studied characters were agronomic and seeds technology traits. The results indicated that significant differences among the studied wheat cultivars in all agronomic studied and seeds technology were observed. Sakha 94 recorded the highest number of days to heading and maturity, plant height and Gemmeiza 11 recorded the highest values in number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> in both seasons. Sakha 94 and Gemmeiza 11 recorded the highest values for 1000 grain weight in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively. Sakha 94 recorded the highest values for grain/spike in 2015/16 season. Sakha 94 recorded the highest values for EC in 2014/15, hectoliter, density, root length, and protein percentage in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 superior the other cultivars for both of grain and straw yield and for EC in 2015/16 and for shoot length in both seasons. Giza 168 recorded the highest values for density in both seasons. Increases in nitrogen fertilizer increased significantly number of days to heading and maturity, plant height, spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, grain/spike, grain and straw yield, while decreased 1000 grain weight. There were significant differences among N levels treatments regarding EC, hectoliter weight, density, root length, shoot length, dry weight and protein percentage in both seasons. Application of 100 kg N/fad resulted in higher values than other treatments for all traits except EC in both seasons were decreased.

**Keywords:** Wheat cultivars, Yield component, Nitrogen fertilizer, EC, Protein percentage.

### Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the leading food crop in the world. It ranks first among the main four crops namely: rice, maize and barley. It occupies about 30% of the world cropping area (FAO, 2016). In Egypt, wheat is considered one of the more strategic grain crops. The cultivated area of wheat reached about 3.1 million faddan in 2015-2016 giving 8.2 million tons of grain, with a national average of about 18.1 ardab/fad. However, the local consumption in the same year surpassed 14-15 million tons. Every year, Egypt imports about 55% of its wheat consumption to face the great needs of the high population increment

and the shortage of production. Therefore, a great attention should be paid to overcome or minimize the gap between wheat production and consumption, thus increasing production per unit area appears to be the main objective of reducing the wheat gap. Increasing wheat yield per unit area could be attained by cultivating high-yielding cultivars and implement recommended cultural practices. Nitrogen fertilization had a vital role to increment yield component and yield attributes in various crops, especially wheat. Concerning the effect of nitrogen fertilizer levels on wheat grain yield and its attributes, Ahmed et al. (2009) showed that, addition of nitrogen fertilizer up to

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(102 kg N/fad) increased significantly plant height, number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, spike length, number of grain/spike, 100-grain weight, straw yield and grain yield (ard/fad). Abdel-Hameed (2005), showed that, adding nitrogen fertilizer up to 100 kg N/fad, significant increase in plant height, number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, number of grain/spike, 1000 grain weight, straw yield and grain yield (ard/fad) was observed. EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) indicated that adding nitrogen fertilizer up to 105 kgN/fad, lead to increases in number of grain/spike, 1000-grain weight and grain yield (ard/fad).

Many researchers (Moayedı et al., 2010; Sharshar, 2010; El hag, 2011; El hag, 2012; Kahloom et al., 2012; Mushtaq et al., 2012; Singh & Singh, 2013; Omar et al., 2014; Kandil et al., 2016 and Hendawy, 2017) reported that day to maturity, maturity duration, grain filling rate, plant height, number of spike m<sup>-2</sup>, number of grain spike<sup>-1</sup>, 1000-grain weight, harvest index and grain yield were significantly affected by wheat genotypes

### Materials and Methods

Field experiments were conducted at Faculty of Agriculture– Kafrelsheikh University, during 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 seasons, to study the performance of four bread wheat cultivars (spring wheat) under different nitrogen fertilizer rates. The site is located at 30.94 North Latitude, 30.11 East Longitude with an elevation of about 6 m above sea level. Climatic elements of the area during the two growing seasons are presented in Table 1. A split plot design with three replications in Randomize Complete Block Design (RCBD) was used. The main plots were assigned to cultivars (Table 2) and six nitrogen fertilizer rates, *i.e* 0, 25, 50, 75, 100 and 125 kg N/fad were allocated in the sub plots. Application of nitrogen fertilizer were two third in the first irrigation (25 days from sowing) and the other one third in the second irrigation (50 days from sowing). The name and pedigree of these genotypes are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 1a. Climatic elements of; air temperature (T, °C), mean relative humidity (RH, %), wind speed (U<sub>2</sub>, m. sec<sup>-1</sup>), evaporation pan (EP, mmd<sup>-1</sup>) and rainfall (Rf, mm) a.1<sup>st</sup> season, 2014/15.

Month	T,C <sup>o</sup>			RH, %	U <sub>2</sub>	EP, mm,d	Rf, mm month
	Max	Min	Mean				
Nov.2014	24.30	13.79	19.05	74.15	0.78	2.77	24.60
Dec.2014	22.27	9.72	16.00	76.05	0.53	1.72	5.70
Jan. 2015	18.79	6.46	12.63	74.60	0.82	2.70	52.55
Feb. 2015	19.01	7.65	13.33	74.75	0.84	2.90	38.80
Mar. 2015	22.69	11.69	17.19	75.59	1.01	3.23	15.25
Apr. 2015	25.64	13.70	19.69	63.40	1.11	6.07	35.85
Seasonal	22.12	10.50	16.31	72.26	0.85	3.23	172.75

TABLE 1b. Climatic elements of ; air temperature(T, °C), mean relative humidity (RH, %), wind speed (U<sub>2</sub>, m. sec<sup>-1</sup>), evaporation pan (EP, mmd<sup>-1</sup>) and rainfall (Rf, mm) b.2<sup>nd</sup> season, 2015/16.

