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" 89, 5800,  
\*E-mail: d\_kertikova@abv.bg

## Study of winter forage pea lines in view of breeding

Daniela Kertikova\*, Todor Kertikov

*Institute of Forage Crops, 89 "General Vladimir Vazov" Str., 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria*

### SUMMARY

In order to create cultivars of winter forage pea at the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven started breeding program with simple (right and reciprocal) intervarietal crosses. Through sexual hybridization were obtained and studied hybrid combinations such type *ssp. arvense* x *ssp. sativum*. Attached is a population method (ramsch) combined with a focused selection and created winter pea lines. The article presents test results of nine pea lines ( $F_5 - F_7$  generation) originating in hybrid combination Kerpo x Mir.

Established proven differences between cultivar Mir and lines in terms: of tolerance to cold, vegetation period, duration of flowering, height of first pod, number of fertility nodes, number of pods, number of seeds per pod and productivity.

In line with 5/2, 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14, 5/19 and 6/5 is achieved genetic improvement from baseline cultivars on more than one trait. Higher productivity in pea lines mainly due to the compact formation of fruiting elements – buttons, flowers, pods.

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2010).

2009; 2013, 2013 ; Mehandjiev et al., 2006).

2016

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23 ).

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A key factor here is the duration of the flowering stage, which in lines averaged 25 days versus 32 days for cultivar Mir.

**Keywords:** breeding, winter forage pea, lines, productivity

**INTRODUCTION**

Forage pea is one of the valuable sources of vegetable protein along with other legumes is important to solve protein problem in the country (Kertikov, 2010). Effective way to increase protein production is the creation and implementation of highly productive varieties and hybrids grain legumes (Kertikova et al., 2009; Kertikova and Kertikov, 2013, 2013a; Mehandjiev et al., 2006).

In 2016 in the Official Variety List (OVL) of the Republic of Bulgaria entered four cultivars of spring pea (Kerpo, Pleven 4 Ruse 1 and Tedy) and two cultivars of winter pea (Mir and Vesela 23 F). In spring forage pea seen a good range of cultivars if to add following cultivars (Kristal, Emitie, Picardi, Bogatir, Vokil, Unak and Yatrus) entered in OVL during the previous five years.

The number of cultivars of winter type, however, is limited and difficult to build varietal structure, according to the great climatic diversity of the country.

In order to create a new

variety of winter forage pea at the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven started breeding program with simple (right and reciprocal) inter varietal crosses (Kertikova, 2012).  
 ( )  
 ( ) , 2012).  
 ssp. *arvense* x ssp. *sativum*.  
 (ramsch)

- variety of winter forage pea at the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven started breeding program with simple (right and reciprocal) inter varietal crosses (Kertikova, 2012).  
 - Through sexual hybridization were obtained and studied hybrid combinations such ssp. *arvense* x ssp. *sativum*. Attached is a population method (ramsch) combined with a focused team and created winter pea lines.  
 - This article presents the results of testing to the cultivation and use of pea lines originating in hybrid combination Kerpo x Mir.

2012-2015 .  
 (F<sub>5</sub> – F<sub>7</sub> )  
 ( ) .  
 2013 . 2014 .), (2012 .,  
 120 . . ./m<sup>2</sup>.  
 (%)  
 ( )  
 ( ) :  
 ( 1); –  
 , 20%

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

During the period 2012-2015, at the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven 9 winter pea lines (F<sub>5</sub> – F<sub>7</sub> generation) and variety Mir (standard) were studied. The field experience is put in the fall for three consecutive years (2012, 2013 and 2014) by the method of long plots with small-sized drill with sowing rate 120 n.s./m<sup>2</sup>.

Pea lines are valued at cold tolerance (% wintered plants) and reporting 5 degrees (score) methodology of IASAS Sofia: high tolerance – no visible damage (score 1); tolerant – slight damage to the leaves, over 20% of the branches wilt and dry, no dead plants (score 3);

( 3); - 41-60%  
 21-40%  
 5%  
 ( 5); - 81-99%  
 61-80%  
 , 26-50%  
 ( 7);  
 -  
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 (g).  
 (ANOVA),  
 STATGRAPHICS Plus.

intermediate - 41-60% of the leaves and 21-40% of the branches wither and dry up over 5% of the plants were killed (score 5); sensitive - 81-99% of the leaves and 61-80% of the branches are withered and parched, 26-50% of the plants were killed (score 7); high sensitive- all plants died;

- Phenological observations were made: beginning of flowering; duration of flowering; full maturity; growing season.

Biometric measurements include: height of the first pod (cm), number of pods per plant, number of fertile nodes, number of seeds per pod, weight of 1000 seeds (g), weight of seeds per plant (g). Lines and standards were harvested according to the onset of full maturity phase with miniature combine.

Data from the experiment were processed using the methods of analysis of variance (ANOVA), using the statistical program STATGRAPHICS Plus.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(2012, 2013 2014)

In the autumn of all years (2012, 2013 and 2014) are not accounted for differences between lines and standards in registration phase full germination. In terms of tolerance to cold results in Table 1 show that two lines ( 5/4; 5/5)

5/4; 5/5) (100% (3) - have reported 100% wintered plants (score 3) during the three years. At other lines the data show variation in percent, predominantly those with 94% wintered plants (score 5).

1.

**Table 1. Evaluation of winter pea lines with tolerance to cold**

Line	% wintering plants / score			Average
	2013	2014	2015	
5/2	94/5	100/3	100/3	98
5/4	100/3	100/3	100/3	100
5/5	100/3	100/3	100/3	100
5/7	100/3	94/5	94/5	96
5/9	100/3	94/5	94/5	96
5/10	100/3	93/5	92/5	95
5/14	100/3	92/5	92/5	95
5/19	100/3	94/5	94/5	96
6/5	94/5	94/5	94/5	94
/ Mir	100/5	90/5	92/5	94

- In visual observations, it is found that the whole plants of studied lines are characterized only by weak damage to the leaves and drying of the portion of the branches. During the three years of study their vital functions were not violated and wintering they were successful.

Average for the period of study lines can be defined as tolerant of cold, because plants have fallen below 5%. Exceptions are standard cultivar Mir and line 6/5, which according to the scale are in an intermediate group.

2. The results of phenological observations on average for the period are presented in Table 2. The data show differences and variation between studied lines and standard regarding the occurrence of individual phenophase. Nevertheless, one can say that in plants of the lines 5/7, 5/19 and 6/5 registered early beginning of flowering (between 20 and 27 April). For other lines including standard flowering begins from late April to early May.

2. , 2013-2015 .  
**Table 2. Phenological observation of winter pea lines, 2013-2015**

Lines	Early flowering, date		Duration of flowering, average - days	Full maturity, date		Vegetation period, average - days
	from	to		from	to	
5/2	07.05.	12.05.	22	10.06.	23.06.	235
5/4	07.05.	10.05.	24	10.06.	23.06.	235
5/5	29.04.	16.05.	33	12.06.	24.06.	234
5/7	22.04.	27.04.	25	07.06.	24.06.	232
5/9	29.04.	12.05.	32	12.06.	24.06.	236
5/10	25.04.	16.05.	26	07.06.	24.06.	234
5/14	29.04.	10.05.	24	07.06.	23.06.	234
5/19	22.04.	23.04.	21	03.06.	19.06.	229
6/5	20.04.	25.04.	20	05.06.	19.06.	229
/mean	20.04.	16.05.	25,2	03.06.	24.06.	233,1
	27.04.	07.05.	32	16.06.	24.06.	236

25 , 32 The more significant differences between both test lines and standard are established for the duration of flowering phase. The average duration of flowering in the lines is 25 days, while a cultivar Mir is 32 days. Only two lines ( 5/5; 5/9) are very close to the standard i.e.

characterized by long flowering period (over one month). The remaining lines in varying degrees have shorter flowering period (an average of one week). Phase full maturity earlier was registered in lines 5/19 and 6/5 (3-5 June). Depending on the agro-climatic conditions in these two lines harvesting was done no later than June 19th. As a result of rapid growth and development lines 5/19 and 6/5 with the shortest growing season – 229 days. Cultivar Mir and line 5/9 have the longest growing season average of 236 days.

The results of characteristic of pea lines on key elements of productivity are presented in Table 3.

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3. , 2013-2015 .  
**Table 3. Structural analysis of winter pea lines, 2013-2015**

Line	Height of the first pod (cm)	Number of fertility nodes	Number of pods per plant	Number of seeds per pod	Seed weight per plant (g)
5/2	95,7 b	7,7 b	24,9	5,1 b	14,56 b
5/4	92,5 bc	8,0 b	16,4 c	5,4 b	10,28 c
5/5	95,5 b	7,4 b	20,1 b	6,0	13,54 b
5/7	89,0 c	7,3 b	21,1 b	5,4 b	12,96 b
5/9	100,2	8,9	21,2 b	5,9 b	12,00 bc
5/10	106,3	6,6 c	15,8 c	5,7 b	10,15 c
5/14	98,2 b	7,2 b	19,3 b	5,1 b	9,83 c
5/19	86,4 c	8,8	19,8 b	6,1	16,60
6/5	68,7 d	7,6 b	15,6 c	6,0	12,93 b
/ Mir	105,7	7,5 b	14,2 cd	5,4 b	8,36 c
SE	4,424	0,539	2,083	0,278	1,061

LSD 99.5% -

the values in the column with the same letter are not significant differences

- The analysis of data regarding the height of the first pod shows that

(105,7 cm) 5/9  
 5/10.  
 5/4, 5/7, 5/19 6/5

6,6 ( 5/10) 8,9 ( 5/9),  
 - 7,5 .

5/9 5/19  
 , 5/10  
 .

( ) 24,9 ( 5/2).  
 , - .

5/2, 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14  
 5/19.

(5/5; 5/14; 6/5)

(8,36 g/ ) .

- the lines and standard are divided into four statistical groups.

With the highest location of the first pod is distinguished cv. Mir (105,7 cm) and lines 5/9 and 5/10. The plant of lines 5/4, 5/7, 5/19 and 6/5 dispose lower first pod. They reliably differ from the standard.

The values of the trait number of fertile nodes ranging from 6,6 ( 5/10) to 8,9 ( 5/9), as standard occupies an intermediate position - 7,5 number. A significant difference compared to standard establishes three lines including lines 5/9 and 5/19 it exceeded and 5/10 inferior cultivar Mir.

The number of pods per plant also varies from 14.2 (cv. Mir) to 24,9 ( 5/2). It is obvious that this feature is standard with the lowest value. The lines are divided into four statistical groups. The plants of lines 5/2, 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14 and 5/19 differ with the largest quantity of pods.

They have very good significant differences to standard. Data on the number of seeds per pod show that only three lines (5/5; 5/14; 6/5) is more than the standard. The more significant are differences in terms of the weight of the seeds of a plant.

- Cultivar Mir is with the lowest productivity (8,36 g/plant). In a group with similar values are the



5/4, 5/9 5/10.  
 5/2, 5/5, 5/7,  
 5/19 6/5.  
 12,9 g 16,6 g .  
 55% 99%.  
 /  
 ( -ssp. *sativum*  
 ssp. *arvense*).  
 ( , 1986)  
 5/19 6/5  
 5/2, 5/5, 5/7,  
 5/9, 5/14 5/19.  
 25  
 32

lines 5/4, 5/9 and 5/10.  
 - Average for the three years the  
 - highest productivity was recorded  
 for the lines 5/2, 5/5, 5/7,  
 5/19 and 6/5. Plants of these lines  
 are formed from 12,9 g to 16,6 g  
 seeds. They proved exceed cv.  
 Mir, as their productivity is higher  
 by 55% to 99%.

Analysis of the results shows  
 that in most lines achieved a  
 combination and / or improvement  
 of symptoms characteristic of  
 basis parental cultivars (Kerpo-  
 ssp. *sativum* x Mir-ssp. *arvense*).  
 For example, in the description of  
 the cv. Mir (Milyanchev et al.,  
 1986) it is noted that refers to a  
 group of earliness cultivars. The  
 assessment of winter pea lines  
 shows that the lines 5/19 and  
 6/5 achieved improvement in  
 this indicator. They are  
 characterized by faster growth,  
 development and shorter growing  
 season compared to the variety  
 Mir. Data from the structural  
 analysis also showed significant  
 differences from the standard on a  
 number of signs lines 5/2,  
 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14 and 5/19. Higher  
 productivity in pea lines mainly is  
 due to the compact formation of  
 fruit elements – buttons, flowers,  
 pods.

A key factor here is the length of  
 the flowering phase. At lines it  
 averaged 25 days, while for  
 cultivar Mir is 32 days.

- Given the purpose of the breeding program studies continue with all the lines to create a winter cultivars suitable for cultivation alone and mixed with cereals.

### CONCLUSIONS

- As a result of applied population method combined with a focused team have created nine lines winter pea originating in hybrid combination Kerpo x Mir.

- Established proven differences between cultivar Mir and lines in terms: of tolerance to cold, growing season, duration of flowering stage, height of the first pod, number of fertile nodes, number of pods, number of seeds per pod and productivity. In line with 5/2, 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14, 5/19 and 6/5 is achieved genetic improvement from base cultivars on more than one trait.

5/2, 5/5, 5/7, 5/9, 5/14, 5/19 6/5

- Higher productivity in pea lines mainly due to the compact formation of fruit elements – buttons, flowers, pods. A key factor here is the length of the flowering stage, which in lines averaged 25 days versus 32 days for cultivar Mir.

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 1 89,  
 2 5800 12, 4000  
 \*E-mail: [imnatalia@abv.bg](mailto:imnatalia@abv.bg)

## Feeding value of new wheat, rye and triticale cultivars

Natalia Georgieva<sup>1\*</sup>, Ivelina Nikolova<sup>1</sup>, Tanko Kolev<sup>2</sup>,  
 Nurettin Tahsin<sup>2</sup>, Yordanka Naydenova<sup>1</sup>, Valentin Kosev<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Forage Crops, 89 General Vladimir Vazov Str., 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup> Agrarian University, 12 Mendeleev Blvd., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

### SUMMARY

The main feeding characteristics for estimation of the quality of new cultivars of wheat, triticale and rye were studied. The estimation included determination of chemical composition of the grain and straw, cell walls fiber fractions (NDF, ADF, ADL), feeding value (energy and protein) and enzyme *in vitro* digestibility of dry and organic matter.

Cultivars Impulse and Predel are characterized with the highest content of crude protein in the straw (9.94%; 8.76%) and grain (14.44%, 14.29%).

With the highest average values of digestibility of dry and organic matter of straw and grain were wheat cultivars Impulse (51.94%, 57.07%) and Progres (48.29%, 53.47%) exceeding the values of the standard cultivar Predel. Triticale (cultivar Prevala) is distinguished with higher digestibility of dry matter and organic matter of straw and grain (55.23,

(9.94%, 8.76%)  
 (14.44%, 14.29%).

(51.94%, 57.07%)  
 53.47%),

( )

(48.29%,

(55.23,

46.65) (44.68, 38.25).  
 (UFL; UFV; FUM)  
 -  
 (0.613, 0.50,  
 0.508) (0.614, 0.598, 0.509).

46.65) compared to rye (cultivar Millennium) (44.68, 38.25). Wheat cultivars had a higher potential energy feeding value (UFL; UFV; FUM) of straw and grain to cultivars of rye and triticale. With the best indicators was cultivar Progres – respectively for straw (0.613, 0.50, 0.508) and grain (0.614, 0.598, 0.509).

**Keywords:** feeding value, protein, digestibility, cultivars

## INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum* spp.) is one of the most important food crops in the world. Its cultivation history is more than 13000 years ago. It is one of the most common human foods in the world and its straw represents an abundant source of biomass that can be used as a feedstock for sustainable production of biofuel and bioproducts (Sokhansanj et al., 2006; Ahtar et al., 2010; Ficco et al., 2014). Wheat is grown on more than 218 million hectares worldwide (Faostat, 2013). The straw residue from this crop protects soil from erosion, contains nitrogen, phosphorus, sulfur, and potassium that may benefit future crop production, and can be utilized for livestock feed, biofuel production, composting, or mushroom production etc. (USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, 2009; Stubbs et al., 2010).

Rye is an excellent raw material for healthy and tasty foods and it has high fibre content. Whole grains are well known to be

(*Triticum* spp.)  
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 (Sokhansanj et al., 2006; Ahtar et al., 2010; Ficco et al., 2014).  
 218  
 (Faostat, 2013).  
 (USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, 2009; Stubbs et al., 2010).

(Zielinski et al., 2007; Kan, 2015).

(Widodo et al., 2015).

(Hosseinian and Mazza, 2009; Rakha et al., 2011).

(Courtney, 2002).

(Stubbs et al., 2010).  
O'Brien (1999)

the rich sources of fiber, vitamins, minerals, and etc. (Zielinski et al., 2007; Kan, 2015).

- Primarily triticale has been used as a feed grain for livestock owing to its low versatility for the human food market compared with other conventional cereal grains (Widodo et al., 2015).
- The nutritional value of triticale is close to that of wheat and rye.
- In recent years, the use of triticale in the brewing industry has gained much attention. It can also be used as a renewable crop for more sustainable energy production (Hosseinian and Mazza, 2009; Rakha et al., 2011).

The feed value of a food/feed is a measure of its main nutritional components content (Courtney, 2002).

- For example in ruminants, the worth of any fodder depends mainly on the energy and protein content in the dry matter as well as the mineral composition. In regard of plant residue (straw) an important meaning has also the content of hemicellulose, cellulose, lignin, carbon and nitrogen, as well as C:N ratio, which are responsible for determining the rate of residue decomposition (Stubbs et al., 2010).

According to O'Brien (1999) the

feeding value is affected by many factors, including variety (genetic factors), growing location (agronomic conditions) and the season or environmental factors.