Month	T,C <sup>o</sup>			RH, %	U <sub>2</sub>	EP, mm, d	Rf, mm month
	Max	Min	Mean				
Nov.2015	24.75	14.42	19.59	75.62	0.58	2.44	52.4
Dec.2015	20.36	8.33	14.34	78.27	0.67	2.15	25.0
Jan. 2016	18.40	6.30	12.30	74.10	0.80	2.38	42.7
Feb. 2016	22.50	6.70	14.60	70.00	0.67	2.51	-
Mar. 2016	23.67	11.61	17.64	69.76	0.74	3.58	13.20
Apr. 2016	30.03	19.22	24.63	61.72	1.01	5.96	-
Seasonal	23.29	11.10	17.19	71.58	0.79	3.17	133.3

**TABLE 2. Name and pedigree of four wheat cultivars used in this investigation.**

No.	Genotype	Pedigree
1	Gemmeiza 11	BOW'S'/KVZ'S'//7C/SER182/3/GIZA168/SAKHA61. GM7892-2GM-1GM-2GM-1GM-OGM
2	Giza 171	SAKHA 93 / GEMMEIZA 9 S.6-1GZ-4GZ-1GZ-2GZ-0S.
3	Giza 168	Mri/Buc//Seri CM93046-8M-OY-OM-2Y-0B
4	Sakha 94	Opta/Rayon//Kauz CMBW90Y3180-OTOPM-3Y-010M-010Y-010Y-6M-OS

The preceding crop was rice (*Oryza sativa*, L) in both seasons

Composite soil sample was randomly collected from each site at the depths of 0 to 30 cm with 5 cm diameter auger before seed bed preparation in both seasons. These samples were analyzed for physical and chemical characteristics by

following standard methods of analysis. Results of physical and chemical analysis in both seasons are shown in Table 3. The experimental field was fertilized with 15.5 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/fad in the form of calcium superphosphate (15.5 % P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) during soil preparation.

**Table 3. Physical and chemical properties of the soil at the experimental site during 2014/015 and 2015/2016 seasons.**

Character								
Seasons	Chemical analysis			Physical characteristics				
	N (Available ppm)	P (Available ppm)	K (Available ppm)	Soil pH	Sand %	Silt %	Clay %	Soil texture
2014/15	18	22.5	325	8.75	18.12	36.10	45.15	clay
2015/16	16	24.7	342	7.88	20.3	38.5	40.2	clay

Seed rate was 350 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> of the four wheat cultivars were drilled in rows on flat land. Sowing was done on last week of November 26 and 30 in 2014 and 2015 seasons, respectively. Then, all plots were irrigated immediately. The sub-plot area was (6 rows x 20 cm apart x 3.5 m)= 4.2 m<sup>2</sup> and harvest area was (4 rows x 3.5 m) 2.8 m<sup>2</sup>.

Nitrogen fertilizer in the form of urea (46.5% N). Other practices were done as usual recommended package.

#### Studied traits

A-Agronomic traits: Days to heading, days to maturity, plant height (cm), number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, number of grain/spike, 1000-grain weight (g), grain yield (ardab/fad), straw yield (ton/fad) and harvest index (HI) were estimated at harvest time (5 may 2015 and 8 may 2016).

#### Quality traits

Seedling vigor and the electrical conductivity (EC) of leached from four replicates of 50 seed weight and soaked in 250 ml of distilled water for 24 h was measured in  $\mu$ -mhos using conductivity

meter, were carried out under optimum conditions according to the international rules (I.S.TA, 1993). At the final count, ten of normal seedlings from each replicate were taken randomly to measure the shoot and radical length (cm). Then, the seedlings were dried in a hot air oven at 80 °C for 12 h to obtain the seedling dry weight, which was determined according to the procedures reported in the seed vigor testing handbook (A.O.S.A, 1986). Relative density of seed was calculated according to Karmer & Twigg (1962). The percentage of each of dry matter and protein was determined according to the procedures outlined in (A.O.A.C, 1990).

#### Statistical analysis:

All data collected for the two seasons was subjected to analysis of variance and means of treatments were compared using Duncan Multiple Range Test (Duncan, 1955). All statistical analyses were performed using analysis of variance technique by "MSTAT-C" (1990) computer software package.

## Results and Discussion

### Agronomic traits

#### Number of days to heading

The results presented in Table 4 show that there are highly significant differences among wheat cultivars for number of days to heading in both seasons. Sakha 94 recorded the highest number of

days to heading. The variation among cultivars might reflect partially their different genetic backgrounds and environmental condition. These results were agreement with Gab Alla (2007), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Omar et al. (2014) and Kandil et al. (2016) who recorded that there were variation among wheat genotypes due to interaction between genotypes and environmental condition.

**TABLE 4. Mean of number of days to heading, number of days to physiological mature and plant height (cm) as affected by wheat cultivars, nitrogen rate in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 growing seasons.**

Treatment	No. days to heading (day)		NO. of days to physiological mature (day)		Plant height (cm)	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Wheat cultivar</b>						
Gemmeiza 11	93.2c†	87.6b	144.2ab	134.6c	97.9ab	87.6bc
Giza 171	97.2b	87.8b	144.4ab	133.7d	103.1a	92.2ab
Giza 168	94.8bc	84.8c	142.5b	136.1b	91.6b	85.1c
Sakha 94	100.8a	90.0a	146a	143.2a	105.7a	97.4a
SE‡	0.541	0.438	0.630	0.161	2.55	1.155
<b>Nitrogen fertilizer (kg N/fad )</b>						
0	94.1c	85.1d	139.8e	134.4d	83.2c	80.2d
25	95.3bc	85.1d	142.7d	134.8d	99.2b	87.5c
50	96.8ab	87.6c	144.9c	135.9c	102.5ab	90.6b
75	97.1a	88.4bc	145.2bc	137.8b	105.1a	92.5b
100	97.8a	89.1ab	146.2ab	138.8a	103.8a	96.1a
125	98.1a	90.1a	146.9a	139.5a	103.7a	96.6a
SE‡	0.525	0.465	0.397	0.273	1.43	0.777

†Mean values in the same column for each trait followed by the same lower-case letter are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at  $P \leq 0.05$ . SE‡=stander error.

The effect of nitrogen fertilizer affected highly significantly on number of days to heading in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 50, 75, 100 and 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest number of days to heading without significant between them in 2014/15, and between 100 and 125 kg N/fad, in 2015/16 season. The availability of appropriate environmental conditions such as soil moisture, good nutrient conditions especially available when fertilization rate is recommended, and the resulting increase in the period of growth vegetative and increases the number of days from planting to maturity. This result is agreement with El Hag (2011), Abd EL-Hameed (2012), Hasina et al.,(2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014) and Kandil et al.(2016) who found that the increases in nitrogen fertilizer increased the vegetative period of wheat.

#### Interaction effect:

the interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer not reach to significant effects in both seasons.

#### Number of days to physiological mature

Results in Table 4 show that there were significant and highly significant differences among wheat cultivars for number of days to maturity in both seasons. Sakha 94 recorded the highest number of days to maturity and latest one in both seasons. Difference in maturity dates among wheat genotypes may be due to the genetic constitution, which seriously affected by environmental conditions; also for different responses to the length of days and accumulation temperature. Many researchers such as Abdel-Hameed (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) and

Hendawy (2017) found the different variation among wheat genotypes.

The effect of nitrogen fertilizer was highly significant on number of days to maturity in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 100 and 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest number of days to maturity without significant among them in 2014/15, and 2015/16 seasons. Increases of nitrogen levels increased the period of vegetative growth and ripening time due to available of nutrition. Haile & Nigussie-Dechassa (2013), Noureldin et al. (2013), Omar et al. (2014), Kandil et al. (2016) and Hendawy (2017) reported that the increase of nitrogen fertilizer increased number of days to physiological maturity.

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer for number of days to physiological maturity reach to highly significant effects in 2015/16 season only. Sakha 94 record the highest values for number of days to physiological maturity with application of 125 kg N/fad (Table 7).

#### *Plant height (cm)*

The results presented in Table 4 showed that there were significant differences among wheat cultivars for plant height in 2014/15 and 2015/16 growing seasons. Sakha 94 record the tallest plant highest in both seasons, respectively. The differences between cultivars are often due to genetic makeup as well as the interaction between genetic makeup and environmental conditions. Also, the differences among cultivars due to variation of cell division rate of the stem especially in peduncle length. Mushtaq et al. (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Omar et al. (2014) and Kandil et al. (2016) found significant variation among wheat cultivars.

Nitrogen fertilizer was highly significant effect on plant height in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 50, 75, 100 and 125 kg N/fad in 2014/15 and 100 and 125 kg N/fad, recorded the tallest wheat plant without significant difference between them. Increases of nitrogen levels increased the vegetative growth due to available of nutrition and photosynthesis, more of active enzyme and chlorophyll. Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), Kandil et al. (2016) and Hendawy (2017) were noticed that increases nitrogen fertilizer increased plant height due to rule of nitrogen on plant for cell division and elongation between inter nodes.

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer was highly significant effects for plant height in 2015/16 season only. Sakha 94 recorded the tallest plant with fertilizer by 125 kg N/fad (Table 7)

#### *Number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>*

Regarded for wheat cultivars, Results presented in Table 5 show that there were highly significant differences effects among wheat cultivars for number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 and Giza 171 recorded the highest number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively. Difference in number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> among wheat genotypes may be due to the genetic constitution, which seriously affected by environmental conditions under normal irrigation and nitrogen fertilizer. Such results were found by Mushtaq et al. (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Noureldin et al. (2013), Haile & Nigussie-Dechassa (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) and Hendawy (2017).

Results in Table 5 shows that number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> was highly significant affected by nitrogen fertilizer in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 100 and 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> in 2014/15 and 125 kg N/fad, in 2015/16. Increases of nitrogen levels increased number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup> due to available nutrition. This results is in agreement with this obtained by Noureldin et al. (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Kandil et al. (2016) and Hendawy (2017) who found that increases nitrogen fertilizer increased number of spikes /m<sup>2</sup>.

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer not reach to significant effects in both seasons.

#### *Thousand grain weight (g)*

The results presented in Table 5 showed highly significant differences among wheat cultivars for thousand grain weight in both seasons. Sakha 94 and Gemmeiza 11 recorded the highest thousand grain weight in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Thousand grain weight is the most important characteristic of variation between cultivars and varieties and feedback to genotype gene. These results are in harmony with those found by Sharshar (2010), Abdel-Hameed (2012), Hasina et al. (2012), Mushtaq et al. (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Noureldin et al. (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) and Hendawy (2017).