The aim of the study is evaluation the chemical composition, plant cell walls fiber components content, *in vitro* enzyme degradability and estimation of potential protein and potential energy feeding value of grain and straw of new wheat, rye and triticale cultivars.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

During the period 2011-2014 in testing field of Crop department in Agricultural University-Plovdiv is conducted experiment in which are tested the following varieties: durum wheat – Progres, Predel and Impulse; rye – Millennium; triticale – Prevala.

The trial is conducted according to the block method, in four repetitions and size of the plots 15 m<sup>2</sup>, on meadow alluvial soil (Molic Fluvisols in FAO), which is characterized with medium sandy-loamy mechanical composition, humus content 1-2%, pH 7.7, presence of carbonates up to 7.4% and lack of salts. In the soil layer of 0-20 cm the content of basic nutritive elements is as follows: N – 15.6 mg/1000 g, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> – 32 mg/100 g, K<sub>2</sub>O – 47 mg/100 g.

Durum wheat, rye and triticale

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Durum wheat, rye and triticale

cultivars are grown after predecessor sunflower. The sowing is carried out in optimal term for these crops in the area. The fertilization rate was  $N_{12} P_8$ , as the whole amount of phosphorus fertilizer is imported before the main cultivation and nitrogen fertilizer – 1/3 before sowing and 2/3 in early spring.

The biochemical assessment of the plant material (grain and straw at technological maturity stage) is performed by the following characteristics: *Crude protein (CP)* by Kjeldhal method; *Crude fiber (CF)* – by Weende method (AOAC, 2010) and plant cell walls fiber fractions: *Neutral-detergent fiber (NDF)*; *Acid-detergent fiber (ADF)*, *Acid-detergent lignin (ADL)* as parameters of detergent analysis of Goering & Van Soest (Goering and Van Soest, 1970; EN ISO 13906, 2008). Enzyme *in vitro* digestibility of dry matter (IVDMD) is determined by two stage pepsin-cellulase enzyme method of Aufrere (Todorov et al., 2010).

The feeding value estimation– energy and protein – is performed as: 1. Evaluation of feeding value on the basis of fiber components – Relative feeding value RFV; potential intake of digestible dry matter (Linn and Martin, 1991).

The Digestible Dry Matter

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The Digestible Dry Matter



- : Digestible Dry Matter (DDM% = 88.9-(0.779 x ADF%); Dry Matter Intake (DMI /% body weight/=120/NDF%) and Relative Feeding Value (RFV = DDM x DMI/1.29). 2.

- : UFL – UFV (INRA, 1988)

- (, 2010).

- *in vivo* (Andrieu and Demarquilly, 1987)

*in vitro*

- Aufrere (, 2010).

(UFL-UFV),

(FUM-FUG) (VEM-VEVI)

(INRA, 1988).

- TDP/PBD

- (PDIN = PDIA + PDIMN) (PDIE = PDIA + PDIMN) (g kg-1 dry matter).

(CV),

(DDM% = 88.9-(0.779 x ADF%); Dry Matter Intake (DMI /% body weight/=120/NDF%) and Relative Feeding Value (RFV = DDM x DMI/1.29) are estimated.

2. The Energy feeding value is calculated by French system: UFL– UFV (INRA, 1988), recalculated in Bulgarian by coefficients, followed by Todorov et al. (2010). The coefficient of digestibility of organic matter DMO *in vivo* (Andrieu and Demarquilly, 1987) is received by relationship on the basis of *in vitro* organic matter digestibility determined experimentally by the method of Aufrere (Todorov et al., 2010). Net energy is determined according to French (UFL-UFV), Bulgarian – Feed units for milk and Feed units for growth (FUM-FUG) and Dutch (VEM-VEVI) systems. The Protein feeding value is evaluated by French system (INRA, 1988). The parameters: TDP/PBD – Total Digestible Protein/Protein Brute Digestible and a really digestible protein in ruminant small intestine – PDIN (Protein digestible in intestine, depending on nitrogen) PDIN = PDIA + PDIMN and PDIE (Protein digestible in intestine depending on energy) PDIE = PDIA + PDIMN in g kg-1 dry matter are established.

Coefficient of variation (CV), average values of indicators and standard deviation are calculated.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Chemical composition and digestibility*

The principal composition – crude protein, crude fiber content, plant cell walls fiber components content and digestibility of the studied species and varieties are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Chemical composition, cell walls fiber components and digestibility of cultivars of wheat, triticale and rye**

Cultivars	CP	CF	NDF	ADF	ADL	HEMI	CELLU	LIGNIF	IVDMD	IVOMD
Progres straw	8.92	26.56	58.81	39.92	3.73	18.89	36.19	6.3	48.29	53.47
Progres grain	12.02	24.64	64.75	36.48	3.72	28.27	32.76	10.2	44.91	51.21
Predel straw	8.76	31.17	61.57	42.52	4.76	19.05	37.76	11.2	47.54	51.46
Predel grain	14.29	26.35	64.07	38.22	3.62	25.85	34.60	9.5	46.41	51.83
Impulse straw	9.94	31.56	63.32	37.10	3.56	26.22	33.54	5.6	46.81	50.31
Impulse grain	14.44	28.03	66.11	33.62	3.28	32.49	30.34	5.0	51.94	57.07
Prevala straw	4.00	33.00	53.73	42.72	4.92	11.01	37.80	9.2	41.84	46.65
Prevala grain	10.40	18.28	53.78	26.29	3.66	27.49	22.63	6.8	49.91	55.23
Millennium straw	5.64	37.82	68.98	44.71	4.77	24.27	39.94	8.0	35.48	38.25
Millennium grain	10.49	25.82	66.18	35.44	4.88	30.74	30.56	7.4	40.25	44.68
Mean	9.89	28.32	62.13	37.95	4.09	24.43	33.61	7.9	45.34	50.02
SD	3.33	5.36	5.19	5.60	0.65	6.44	4.98	2.0	4.91	5.52
CV	33.7	18.9	8.4	14.8	16.0	26.4	14.8	26.0	10.8	11.0

Legend: CP - Crude protein; CF - Crude fiber; NDF - Neutral-detergent fiber; ADF - Acid-detergent fiber, ADL - Acid-detergent lignin, HEMI – Hemicellulose; CELLU – Cellulose; LIGNIF - Degree of lignification = ADL/NDFx100; IVD(O)MD – *in vitro* dry (organic) matter digestibility

Species differences have been established as varietal characteristics of the examined quality indicators. The content of crude protein in the straw of wheat varieties ranged from 8.76% (Predel) to 9.94% (Impulse). The varieties of rye and triticale are characterized with relatively lower values of crude protein between 4 and 5%. A similar analogy can be made with respect to the crude protein in the grain. Cultivar Impulse is distinguished by the highest value of 14.44%

- - 14.44%,  
(14.29%).

( - 37.82 %; 25.82 %)  
( - 33.00 %;

18.28 %)

18.90 %)

(CV =

(53.73%; 53.78%).

66.18%).

(44.71%),

( 3.56% 3.73%),

4.5%.

(IVDMD)  
(IVOMD)

(51.94%;

exceeding the value of the standart cultivar Predel (14.29%). On this indicator cultivars Millennium and Prevala had almost equal values.

In terms of crude fiber content among varieties of three species is established superiority in favor of rye (Millennium – 37.82%; 25.82%) and triticale (Prevela – 33.00%; 18.28%) in both plant components (grain and straw) versus the wheat varieties. The total variance (CV = 18.90%) of this indicator is considerably less than the variance in crude protein.

Varieties differed in average content of total fiber components. With the lowest content of NDF in the straw and grain is cultivar Prevala (53.73%, 53.78%). Considerably higher content indicated cultivar Millennium (68.98%, 66.18%). The same cultivar exceeds the rest in relation to the content of ADF in the straw (44.71%) and in the grain the highest value is the one in cultivar Predel. The lowest content of ADL in the straw had Impulse and Progres (3.56% and 3.73% respectively), while in the remaining cultivars the content of ADL is above 4.5%.

Data on digestibility of dry (IVDMD) and organic matter (IVOMD) of straw and grain showed that it is the highest in new wheat varieties, respectively Impulse (51.94%, 57.07%) and

57.07%) (48.29%;  
53.47%),  
Hemicellulose  
(26.4%) LIGNIF (26.00%).

Progress (48.29%; 53.47%), followed by cultivar Predel. A high variability is established in terms of Hemicellulose (26.4%) and degree of lignification (26.00%).

*Energy feeding value and protein feeding value*

It is found a similarity in the three estimation systems of the average values of laboratory - analyzed and defined indicators of protein and energy nutritional value of straw and grain (Table 2).

( 2).

2.

**Table 2. Energy feeding value and protein potential feeding value of cultivars of wheat, triticale and rye**

Cultivars	DDM	DMI	RFV	UFL	UFV	FUM	FUG	VEM	VEVI	PBD	PDIN	PDIE
Progres straw	57.80	2.04	91.43	0.613	0.500	0.508	0.408	753	1654	50.0	56.0	68.4
Progres grain	60.48	1.85	86.89	0.614	0.598	0.509	0.407	767	1677	78.4	75.5	73.0
Predel 2 straw	55.78	1.95	84.27	0.589	0.473	0.488	0.386	734	1626	48.1	55.0	66.7
Predel 2 grain	59.13	1.87	85.85	0.608	0.490	0.504	0.401	773	1687	100.7	89.7	78.0
Impulse straw	60.00	1.90	88.14	0.578	0.461	0.479	0.376	732	1622	59.5	62.4	68.3
Impulse grain	62.71	1.82	88.24	0.664	0.552	0.550	0.451	818	1756	101.9	90.7	81.8
Prevala straw	55.62	2.23	96.30	0.565	0.451	0.469	0.368	697	1568	10.0	25.1	54.0
Prevala grain	68.42	2.23	118.35	0.663	0.554	0.549	0.452	795	1720	62.7	65.3	72.5
Millennium straw	54.07	1.74	72.92	0.497	0.376	0.412	0.308	654	1502	16.1	35.4	61.6
Millennium grain	61.29	1.81	86.15	0.560	0.440	0.464	0.360	720	1603	63.2	65.9	65.6
Mean	59.53	1.94	89.85	0.595	0.490	0.493	0.392	744	1642	59.1	62.1	69.0
SD	4.16	0.17	11.63	0.050	0.065	0.041	0.042	47	74	30	20.9	8.0
CV	7.0	8.8	12.9	8.4	13.2	8.3	10.9	6.4	4.5	51.8	33.8	11.5

Legend: DDM – Digestible dry matter; DMI – Dry matter intake; RFV – Relative Feeding value; PBD (TDP) – Protein brute digestible (Total digestive protein), PDIN, PDIE in g kg<sup>-1</sup>

(DMI)  
(RFV)

- The changes in feeding value did not show a substantial difference
- in the potential intake of dry matter (DMI) in different cultivars and in three crops. With higher relative feeding value (RFV) is distinguished triticale cultivar Prevala, followed by wheat cultivar

UFV; FUM)  
0.50; 0.508)  
0.598; 0.509)

(FUM/FUG)

(PDIN PDIE)

(33.80 %)

PDIN  
PDIE (11.5 %).

(PBD) -  
(62.40%)  
(101.9%),

(9.94%, 8.76%)  
(14.44%, 14.29%).

(51.94%, 57.07%)  
(48.29%, 53.47%),

Proges and Impulse.

With the highest potential energy nutrition (UFL; UFV; FUM) of straw (0.613, 0.50, 0.508) and grain (0.614; 0.598; 0.509) is cultivar Proges, followed by the other two cultivars of wheat.

Feed units (FUM/FUG) of cultivar Millennium had the lowest values on these indicators. The studied varieties of rye and triticale had lower protein feeding value (PDIN and PDIE) in both the grain and the straw compared with the wheat varieties. The variation in the values of PDIN considerably exceeded (33.80%) the variation of the indicator PDIE (11.5%).

Potential protein feeding value (PBD) is the highest for wheat cultivars – Impulse as straw (62.40%) and grain (101.9%), followed by the variety Predel for the grain and Proges for the straw.

## CONCLUSIONS

Cultivars Impulse and Predel are characterized with the highest content of crude protein in the straw (9.94%; 8.76%) and grain (14.44%, 14.29%). With the highest average values of digestibility of dry and organic matter of straw and grain are wheat cultivars Impulse (51.94%, 57.07%) and Proges (48.29%, 53.47%) exceeding the values of the standard cultivar Predel.



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## (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)

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, 5800 ,  
\*E-mail: golubinova@abv.bg

### Accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) depending on weather conditions

Irena Golubinova\*, Plamen Marinov-Serafimov, Anna Ilieva

Institute of Forage Crops, 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria

#### SUMMARY

(*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)  
Kazitachi ( ),  
Vercors ( ) 9 ( )  
(BBCH - 15, BBCH - 18÷19,  
BBCH - 47 BBCH - 63÷67).

( $r = -0.881$ )

( $r = 0.998$ )

It was determined the content of cyanogenic glycosides in three varieties of Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) with different origins Kazitachi (Japan), Vercors (USA) and Voronejskaya 9 (Russia) in four growth stage of development of culture (BBCH - 15, BBCH - 17÷18, BBCH - 47 and BBCH - 63÷67).

In the years with precipitation and relatively lower average daily air temperatures, the accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides is lower, while in the dry condition, the contents of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass is higher in the tested varieties Sudan grass.

The accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of Sudan grass varieties is in negative relationship ( $r = -0.881$ ) from rainfall and positive relationship ( $r = 0.998$ ) than the air temperature, but only in early stages of development of the crop.

**Key words:** Sudan grass, cyanogenic glycosides, weather conditions

## INTRODUCTION

(*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) -  
 , -  
 , -  
 , ( , 2011;  
 , 2015;  
 Kikindonov et al., 2013).  
 ú

Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* Piper Stapf.) an annual grass, adapted to drought, low atmospheric humidity and unpretentiousness to soil fertility (Slanev et al., 2011; Kikindonov et al., 2013, 2015).

Their ecological plasticity and multi-cut in pure and mixed crops with legumes is a prerequisite for the formation of a relatively high amount of biomass during the summer depression of perennial forage grasses.

(BBCH 12÷19),  
 ,  
 (Melo, 2003;  
 Montagner al., 2005).  
 ,  
 (Vough and Cassel, 2002).  
 Vogel et al. (1987), Wheeler (1994) Ramos et al. (1998)  
*Sorghum*

In the early growth stages of development (BBCH 12-19) young plants of Sudan grass contain cyanogenic glycosides, which can cause toxic effects in a number of livestock (Melo, 2003; Montagner et al., 2005). The toxic effect is due to hydrocyanic acid is released in the enzymatic hydrolysis of the glycosides (Vough and Cassel, 2002).

According Vogel et al. (1987), Wheeler (1994) and Ramos et al. (1998) species of the genus *Sorghum* may be harmful for livestock under certain agro-climatic and edaphic conditions, stress, plant growth stage, weather conditions that inhibits plant growth and that determine the increased content of cyanogenic glycosides them.

The variation in the content of

cyanogenic capacity in Sudan grass is related to genetic differences, but is influenced by the dynamics of the meteorological factors (Gleadow and Woodrow, 2002). According Gleadow and Woodrow (2002) production and accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides varies greatly in different species within the species, and even within individual populations. Content of cyanogenic glycosides per unit weight of Sudan grass was highest in the fresh biomass for young plants and in the youngest leaves, which are most intense metabolism, whereas in old leaves and stems, and the dry biomass was significantly lower (Adewusi, 1990).

Kim (1987), Adewusi (1990) and Kumar and Devender (2010) reported that with the increase of the growing season (plant age) and the increase in plant height the cyanogenic glycosides content ultimately decreases.

Fjell et al. (1991), Sher et al. (2002) Tingtinget et al. (2010) reported too that with increase in soil moisture deficit and drought progressively increased content increases the content of cyanogenic glycosides. High concentrations of cyanogenic glycosides in plants may be associated with rapid cell division or rapid growth, such as shortly after a rain or irrigation on previously drought stressed fields or warm weather after, or a relative

(Bullock et al., 2001).

cool period (Bullock et al., 2001).

The objective of this study was to determine the quantitative content of cyanogenic glycosides in three varieties Sudan grass in different growth stages of development according agrometeorological conditions.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental work was conducted during the period 2008-2010 at the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops, Pleven (43° 37' 70.80"N, 24°45'36.34"E) Bulgaria at 150 to 200 meters altitude and weak southern slope of the experimental plots with soil type leached Chernozem without irrigation.

The objects of studies were three varieties of Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) of different origin - Kazitachi (Japan), Vercors (USA) and Voronejskaya 9 (Russia).

Aboveground biomass of the available varieties Sudan grass is collected randomized from each variety in growth stage BBCH – 15, BBCH – 17÷18, BBCH – 47 and BBCH - 63÷67 determined by a system of uniform coding of growth stages of development for mono- and dicotyledonous plant species (Meier, 2001).

Samples of aboveground fresh biomass of Sudan grass varieties were analysed in laboratory condition to determine

2008-2010

(43° 37' 70.80"N, 24°45'36.34"E)

150

200 m

(*Sorghum*

*sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)

Kazitachi ( ),

Vercors ( ) 9

( ).

BBCH– 15, BBCH – 17÷18,

BBCH– 47 BBCH – 63÷67,

(BBCH)

(Meier, 2001).

- content of cyanogenic glycosides
  - (Ermakov et al., 1987) according to growth stage of development on the plants.
- ( et al., 1987)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1

From the data in Table 1 show that the content of cyanogenic glycosides is highest in the initial growth stage of the plants BBCH - 15. According to the classification of Stoltenow and Hardy (1998), the contents of the cyanogenic glycosides in plants from 60 to 100 mg/100 g of dry matter is potentially toxic, and more than 100 mg/100 g dry matter is very dangerous and can result in death of the animals.