**TABLE 5. Mean of number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, thousand grain weight and number of grain/spike as affected by wheat cultivars, nitrogen rate in 2014/15 and 2015/16 growing seasons.**

Treatment	No. spikes/m <sup>2</sup>		Thousand grain weight (gm)		No. grain/spike	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Wheat cultivar:</b>						
Gemmeiza 11	400.9a†	267.6ab	44.4ab	42.8a	58.7	54.9c
Giza 171	355.0b	282.8a	42.8bc	41.2b	60.3	60.6b
Giza 168	295.8c	207.3c	41.7c	35.7d	59.9	56.9bc
Sakha 94	392.2a	250.3b	45.7a	36.4c	60.3	68.7a
SE‡	6.89	6.88	0.36	0.09	-	1.11
<b>Nitrogen fertilizer (kg N/fad)</b>						
0	246.3e	185.2f	46.0a	41.4a	43.3b	49.9e
25	310.8d	210.8e	45.6a	40.4b	54.5ab	55.9d
50	341.3c	239.3d	43.9b	38.8c	59.1ab	58.1d
75	407.8b	259.4c	43.2b	38.6c	64.5a	61.9c
100	425.8ab	300.0b	41.8c	38.1d	66.8a	65.6b
125	434a	317.3a	41.3c	36.7e	70.7a	70.3a
SE‡	7.32	5.30	0.265	0.264	0.838	0.806

†Mean values in the same column for each trait followed by the same lower-case letter are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at  $P \leq 0.05$ . SE‡=stander error.

Data in Table 5 revealed that thousand grain weight was highly significant affected by nitrogen fertilizer in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application lower nitrogen fertilizer (zero and 25 kg N/fad) in 2014/15 and (zero) in 2015/16 produced the highest values of grain weight. Increases of nitrogen levels decreased 1000 grain-weight due to increases nitrogen produced more tillers and more grain/spikes thus decreased thousand grain weight. These results agreement with Omar et al. (2014) and EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) and Hendawy (2017).

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer did not reach to significant effects in both seasons.

#### *Number of grain/spike*

There were highly significant differences among wheat cultivars for number of grain/spike in 2015/16 season Table 5. Sakha 94 recorded the highest number of grain/spike. Number of grain/spike is one of the most important components of the yield after the number of spikes per unit area and these different from one to other cultivars depending on the genetic makeup. Moayedi et al. (2010), Hasina et al. (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-

Hawary & Shahein (2015), El hag (2016) and Hendawy (2017), found significant variation among wheat cultivars.

The effect of nitrogen fertilizer was highly significant for number of grain/spike in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 125 kg N/fad, produced the highest value of number of grain/spike in both seasons, respectively. Increases of nitrogen levels increased the number of grain/spikes due to increases manly number of spikelets/spike under favorable condition especially mineral nutrition and moisture content in soil. The results are harmony with El Hag (2011), Abdel-Hameed (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Kandil et al.(2016) and Hendawy (2017).

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant in 2015/16 season only. Sakha 94 recorded the highest number of grain/spike with application 125 kg N/fad (Table 7).

#### *Grain yield (ton/fad)*

The results presented in Table 6 show a highly significant affect of wheat cultivars on grain yield in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 and Giza

171 produced the highest grain yield in the first and second seasons, respectively. The highest grain yield was due to yield component, *i.e.*, number of spikes/m<sup>2</sup>, grain/spike and thousand grain-weight. Several researchers, Abdel-Hameed

(2012), Hasina et al. (2012), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Kandil et al. (2016) and Hendawy (2017) reported that yield components were play important role effect for grain yield.

**TABLE 6. Mean of grain yield (ton/fad) straw yield (ton/fad) and harvest index % as affected by wheat cultivars, nitrogen fertilizer in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 growing season.**

Treatment	Grain yield (ton/fad)		Straw yield (ton/fad)		HI%	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
<b>Wheat cultivar</b>						
Gemmeiza 11	3.437a†	2.323b	5.260a	4.218b	39.7	35.2b
Giza 171	2.770b	2.488a	4.840ab	4.451a	36.7	35.2b
Giza168	2.621b	2.198c	4.401b	3.652c	37.7	37.4a
Sakha 94	2.872b	1.914d	4.883ab	3.425c	37.3	35.3b
SE‡	0.112	0.022	0.108	0.055	--	0.164
<b>Nitrogen fertilizer (kg N/fad)</b>						
0	1.727e	1.318f	2.677e	3.223e	38.6	32.2f
25	2.492d	1.780e	4.049d	3.453d	38.4	33.6e
50	2.940c	2.153d	4.755c	3.904c	38.2	35.2d
75	3.223b	2.432c	5.325b	4.171b	37.7	36.5c
100	3.456b	2.650b	5.900a	4.275b	37.0	38.0b
125	3.712a	3.103a	6.372a	4.593a	37.0	39.2a
SE‡	0.085	0.028	0.19	0.062	-	0.181

†Mean values in the same column for each trait followed by the same lower-case letter are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at  $P \leq 0.05$ . SE‡=stander error.