Later in the vegetation reduces its content disproportionately in all three tested varieties Sudan grass and in the years of the study. This dependence has been investigated by several authors (Kim 1987; Kumar and Devender, 2010) according to which the increase vegetation period to growth stage BBCH – 63÷67, the cyanogenic glycosides content in the end decreases. With the low cyanogenic glycosides and in the three years regardless of the agrometeorological conditions is variety Kazitachi, and the highest variety Vercors, Voronezhskaya 9 occupies an intermediate position.

(Kim, 1987; Kumar and Devender, 2010),

BBCH – 63÷67,

Kazitachi, Vercors. 9

The observed differences in

- the content of cyanogenic glycosides can be explained by genetic differences, because growth stage and development on the sudan grass varieties are run at the same agroecological conditions Table 1.

1.

1.

mg/100 g

2008-2010

**Table 1. Content of cyanogenic glycosides mg/100 g of dry matter in Sudan grass varieties for the period 2008-2010**

/ Variety	/ Growth stage				/ Average for variety
	BBCH - 15	BBCH - 17÷18	BBCH - 47	BBCH- 63÷67	
2008					
Kazitachi	99.04	43.22	14.41	1.80	39.62
Vercors	129.65	61.22	39.61	23.41	63.47
9					
Voronezhskaya 9	138.65	43.22	27.01	19.23	57.03
/ Average	122.45	49.22	27.01	14.81	53.37
2009					
Kazitachi	31.07	30.39	26.14	21.14	27.19
Vercors	92.94	91.60	52.85	39.39	69.20
9					
Voronezhskaya 9	112.7	98.75	49.32	12.38	68.29
/ Average	78.90	73.58	42.77	24.30	54.89
2010					
Kazitachi	29.83	19.19	2.46	0	12.87
Vercors	116.00	44.28	26.35	15.43	50.52
9					
Voronezhskaya 9	66.28	42.16	31.00	12.79	38.06
/ Average	70.70	35.21	19.94	9.41	33.82

- The content of cyanogenic glycosides in the studied varieties varies depending on grometeorological conditions over the years to learn.

Agrometeorological

(2008-2010 .)

- conditions during the period of study (2008-2010) are characterized by differences in the amount and distribution of rainfall, temperature and humidity in the vegetation period of Sudan grass (Table 2).

( 2).

Table 2. Weather parameters for the period 2008-2010

Parameters	Years	From germination to growth stage:				Average	r
		BBCH -15	BBCH-17÷18	BBCH- 47	BBCH-63÷67		
Duration stage of growth, day	2008	29	14	18	17	78	0.257
	2009	31	10	20	17	78	
	2010	30	10	20	20	80	
Precipitation, mm	2008	40.9	19.6	11.5	3.4	75.4	-0.881
	2009	31.5	28.5	29.9	44.9	134.8	
	2010	73.7	26.8	108.5	8.8	217.8	
Days with precipitation, number	2008	9	6	3	3	21	-0.982
	2009	8	3	7	5	23	
	2010	13	5	14	4	36	
Relative humidity%	2008	65.8	69.4	59.5	47.6	60.6	-0.995
	2009	58.0	60.0	60.0	58.9	59.2	
	2010	67.0	63	71.6	67.5	67.3	
Relative humidity for 14h, %	2008	50.3	52	46.2	33	45.4	-0.937
	2009	40.0	40.0	42.5	42.6	41.3	
	2010	52.0	45.2	57.3	50.7	51.3	
Number of days at a relative humidity of <40% for 14h	2008	6	2	6	13	27	0.915
	2009	17	6	7	9	39	
	2010	4	4	1	4	13	
Daily average temperature, t °C	2008	17.7	19.8	24.2	25.0	21.7	0.998
	2009	19.1	21.9	22.0	23.9	21.7	
	2010	18.0	23.1	21.7	23.4	21.6	
Maximum daily average air temperature, t °C	2008	21.9	25.5	30.8	32.2	27.6	0.339
	2009	25.9	29.7	28.9	30.5	28.8	
	2010	24.6	30.4	27.5	29.2	27.9	
Minimum daily average air temperature, t °C	2008	11.1	13.6	16.6	17.0	14.6	-0.953
	2009	11.7	14.3	15.3	17.8	14.8	
	2010	11.6	15.7	16.6	17.8	15.4	

: r -

Legend: r - correlation interaction between accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of Sudan grass and some weather factors

2008

- | During the 2008, the distribution of rainfall from

- 63÷67  
 BBCH-15  
 40.9 mm.  
 -17-18  
 63÷67  
 2009  
 2010  
 63÷67  
 (49.8%)  
 (108.5 mm).  
  
 $r = -0.881$ .  
 ) 45% (36  
 (67.3%)  
 (4)  
 40% 14 h.  
 ( 99.04 138.65 mg/100 g )

germination to - 63÷67 is relatively favorable. In the growth stage development BBCH-15 from of Sudan grass rainfall is 40.9 mm. By increasing the growth stage and development plants to - 17÷18 and - 47 rainfall decreases during the - 63÷67 is only 3.4 mm.

During the 2009, the quantity of rainfall was relatively evenly distributed throughout the different growth stage and development of Sudan grass – 134.8mm.

During the 2010 it was measured relatively high rainfall, for the study period – 217.8 mm, relatively highest partition of them (49.8%) is in - 63÷67 Sudan grass (108.5 mm).

Correlation coefficient  $r$  between the content of cyanogenic glycosides in above-ground biomass of Sudan grass and precipitation for the period of study is  $r = -0.881$ .

The number of days with of precipitation (36 days) constitutes 45% of the study period. The rate of of precipitation is a prerequisite for the relatively higher air humidity of (67.3%) compared to a smaller number of of days (4 days) with as measured, the relative air humidity of below 40% in 14 h.

Depending on agroecological conditions the highest levels of cyanogenic glycosides (from 99.04 to 138.65 mg/100 g of dray



2008 .  
 15).  
 2008  
 ,  
 -  
 ,  
 -  
 (r = 0.998)  
 -  
 -  
 (r = 0.998).  
 2009  
 (BBCH-17-18)  
 ,  
 .  
 ,  
 -  
 -  
 ( 40%) 14 h,  
 60%  
 .  
 (BBCH - 47)  
 .  
 (108.5 mm) 2009  
 (27.5  
 °C)  
 .  
 -  
 ,  
 -  
 (2010 33.82 mg/100 g  
 ),  
 -  
 -  
 (2008 2009

biomass) were reported in 2008 in the early stages of Sudan grass (BBCH-15). The vegetation period in 2008 was secured with optimal rainfall on the biological requirements of Sudan grass, but the lowest air temperature ( $r = 0.998$ ) predetermines the higher levels of cyanogenic glycosides ( $r = 0.998$ ).

During the 2009, at the stage of growth and development (BBCH - 17÷18) the level of cyanogenic glycosides reduced the differences compared to the previous phase of the Sudan grass are insignificant in three varieties. The differences can be explained by the relatively low relative humidity (below 40%) measured at 14 h, which covers 60% of the days during the period of study. At the beginning of the reproductive period of Sudan grass (BBCH - 47) the level of cyanogenic glycosides significantly decreased. The amount of precipitation (108.5 mm) in 2009 and the relatively decreased air temperatures (27.5 °C) had no impact on the dynamics of accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides.

Therefore, in the years with precipitation and relatively lower average daily air temperatures, the accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides is lower (2010 33.82 mg/100 g dry matter), while in the dry condition, the contents of cyanogenic glycosides is higher (2008 and 2009 – respectively 53.37 and 54.89 mg/100 g of dry

g	53.37 )	54.89 mg/100	matter) in the tested varieties Sudan grass.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in the above ground biomass of Sudan grass varieties tested have a negative impact on the amount of precipitation and positive correlation with an increase in average air temperatures, but only in the initial stages of development of culture.</li> </ul>
Zahid et al. (2012) al., 2013, <i>Sorghum</i>	O'Donnell et		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- analogous results were obtained in the experimental work of Zahid et al. (2012) and O'Donnell et al. (2013), according to them species of the genus <i>Sorghum</i> can accumulate more intensely cyanogenic glycosides at drought, but only in the early stages of development.</li> </ul>
( , ) , (t °C), (mm), 14 h (%)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The complex assessment of some weather factors (rainfall, average monthly temperatures and relative humidity) during the period of the study show that daily average and minimum air temperature (t °C), rainfall (mm), number of days with rainfall, daily average relative humidity and 14 h (%) are in a negative correlation dependence, daily average and maximum air temperature (t °C), and number of days with, the relative humidity &lt;40% measured after 14 h, are in positive correlation of the quantitation cyanogenic glycosides content in aboveground biomass of all tested</li> </ul>

varieties Sudan grass (Table 2).

( 2).

### CONCLUSIONS

- The content of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass in the Sudan grass varies depending on growth stage phase, variety and agrometeorological condition during on the years of the study.