The results presented in Table 6 revealed that nitrogen fertilizer influenced highly significant for grain yield during both seasons. Application of 125 kg N/fad recorded the highest value for grain yield in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. The highest of grain yield are due mainly to highest number of fertile tillers and number of grain/spike. The results are in harmony with El Hag (2011), Abdel-Hameed (2012), Hasina et al. (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Haile & Nigussie-Dechassa (2013), Noureldin et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), Kandil et al. (2016) and Hendawy (2017).

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer was highly significant in 2015/16 season. Results presented in Table 6 indicate that wheat cultivar Gemmeiza 11 produced the highest grain yield with application 125 kg N/fad (Table 7).

#### *Straw yield (ton/fad)*

Results presented in Table 6 showed that straw yield was a highly significant affected by wheat cultivars in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 and Giza 171 produced the highest straw yield in the first and second seasons. The highest straw yield was increases due to increase yield component specially, number of fertile tillers and plant height. Several researchers, Sharshar (2010), El Hag (2011), Abdel-Hameed (2012), Gheith et al. (2013), Haile & Nigussie-Dechassa (2013), Omar et al. (2014) and EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) found significant variation due to wheat cultivars.

The results presented in Table 6 for straw yield reveal that nitrogen fertilizer influenced highly significant straw yield during both seasons. Application of 100 and 125 kg N/fad recorded the highest straw yield (5.900 and 6.372 ton/fad) in 2014/15 and 75, 100 and 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest straw yield without significant differences among them in 2015/16 seasons.

Increase straw yield returns in the application of 100 and 125 kg N/fad as a result of the availability of soil moisture and thus the necessary nutrients for plants during the growing season to increase the yield components in addition to the increase in dry matter accumulated. These results are in agreement with those reported by Noureldin et al. (2013), Singh & Singh (2013), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), Kandil et

al.(2016) and Hendawy (2017).

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer was significant and highly significant in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively. Results presented in Table 7 indicated that wheat cultivar Sakha 94 and Giza 171 produced the highest straw yield under 125 kg N/fad (Table7).

**TABLE 7. Mean of number of days to maturity, plant height, number of grain/spike, grain yield and straw yield as affected by interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen rate.**

Treatment	No. days to maturity	Plant height	No. grain/spike		Grain yield ton/fad	Straw yield ton/fad	
			2015/16			2014/15	2015/16
Gemmeiza II	0	130	81.7	43.3	2.633	3.703	3.6
	25	133	88.3	51.2	3.171	5.424	3.935
	50	135	91.3	55.1	3.438	5.394	4.189
	75	135	90.0	58.11	3.689	5.263	4.452
	100	136	90.0	57.5	3.787	5.736	4.408
	125	137	84.3	64.2	3.905	6.042	4.722
Giza 171	0	131	81.3	46.9	1.274	2.268	2.715
	25	132	90.7	56.4	2.38	3.752	4.205
	50	135	89.3	56.5	2.87	4.816	4.928
	75	136	95.0	61.2	3.136	5.838	5.000
	100	137	97.0	66.5	3.318	6.160	5.068
	125	138	100.0	76.1	3.647	6.209	5.087
Giza 168	0	131	74.3	46.4	1.218	1.974	2.095
	25	133	78.0	49.9	2.079	3.283	3.213
	50	135	85.0	53.5	2.660	4.102	3.682
	75	136	84.7	59.3	2.891	4.725	3.921
	100	137	92.3	65.8	3.276	6.020	4.109
	125	138	96.0	66.7	3.605	6.307	4.505
Sakha94	0	138	83.3	63.1	1.785	2.765	2.768
	25	140	93.0	66.2	2.338	3.738	2.78
	50	142	96.7	67.2	2.793	4.711	2.933
	75	145	100.3	68.8	3.178	5.474	3.613
	100	146	105.0	72.5	3.444	5.684	3.842
	125	147	106.0	74.1	3.696	6.930	4.659
LSD 0.05	1.56	4.44	4.60	0.164	1.09	0.354	
SE*	0.546	1.554	1.612	0.058	0.381	0.124	

SE\*=stander error.

#### Harvest index (%)

The results in Table 6 for harvest index indicated that there were highly significant deference's among wheat cultivars in 2015/16 season. The maximum harvest index was recorded by Giza 168 (37.4) in 2015/16 season. These differences among wheat cultivars due to variation ratio of grain yield and biological yield of cultivars. These results are harmony with those

reported by Moayedi et al. (2010), El Hag (2011), Omar et al. (2014), EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015), El Hag (2016) and Hendawy (2017).

Nitrogen fertilizer influenced highly significant for harvest index in the 2015/16 season. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest value of harvest index (39.2) . This results were obtained by several researchers e.g. El Hag (2011), Hasina et al. (2012), Omar et al. (2014),



EL-Hawary & Shahein (2015) and Hendawy (2017).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were insignificant on harvest index in both seasons.

#### Quality traits

##### EC

The results in Table 8 for EC indicated that there were highly significant and significant

difference's among wheat cultivars in both seasons, respectively. The maximum EC was recorded by Sakha 94, Giza 168 and Gemmeiza 11 (10.62, 10.48 and 10.35) in 2014/15 and Gemmeiza 11 (11.25) in 2015/16. These results are harmony with those reported by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

**TABLE 8 . Mean of EC, hectoliter, density as affected by wheat cultivars and different nitrogen rates in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons.**

Treatment	EC		Hectoliter		Density	
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Wheat cultivars</b>						
Gemmeiza 11	10.35a	11.25a	87.29d	86.89c	1.186c	1.138c
Giza 171	9.24b	9.43b	88.48c	88.28b	1.253a	1.254b
Giza 168	10.48a	10.38bc	91.65b	90.08a	1.250a	1.263ab
Sakha 94	10.62a	10.91c	92.23a	90.50a	1.225b	1.267a
SE ‡	0.158	0.057	0.034	0.206	0.002	0.002
<b>Nitrogen fertilizer (kg N/fad)</b>						
0	11.78a	11.25a	87.72f	86.50e	1.073f	1.080f
25	10.62b	10.81b	88.93e	88.17d	1.135e	1.135e
50	10.16c	10.64bc	89.69d	90.08c	1.213d	1.211d
75	10.03c	10.46c	90.34c	90.50c	1.259c	1.273c
100	9.63d	10.02d	91.09b	91.75b	1.312b	1.313b
125	8.83e	9.77e	91.71a	92.58a	1.380a	1.371a
SE‡	0.0469	0.079	0.0483	0.208	0.002809	0.003

‡Mean values in the same column for each trait followed by the same lower-case letter are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at  $P \leq 0.05$ . SE‡=stander error.

Nitrogen fertilizer was influenced highly significant for EC in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the lowest values of EC (8.83 and 9.77). These results are in agreement with those found by Ejaz et al. (2002), Warreich et al. (2002), Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant and significant on EC in both seasons, respectively. Giza 168 and Gemmeiza 11 were recorded the highest values (13.63 and 12.05) under lowest

rate of fertilizer in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively (Table 9).

##### Hectoliter

The results in Table 8 for hectoliter indicated that there were highly significant differences among wheat cultivars in both seasons. The maximum hectoliter (92.23 and 93.11) were recorded by Sakha 94, meanwhile Gemmeiza 11 recorded the lowest value (87.89 and 86.89) in both seasons, respectively. These results are in accordance with those obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

**TABLE 9. Mean of EC, hectoliter and density as affected by interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen rate in 2014/15 and 2015/16.**

Treatment	EC		Hectoliter		Density		
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	
Gemmeiza 11	0	12.40	12.05	84.47	83.33	1.057	1.033
	25	10.88	11.40	86.66	84.67	1.090	1.077
	50	10.07	11.40	87.01	86.67	1.137	1.110
	75	9.91	11.50	87.63	87.33	1.183	1.150
	100	9.60	10.63	88.40	88.33	1.243	1.180
	125	9.26	10.50	89.60	91.00	1.403	1.280
Giza 171	0	8.65	10.40	86.82	84.67	1.167	1.167
	25	8.86	9.80	87.50	86.33	1.197	1.190
	50	9.14	9.57	88.15	87.67	1.257	1.233
	75	9.37	9.23	88.91	88.33	1.273	1.260
	100	9.61	8.90	89.57	91.00	1.300	1.330
	125	9.80	8.67	89.94	91.67	1.327	1.343
Giza 168	0	13.63	11.13	89.28	87.33	1.030	1.060
	25	11.62	10.80	90.56	89.33	1.147	1.130
	50	10.63	10.50	91.63	92.33	1.220	1.230
	75	10.28	10.30	92.21	92.67	1.293	1.340
	100	9.36	9.83	92.86	93.33	1.383	1.360
	125	7.34	9.70	93.39	93.67	1.427	1.457
Sakha 94	0	12.45	11.40	90.31	90.67	1.037	1.060
	25	11.11	11.23	91.02	92.33	1.107	1.143
	50	10.77	11.10	91.99	93.67	1.237	1.270
	75	10.54	10.80	92.59	93.67	1.287	1.343
	100	9.94	10.70	93.54	94.33	1.320	1.383
	125	8.92	10.20	93.92	94.00	1.363	1.403
F test	*	**	**	**	**	**	
LSD 0.05	0.848	0.326	0.276	1.192	0.0165	0.0165	
SE <sup>‡</sup>	0.296	0.159	0.417	0.502	0.002	0.023	

SE<sup>‡</sup>=stander error.

Nitrogen fertilizer significantly affected for hectoliter in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest values of hectoliter (91.71 and 92.58) in both seasons, respectively. These results are in agreement with those found by Hasina et al. (2012), Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant on hectoliter in both seasons. Sakha 94 was recorded the highest values (93.92) under application of 125 kg N/fad, in 2014/15 and (94.33) under 100 kg N/fad, 2015/16 seasons (Table 9).

#### Density

The results in Table 8 for density indicated that there were significant differences among wheat cultivars in both seasons. The maximum density was recorded by Giza 168 (1.25 and 1.263) in both seasons, respectively, meanwhile Gemmeiza 11 recorded the lowest values (1.186 and 1.138) in both seasons, respectively. These results are found by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

Nitrogen fertilizer influenced significantly for density in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest value (1.38 and 1.37) of density in both seasons, respectively. These results are in agreement with those found by Ejaz et al. (2002), Warreich et al. (2002), Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer was significantly affected on density in both seasons. Giza 168 was recorded the highest values (1.427 and 1.457) under application of 125 kg N/fad, in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons (Table 9).