- In the years with precipitation and relatively lower average daily air temperatures, the accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides lower (2010 33.82 mg/100 g dry matter), while in the dry condition, the contents of cyanogenic glycosides is higher (2008 and 2009 - respectively 53.37 and 54.89 mg/100 g of dry matter) in the tested varieties Sudan grass.

- The accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of Sudan grass varieties is in negative relationship ( $r = -0.881$ ) from rainfall and positive relationship ( $r = 0.998$ ) than the air temperature, but only in early stages of development of the crop.

(2010 33.82 mg/100 g),

(2008 2009 - 53.37 54.89 mg/100 g)

( $r = -0.881$ )

( $r = 0.998$ )

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\*E-mail: [c\\_moskova@abv.bg](mailto:c_moskova@abv.bg)

## Distribution and extent of weeding of Amaranth species and other weeds in sunflower crops in Plovdiv and Stara Zagora region

Cveta Moskova<sup>1\*</sup>, Natalia Koleva<sup>1</sup>, Stamen Dimitrov<sup>1</sup>,  
Miroslav Tityanov<sup>1</sup>, Borianka Traykova<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Forestry, 10 Kliment Ohridski Blvd., 1797 Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>IBER - BAS, 2 Gagarin Str., 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

### ABSTRACT

2015 . -  
-  
-  
(*Amaranthus blitoides*  
L. *Amaranthus albus* L.)  
5500,5 da , *Amaranthus*  
*blitoides* L. *Amaranthus albus* L.  
- -  
-  
1:1,8.  
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-  
1:1,8.

In 2015 the prevalence and level of weed infestation of Amaranth species (*Amaranthus blitoides* L. and *Amaranthus albus* L.) and other weeds in crops of sunflowers were studied in the region of Plovdiv and Stara Zagora. 5500,5 da were studied and it was found out that *Amaranthus blitoides* L. and *Amaranthus albus* L. occupy a large share of the total weeding with annual weeds. The ratio between the creeping amaranth and the other annual weeds was 1: 1.8.

White amaranth was not so widespread in the studied areas, but its density was high and the ratio between the white amaranth and the other annual weeds was 1: 1.8.

From the perennial weeds the most

*Convolvulus arvensis* L.,

1:1,6.

(*Amaranthus blitoides* L.),

(*Amaranthus albus* L.),

- common was the bindweed – *Convolvulus arvensis* L., which had the highest density during the study period. The ratio between the annuals and perennial weeds was 1: 1.6.

**Keywords:** creeping amaranth (*Amaranthus blitoides* L.), white amaranth (*Amaranthus albus* L.), distribution, sunflower crops, density of weeds

## INTRODUCTION

- An important link in the scientific basis for the fight against weeds is the determining of their species composition and density, the so called diagnosis of weed infestation.

Studies of many authors (Spasov and Dimov, 1974; Zhelev et al., 1979; Fetvadhiev et al., 1982; Topalov, 1986; Tonev and Valeva, 1989; Tonev, 2002; Dimitrova, 2003)

- (Spasov and Dimov, 1974; Zhelev et al., 1979; Fetvadhiev et al., 1982; Topalov, 1986; Tonev and Valeva, 1989; Tonev, 2002; Dimitrova, 2003) set the annual late-spring weeds as the main weeds in row crops. The weeds of the *Amaranthus* genus also belong to this group. Under the conditions of intensive agriculture the fight against weeds is a topical issue, which comes down to systematic reporting and mapping in the agricultural areas. The resulting data can be used to estimate the emergence and distribution of different species, which supports the practice of their successful control.

*Amaranthus*.

: *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *A. hybridus* L., *A. blitoides*., *A. albus* L. *A. lividus* L.

Different amaranth species: *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *A. hybridus* L., *A. blitoides*., *A. albus* L. and *A. lividus* L. can be found in the arable land of the country.



*Amaranthus*

- They are characterized by high plasticity and adaptability to a wide range of climatic and edaphic combinations which together with their short life cycle provide favourable opportunity for their expansive distribution over vast areas.

Regardless of their wide distribution, the species of the genus *Amaranthus* have not been a subject to systematic research in Bulgaria yet, leading to insufficient level of knowledge about them.

- The aim of this study is to establish the level of weed infestation with two of the most common amaranth species and other weeds in Plovdiv and Stara Zagora region.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was performed by the routing method according to the unified methodology for measuring and mapping of weeds in agricultural areas (Dimitrova et al., 2004), adopted in the country. For the purpose of the study, the touring around the areas was performed diagonally, as the reporting began at 20-30 m from the end of the field. Ten reporting points were determined for each mapped array up to 1000 da. The estimates of the weed density was carried out by a four-grade scale, where each unit of the scale corresponds to 25% density of weed infestation (percentage of area covered with weeds).

The average score by groups and

da

18 ).

6 13 ).

3140,36 da

17

2015

weeds was calculated from the primary data, and then by using a correction coefficient the average scores were recalculated. The scores of the correction coefficient depends on the development phase and habitus of weed.

A total area of of 5500,5 da sunflower crops was studied in the municipalities of Maritza, Karlovo, Parvomay, Chirpan and Galabovo, and two data recordings were performed.

The I-st spring data reporting was carried out before the first vegetation processing (*held in the period between May 11 and May 18*). The purpose of the first data reporting was to establish the distribution of the emerged weeds and make an assessment of the efficiency of the imported soil herbicides.

The II-nd late spring data reporting was carried out one month after the last vegetation processing (*held from July 6 to July 13*). The information was used to develop the final reports of weed infestation in the mapped area and assess the results of weed control applied during the vegetation season of the crop, as well as the presence of secondary weed infestation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seventeen weed species of different biological groups were determined in 3140,36 da of sunflower crops from Plovdiv region, mapped in 2015. More



1. ( )

2015 .

**Table 1. Density of weeds (in score) in sunflower crops from Plovdiv region in 2015**

Survey areas	<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i> L.		<i>Amaranthus albus</i> L.		Other annual weeds		Perennial weeds	
	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting
Plovdiv region Maritsa Municipality	0.5	0.6	0,7	0,4	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.7
Plovdiv region Karlovo Municipality	0.9	0.5	-	-	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
Plovdiv region Parvomay Municipality	-	-	0.8	1.7	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.0

2015 .

-  
-  
0,6 1  
0,9 1,2  
:  
:  
(*Portulaca oleracea* L.),  
(*Solanum nigrum*  
L.),  
(*Datura stramonium* L.),  
(*Polygonum convolvulus*  
L.),  
(*Fumaria  
officinalis* L.),  
(*Galium aparine* L.),  
(*Polygonum aviculare*),  
(*Chenopodium album* L.),  
(*Xanthium strumarium* L.).

In 2015, in the sunflower crops from Plovdiv region, apart from the amaranth species other annual weeds were also determined at scores ranging from 0.6 to 1 at the first data reporting and from 0.9 to 1.2 at the second data reporting. In the region of Parvomay Municipality the prevailing species were the dicotyledonous ones: purslane (*Portulaca oleracea* L.), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum* L.), datura (*Datura stramonium* L.), fasulche (*Polygonum convolvulus* L.), medical Rosopasat (*Fumaria officinalis* L.) triroga cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.), goose grass (*Polygonum aviculare*), white pigweed (*Chenopodium album* L.), common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* L.). In the municipality of Karlovo the species composition

(*Bidens cernuus* L.),  
 :  
 (*Matricaria chamomilla* L.)  
 (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.).

included also nodding beggarticks (*Bidens cernuus* L.), and in the region of the Maritsa Municipality: chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla* L.) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.). The data from the carried out area mapping indicated the absence of monocotyledonous monocarpic weeds, which can be explained by the efficiency of the applied antigrass herbicides (*quizalofop-P-tefuryl*, *clethodim* and *cycloxydim*).

(*Convolvulus arvensis* L.)

From the polycarpic weeds the most common were the root-sprout weed species – bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L.) in the municipalities of Maritsa and Karlovo and the rhizome weeds – twitch (*Cynodon dactylon* L.) and Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense* L.) in the municipalities of Parvomay and Maritsa. The highest density of these species was reported in the municipality of Maritsa – score 0.9 at the first data reporting and score 1.7 at the second reporting, due to the lack of efficiency of the applied herbicides and gaps in agrotechnical control measures.

(*Cynodon dactylon* L.)  
 (*Sorghum halepense* L.)

– 0,9  
 1,7

During the mapping, conducted in the region of Stara Zagora, it was found out that in the studied sunflower crop area (2360,14 da), only the creeping amaranth (*Amaranthus blitoides* L.) was present.

(*Amaranthus blitoides* L.).

2015 .  
 0,1  
 0,3

The density of that weed species in 2015 in the municipality of Chirpan ranged from score 0,1 at the first data reporting to score

2). (0,4)

0.3 at second data reporting. A higher level of weed infestation with crawling amaranth (score 0.4) was determined in the municipality of Galabovo (Table 2).

2. ( )  
2015 .