#### Root length

The results in Table 10 for root length indicated that there were significant differences among wheat cultivars in both seasons. The maximum root length was recorded by Sakha 94 and Gemmeiza 11 (10.40 and 10.17) in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively. These results are agreement with those obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

**Table 10 . Mean of root length (cm), shoot length (cm), dry weight (gm) and protein % as affected by cultivars and different nitrogen rate in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons.**

	Root length (cm)		Shoot length (cm)		Dry weight (gm)		Protein%	
	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Wheat cultivars</b>								
Gemmeiza 11	10.40a <sup>†</sup>	10.17a	11.40a	11.48a	0.146a	0.150a	9.8d	10.0d
Giza 171	9.09c	9.23c	9.53d	10.31c	0.115bc	0.131b	10.1c	10.3c
Giza 168	9.41b	9.49b	9.96c	10.53c	0.120b	0.125c	10.1b	10.5b
Sakha 94	10.43a	10.23a	10.49b	10.98b	0.108c	0.113d	10.7a	10.7a
SE	0.026	0.035	0.029	0.061	0.002	0.0001	0.0024	0.028
<b>Nitrogen fertilizer (kg N/fad)</b>								
0	8.11f	8.30f	9.06f	9.09f	0.102d	0.111d	9.3f	9.7f
25	8.71e	8.89e	9.54e	9.67e	0.114c	0.119d	9.5e	10.0e
50	9.59d	9.61d	9.97d	10.63d	0.122b	0.129c	9.7d	10.1d
75	10.18c	10.19c	10.55c	11.16c	0.125b	0.135bc	10.2c	10.4c
100	10.92b	10.54b	11.16b	11.97b	0.130b	0.140ab	11.1b	10.8b
125	11.47a	11.16a	11.79a	12.43a	0.140a	0.145a	11.4a	11.4a
SE <sup>‡</sup>	0.0437	0.030	0.094	0.074	0.0028	0.0028	0.035	0.035

<sup>†</sup>Mean values in the same column for each trait followed by the same lower-case letter are not significantly different according to Duncan's multiple range test at  $P \leq 0.05$ . SE<sup>‡</sup>=stander error.

Nitrogen fertilizer influenced significantly for root length in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application of 125 kg N/fad, recorded the tallest root length (11.47 and 11.16) in both seasons, respectively. Similar results were obtained by Ejaz et al. (2002), Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were significantly for root length in both seasons. Sakha 94 and Gemmeiza 11 were recorded the highest values (12.11 and 11.40) under highest rate of fertilizer in 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons, respectively (Table 11).

#### *Shoot length*

The results in Table 10 for shoot length indicated that there were significant differences among wheat cultivars in both seasons. The maximum shoot length were recorded by Gemmeiza 11 (11.40 and 11.48) in both seasons, respectively. These results are in accordance with those obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

Nitrogen fertilizer had highly significant effect for shoot length in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Increases nitrogen fertilizer rate gradually increased shoot length. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the tallest root length (11.79 and 12.43) in both seasons, respectively. Similar results were obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant for shoot length in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 was recorded the tallest shoot under highest rate of fertilizer (12.96 and 12.80) in both seasons, respectively (Table 11).

#### *Dry weight*

The results in Table 10 indicated that there were significant differences among wheat cultivars for dry weight in both seasons. The highest weight of dry weight (0.146 and 0.150) was recorded by Gemmeiza 11 in both seasons, respectively. These results are in harmony with those obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

Nitrogen fertilizer influenced highly significant of dry weight in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest value of dry weight (0.140 and 0.145) in both seasons, respectively. These

results are in agreement with those found by Ejaz et al. (2002), Hasina et al. (2012), Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant on dry weight in both seasons. Gemmeiza 11 was recorded the highest values under application of 125 kg N/fad, (0.168 and 0.175) in both seasons, respectively (Table 11).

#### *Protein %*

The results in Table 10 indicated that protein percentage was highly significant differences among wheat cultivars in both seasons. The maximum protein % was recorded by Sakha 94 (10.7 and 10.4%) in both seasons, respectively. These results are in obtained with those obtained by Hasina et al. (2012) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

Nitrogen fertilizer influenced highly significant of protein % in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons. Application 125 kg N/fad, recorded the highest values of protein % (11.4 and 11.4%) in both seasons, respectively. Similar were obtained by Warreich et al. (2002), Hasina et al. (2012), Haile & Nigussise-Dechassa (2013) and Hawary & Shahein (2015).

The interaction effect between wheat cultivars and nitrogen fertilizer were highly significant on protein % in both seasons. Sakha 94 was recorded the highest values under application of 125 kg N/fad (12.5 and 11.60 in both seasons, respectively (Table 11).

### **Conclusions**

This study has demonstrated that yields and yield components of the four improved bread wheat cultivars Gemmeiza 11, Giza 171, Giza 168 and Sakha94. Gemmeiza 11 and Giza 171 surprise the other cultivars for yield and yield components. N application rates of 100 and 125 kg fad<sup>-1</sup> were maximized significantly yield and yield components in both seasons, respectively, compared to the other lower nitrogen treatment. Therefore, Gemmeiza 11 and Giza 171, increase production of grain yield, straw yield, number of tillers/m<sup>2</sup> and number of grain/spike with application of N at 100 and 125 kg fed<sup>-1</sup>. It may be concluded that planting Gemmeiza 11 and Giza 171 with application 100 kg N/fad could be considered for obtaining higher yield of wheat production.

**TABLE 11. Mean of root length, shoot length, dry weight and protein % as affected by interaction between wheat cultivars and nitrogen rate in 2014/15 and 2015/16.**

Cult.	N fert.	Root length		Shoot length		Dry weight		Protein %	
		2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16
Gemmeiza 11	0	8.82	8.50	9.68	9.80	0.127	0.131	9.2	9.4
	25	9.31	9.23	10.22	10.17	0.135	0.132	9.3	9.6
	50	10.39	10.23	11.28	11.50	0.143	0.147	9.3	9.7
	75	10.95	10.40	11.91	11.93	0.147	0.156	9.5	9.7
	100	11.32	11.23	12.35	12.67	0.154	0.161	10.8	10.6
	125	11.59	11.43	12.96	12.80	0.168	0.175	10.9	10.9
Giza 171	0	7.40	8.43	8.35	8.93	0.101	0.116	9.3	9.5
	25	8.57	8.70	9.28	9.50	0.111	0.127	9.3	9.8
	50	8.84	8.97	9.52	10.07	0.114	0.131	9.8	10.1
	75	9.15	9.33	9.70	10.43	0.117	0.136	10.4	10.5
	100	9.98	9.53	9.86	11.20	0.122	0.138	10.8	10.7
	125	10.57	10.43	10.47	11.70	0.124	0.139	11.0	11.5
Giza 168	0	7.00	7.07	8.74	7.97	0.097	0.102	9.1	9.7
	25	7.40	7.90	8.96	8.63	0.110	0.118	9.4	10.2
	50	9.42	9.43	9.22	10.47	0.122	0.128	9.8	10.3
	75	10.33	10.47	10.57	11.33	0.124	0.130	10.5	10.6
	100	10.73	10.67	10.86	12.10	0.128	0.135	10.9	11.0
	125	11.60	11.37	11.39	12.67	0.140	0.139	11.1	11.5
Sakha 94	0	9.23	9.20	9.45	9.67	0.085	0.095	9.6	10.0
	25	9.57	9.73	9.71	10.37	0.098	0.100	9.8	10.4
	50	9.73	9.80	9.85	10.50	0.109	0.109	10.0	10.5
	75	10.31	10.57	10.03	10.93	0.113	0.120	10.5	10.8
	100	11.65	10.73	11.56	11.90	0.115	0.125	11.8	11.0
	125	12.11	11.40	12.35	12.53	0.127	0.127	12.5	11.6
F test		**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LSD 0.05		0.250	0.542	0.281	0.423	0.423	0.0165	0.0165	0.208
SE‡		0.023	0.189	0.090	0.148	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.071

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### تأثير التسميد بمعدلات مختلفة من النيتروجين على إنتاجية وجودة أصناف القمح

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أجريت هذه الدراسة لتقدير مدى استجابة أصناف القمح لجرعات عالية من السماد النيتروجيني. أجريت تجربة حقلية في موسمين متتاليين 2014/15 و 2015/16 بمزرعة كلية الزراعة - جامعه كفر الشيخ. استخدم تصميم القطع الشقية في قطاعات كاملة العشوائية في ثلاث مكررات. وضعت الأصناف في القطع الرئيسية والتسميد في الشقية. الأصناف المستخدمة في الدراسة :- (جميزة 11، جيزة 171، جيزة 168 وسخا 94). ومعدلات السماد النيتروجيني (صفر، 25، 50، 75، 100 و 125 كجم/ن/فدان). تم دراسة الصفات المحصولية (عدد الأيام من الزراعة حتى طرد السنابل، عدد الأيام حتى النضج الفسيولوجي، ارتفاع النبات، عدد السنابل في المتر المربع، وزن الإلف حبة، عدد حبوب السنبل، محصول الحبوب والقش ودليل الحصاد) والصفات المعملية - صفات تكنولوجيا البذور (التوصيل الكهربائي، وزن الهكتولتر، الكثافة النوعية للحبوب، طول الجذير والريشة، الوزن الجاف ونسبة البروتين). بينت النتائج وجود فروق عالية المعنوية بين أصناف القمح في معظم الصفات موضع الدراسة حيث سجل الصنف سخا 94 أكثر عدد من الأيام حتى طرد السنابل والنضج الفسيولوجي، ارتفاع النبات، عدد السنابل/م<sup>2</sup>، وزن الألف حبه وبدون فرق معنوي مع جيزة 171 وجميزة 11 في ارتفاع النبات ومع جيزة 171 في عدد السنبليات/سنبل. سجل الصنف سخا 94 أعلى قيمة في التوصيل الكهربائي في الموسم الأول وصفة الهكتولتر والكثافة النوعية وطول الجذور ونسبة البروتين. بزيادة التسميد النيتروجيني زاد كل من عدد الأيام حتى الطرد والنضج الفسيولوجي، ارتفاع النبات، عدد السنابل/م<sup>2</sup>، عدد الحبوب/سنبل، محصول الحبوب والقش زيادة معنوية. بينما نقص وزن الألف حبة بزيادة التسميد النيتروجيني. كان تأثير التسميد معنوي على معامل التوصيل الكهربائي، صفة الهكتولتر، الكثافة النوعية، طول جذر البادرة، وطول النصل، الوزن الجاف ونسبة البروتين. إضافة 100 وحدة نيتروجين/فدان زاد من كل القيم ما عدا معامل التوصيل الكهربائي.