**Table 2. Density of weeds (in score) in sunflower crops from Stara Zagora region in 2015**

Survey areas	<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i> L.		<i>Amaranthus albus</i> L.		Other annual weeds		Perennial weeds	
	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting	first reporting	second reporting
Stara Zagora region Chirpan Municipality	0.1	0.3	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7
Stara Zagora region Galabovo Municipality	0.4	0.4	-	-	0.2	0.2	0.6	1.0

-  
-  
-  
,  
. *Amaranthus retroflexus* L.  
-  
(*Datura stramonium* L.),  
(*Anagallis arvensis* L.),  
(*Consolida orientalis* L.),  
(*Bidens cernuus* L.)  
(*Chenopodium album* L.),  
-  
(*Echinochloa crus-galli* L.)

Data from the mapping revealed the lower level of weed infestation of sunflowers crops from Stara Zagora region in comparison with Plovdiv region. Apart from *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., the dicotyledonous species datura (*Datura stramonium* L.), Polish pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis* L.), eastern larkspur (*Consolida orientalis* L.), nodding beggarticks (*Bidens cernuus* L.) and white pigweed (*Chenopodium album* L.), as well as the monocarpic weed species – barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crus-galli* L.) and blood millet (*Digitaria*

	(Digitaria sanguinalis L.) sanguinalis L.) were also determined.
2015 . 0,2	- The total density of the other annual species in 2015 in both municipalities was at the score of 0.2 as at the first and at the second data reporting. The presence of blood and barnyard millet in the crop of sunflowers in the municipalities of Chirpan and Galabovo is a consequence of treating the area with antibroadleaved herbicides (oxyfluorfen, bifenox and flumioxazine).
(Convolvulus arvensis L.), (Cirsium arvense L.) (Sonchus arvensis L.). 0,5 0,7 0,6 1,0	- The polycarpic weed species were presented by the root-sprout species – bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis L.), creeping thistle (Cirsium arvense L.) and field sow thistle (Sonchus arvensis L.). In the municipality of Chirpan their density at the first reporting was at the score of 0.5 and at the second reporting it was increased to score 0.7. In the municipality of Galabovo the density was at the score of 0.6 and 1, 0, respectively. This is due to gaps in agrotechnics (inappropriate vegetation treatments, uneven crop density) and the unsatisfactory effect of the herbicides used against the perennial species.

### CONCLUSIONS

2015 . 5500,5 da	- In the sunflower crops from Plovdiv and Stara Zagora region, occupying a total area of 5500,5 da, mapped in 2015, the prevailing weed associations were the annual late-spring species.
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<p><i>blitoides</i> L.) - , , - - 1:1,8.</p>	<p>(<i>Amaranthus</i> The creeping amaranth (<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i> L.) was determined in four municipalities – Maritsa, Karlovo, Chirpan and Galabovo. <i>The ratio between the creeping amaranth and the other annual weeds was 1: 1.8.</i></p>
<p><i>albus</i> L.) - , , - - 0,4 1,7 C 1:1,8. - - <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L., - 1:1,6.</p>	<p>(<i>Amaranthus</i> The white amaranth (<i>Amaranthus albus</i> L.) was not widely distributed in the studied areas, it was not determined in the municipalities of Karlovo, Chirpan and Galabovo, but was characterised by a higher density – at scores ranging from 0.4 to 1.7 in comparison with compared the creeping amaranth. <i>The ratio between the white amaranth and the other annual weeds was 1: 1.8.</i> - The most common perennial weed species was the bindweed – <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L., which had the highest density during the study. <i>The ratio between the annual and the perennial weeds was 1: 1.6.</i></p>

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\*E-mail: c\_moskova@abv.bg

## Comparative Testing of American Hybrid Corn

Stamen Dimitrov<sup>1</sup>, Cveta Moskova<sup>1\*</sup>, Miroslav Tityanov<sup>1</sup>,  
 Chavdar Dotchev<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Forestry, 10 Kliment Ohridski Blvd., 1797 Sofia, Bulgaria  
<sup>2</sup>Pioneer Seeds Bulgaria

### SUMMARY

2013-2015 .  
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 " " .  
 300-399, : 9400, 9175,  
 9578, 9528 9494.  
 9400, -  
 . -  
 , kg/da.  
 14%  
 . -  
 , -  
 9175, 9400  
 9578,  
 -  
 , -  
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During the period 2013-2015, at the training and experimental field centre of the University of Forestry, Sofia we tested five American hybrid corn provided by the company "PIONEER SEED BULGARIA". All are from the early group FAO 300-399, namely: P9400, P9175, P9578, P9528 and P9494. P9400, the most widespread hybrid in the production for the respective period, was chosen as a standard. Hybrids were tested for duration of the vegetation period, moisture at harvesting and grain yield, kg/da. The grain was recalculated at 14% humidity.

It was determined that the hybrids P9175, P9400 and P 9578 had the shortest vegetation period and humidity at harvesting, which practically were almost equal in relation to these indicators.

The highest yield was obtained from the standard variety which had the shortest vegetation period and the lowest

9175 9528.

moisture content of grain, followed by the hybrids P9175 and 9528.

**Key words:** hybrids, corn, vegetation, yield, weather conditions, moisture

### INTRODUCTION

In the recent years in our country the areas sown with early corn hybrids have increased. The reasons for this are several: the gradual increase of the crop areas, breeding in areas where previously this was not possible or was non-typical and not the least: breeders managed to overcome the dependence between the short vegetation period and the lower yields.

115

105- Early hybrids have duration of the vegetation period of about 105-115 days, allowing planting in the higher regions of the country or, where necessary, obtaining a second harvest after the early harvested wheat or forage crops.

Later hybrids are harvested in October or even in November, which hampers the preparation of the land for sowing wheat crops, it is subsequently late, which is a prerequisite for their frost in winter, because the plants are unable to fail to adapt.

The above said is the reason for farmers to choose the early corn hybrids in order to solve the problems with cattle feeding and obtain higher yields

The purpose of the study is to determine the most appropriate corn hybrid for the particular area.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

To perform the present study, the experimental methodology for testing corn of a biological and agricultural qualities, used for testing all varieties of *Zea mays* L.: dent corn, sweet corn, popcorn, for special purposes or for silage. This methodology was elaborated with the participation of the most prominent specialists in the country for this culture and was approved by the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Variety-testing, Approbation and Control on Seeds. It outlines the agrotechnics, the number of plants per m<sup>2</sup>, the size of the test plots, the performed phonological observations, the attacks by diseases and pests under field conditions and other indicators that must be monitored, as well as the analyzes performed on the resulting harvest. During the period 2013-2015 we tested 5 corn hybrids provided by the company PIONEER-SEED OF BULGARIA, from the early group FAO 300-399, namely: P9400, P9175, P9578, P9528 and P9494. P9400 was chosen as the standard and the harvesting time and duration of the vegetation period were determined in comparison with this standard.

The experiments were carried out on the territory of the

2013-2015

300-399,  
: 9400, 9175, 9578,  
9528 9494.  
9400

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 6  
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 20 m<sup>2</sup>,  
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 5  
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Vrazhdebna training and  
 - experimental field centre at the  
 University of Forestry under  
 - irrigation conditions and highly-  
 - mineralised alluvial-meadow soils  
 of forest origin, strongly  
 mineralized, low in humus content.  
 - The predecessor was alfalfa;  
 every hybrid was sown in 6 lines.  
 4 The experiment was set in 4  
 replications of 20 m<sup>2</sup>, as 10 m<sup>2</sup> of  
 - them were guards. To avoid the  
 - influence of the adjacent hybrids,  
 from each replication were  
 . harvested the middle 4 rows.  
 - Manual removal of the corn grain  
 - was performed. Moisture content  
 . of grain was determined by  
 - electronic hygrometer. On both  
 - sides of the experiment we sowed  
 one corn planter for security and  
 - for front and back guard we left the  
 first and the last 5 plants of each  
 - row.  
 - The following indicators were  
 - observed: moisture at harvest in  
 percentage, which was measured  
 repeatedly on each replication in  
 - order to avoid inaccuracies; grain  
 yield in kilograms per decare,  
 which was recalculated to a  
 standard moisture for each hybrid  
 in each year of the research and  
 - analysis of variance was  
 conducted; time of black spot  
 occurrence, duration of periods  
 - germination - tasseling, sprouting -  
 - silk emergence and germination -  
 - maturity in days. During the  
 - vegetation the attacks by diseases  
 and corn stalk-borer, lodging  
 - before harvesting in percentages,



19.06.2014

– 22.06.

3

2015

(1-2  
)

and wet weather. Then there was  
- torrential rain that generally  
- continued throughout the growing  
- season. On 19.06.2014 there was  
- a strong hail storm which almost  
- completely destroyed the plants.  
As soon as possible – on 22.06.  
- we performed foliar feeding with  
Laktofol O, and after another three  
days we nourished with ammonium  
nitrate. In the summer again there  
was also hail, but it did not cause  
serious damages on the plants.

- Due to constant rain, harvesting of  
the experiment was carried out in  
early October despite the very  
early maturing of hybrids.

In 2015, we sow in the  
beginning of May. The weather  
- was cool and rainy, which affected  
- the velocity of germination. In the  
summer there were extremely high  
temperatures, but they did not  
influence the grain yield because  
- they were not at the time of  
determining the cob size (1-2  
- weeks before silking). We  
maintained optimum moisture  
- content by sprinkling the plants  
- three times. At the end of  
September there were heavy rain  
showers which obstructed the  
harvesting and as a consequence  
it was late – in early October.

- The duration of the  
vegetation period is one of the  
main indicators that determine  
which hybrids should be grown in a  
- certain area. The results of the  
- observations are shown in Table 1.

1.

2 | We recorded data in 2 sub-periods:  
 - growing - tasseling, growing -  
 - silking and full vegetation: growing-  
 : ripening.

1.  
**Table 1. Duration of vegetation period, days**

Indicators:	Germination - tasseling, days				Germination - silking, days				Germination - ripening, days			
	2013	2014	2015	Average	2013	2014	2015	Average	2013	2014	2015	Average
<b>Hybrids</b>												
<b>Year</b>												
<b>9400</b>	59	67	63	<b>63</b>	63	69	66	<b>66</b>	109	115	113	<b>112</b>
<b>9175</b>	59	66	64	<b>63</b>	63	68	66	<b>66</b>	108	114	112	<b>111</b>
<b>9578</b>	64	67	65	<b>65</b>	71	72	72	<b>72</b>	107	115	113	<b>112</b>
<b>9528</b>	64	69	67	<b>67</b>	71	72	71	<b>71</b>	110	116	116	<b>114</b>
<b>9494</b>	63	67	65	<b>65</b>	69	71	70	<b>70</b>	111	116	114	<b>114</b>
<b>Average:</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>114</b>	

2013 . – 62 ,  
 – 67  
 65 , . .  
 9400 9175,

– The first sub-period –  
 - germination - tasseling should be  
 - recorded because the pollen  
 dispersion and the silk occurrence  
 are from the most critical period in  
 the growth and development of the  
 crop in relation to the potential for  
 grain yield. It occurred at the  
 earliest in 2013 – only after 62  
 days, during the next year it was  
 the longest – 67 days and during  
 the last year of the experiment it  
 was 65 days, i.e. of interim  
 duration. In all three years the  
 tasseling started in the standard  
 P9400 and P9175, which are  
 equal in relation to this indicator.  
 The longest duration was



	9528	-	2	5	.
					-
	9400		9175		.
			,	9578	-
9494			,	-	.
	9528.				-
			,	-	.
					-
					.
					-
					.
					-
	-		67	,	.
					-
	, 71	,			.
					-
					.
	2015	.			-
				69	.
				-	.
				9400	.
9175	-	69	,		-
9578	9528,				.
				72	-
					.
				9494	-
					.

observed in P9528 – from 2 to 5 days. The other two hybrids are practically equal and have intermediate results in comparison with the standard. As an average for the period of study, P9400 and P9175 have equal duration, P9578 and P9494 have also the same duration, and P9528 has the longest ripening.

Climatic conditions during the emergence of silks and especially humidity are of great importance for pollination, fertilization, and hence for grain formation and obtaining high yields. The strong stress at this time may result in the greatest loss of grain.

Low temperatures and wet weather delayed the pollen dispersal and the warm dry weather accelerates it. This is the reason to monitor this indicator. The earliest phase occurred in the first year – as an average for 67 days; the longest duration is recorded in the second studied year – 71 days, due to specific weather conditions and leaf damages due to hail. In 2015, the duration was intermediate and lasted for an average of 69 days.

In all three studied years, the shortest stage was observed again in P9400 and P9175 – only 69 days, followed by P9578 and P9528, which also equalized and the corn silk occurred 72 days after germination, while in P9494 it was intermediate. The silking

9528 - , , .  
 , 9578, -  
 9400 9175. -  
 - 3-4 ,  
 2014 . -  
 , 1-2  
 , 6  
 - 9494  
 5 .  
 2015 . -  
 , ,  
 ,  
 . - 9175,

- started later in the last hybrid, in contrast with the previous sub-period, where P9528 was the latest. Apparently this is a specific feature.

- The duration of the  
 - vegetation period germination-  
 - ripening is presented in the last part of the table. It can be seen that in the first year the earliest ripening was determined in P9578, probably due to the fastest loss of moisture from the grain, followed by P9400 and P9175. The last two hybrids also differed by one day, but compared to the earliest hybrid, the difference was within the range of 3-4 days, which may result in doubts about their place in the same group.

- In 2014 there was frequent rainfall and cooler weather, including the period after sowing, which reduced the differences in the length of vegetation to only 1-2 days, which is within the permissible limits and virtually all corn hybrids are equal in relation to this indicator as they have a 6-day delay in comparison with the first studied year; only in P9494 the duration was 5 days.

- In 2015 after sowing the temperatures were lower, which resulted in delayed germination, followed by strong warming and during ripening and before harvesting there were also rainfall which prolonged the vegetation period of all hybrids, but not as much as in the previous year. The earliest ripening was observed in

9400 9578,  
 9494 -  
 4 - 9528,  
 . -  
 .  
 1-3 , - ,  
 : 300-399. ,  
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 30-20%,  
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 . .  
 2,  
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P9175, equal to P940 and P9578,  
 while P9494 had a 2-day delay.  
 The latest ripening was  
 determined in P9528, which had a  
 4-day prolonged duration of period  
 germination - ripening.

For the studied three-year  
 period the differences in this  
 indicator between hybrids  
 throughout the years lead to a  
 certain change – they are only 1-3  
 days, which indicates that all  
 hybrids belong to the same group  
 of precocity, namely: FAO 300-399

The humidity measured at  
 the time of harvesting is another  
 important indicator determining the  
 duration of the vegetation period,  
 although it can be influenced to  
 some extent by the presence of a  
 rainfall. The timing of the harvest  
 is in accordance with the ripening  
 of the standard for the respective  
 group, because at the occurrence  
 of black spot, the moisture content  
 of grain is between 30-20%, which  
 is specific for each hybrid, i.e. corn  
 still has a relatively high moisture  
 content for our conditions. The  
 results of the measurements are  
 given in Table 2, together with the  
 yield of grain.

2. , kg/da , %  
**Table 2. Grain yield, kg/da and moisture at harvest, %**

Indicators:	Grain yield, kg/da				Moisture at harvest, %			
	2013	2014	2015	Average	2013	2014	2015	Average
<b>Hybrids</b>								
<b>Year</b>								
<b>9400</b>	1344	1160	1149	<b>1218</b>	18,5	18,6	19,3	<b>18,8</b>
<b>9175</b>	1264	995	1100	<b>1120</b>	15,8	16,5	19,0	<b>17,1</b>
<b>9578</b>	1076	846	946	<b>956</b>	18,5	18,5	19,1	<b>18,7</b>
<b>9528</b>	1305	1096	972	<b>1124</b>	18,5	23,0	19,5	<b>20,3</b>
<b>9494</b>	1205	933	1086	<b>1075</b>	19,1	24,6	20,5	<b>21,4</b>
<b>Average:</b>	<b>1239</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>1051</b>		<b>18,1</b>	<b>20,2</b>	<b>19,5</b>	

GD 5% 46,55 42,54 37,91  
 GD 1% 61,82 58,49 50,24  
 GD 0,1% 80,19 73,28 65,17

2015 . -  
 9175,  
 18,1% .  
 9494 - ,  
 0,6%.  
 , 2014 .  
 9175 -  
 , -  
 , -  
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 .  
 2%  
 . 9528 9494 -  
 4,5 5,1% -  
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In 2015 the lowest humidity was determined in P9175, and the standard and the other two hybrids had 18.1% moisture content of the grain. The moisture content in P9494 was higher, but only by 0.6%.

In the following 2014 P9175 had the least moisture content of the grain, which is considered to be its specific characteristic, but with the other hybrids the variation is greater and the differences are substantial. As noted above, that year was very rainy, which also affected the studied indicator. The grain of the first and third hybrid had uniform moisture content, 2% more than that of the first hybrid. P9528 and P9494 significantly dominated the other hybrids the moisture content was 4.5 and 5.1% higher. This was due to the peculiarities of the hybrids.

9400,	9175,	9578	9528
0,3%,	-		9494
1,0-1,5%	-	.	
		,	-
	9175,		1,7%
9400	9578,	3,2%	-
	9528		4,3%
	9494.		
2014	2015	.	
		,	
		,	
"		"	-
		,	
		.	
		-	
	2.		
		-	
	1344 kg/da,		
9528	-	1305 kg/da	
9175	1264 kg/da.	9494	
	1205 kg/da	-	
		9578	-
	1076 kg/da.		
	3		
	1239 kg/da.		

During the last year P9400, 9175, 9578 and 9528 were equal in relation to the studied indicator—the difference was only 0.3%, but the grain of P9494 had 1.0-1.5% higher moisture content.

On average, for the studied period it can be seen that the most dry grain at the time of harvesting was determined in P9175, on average by 1.7% less than that of the standard P9400 and P9578, 3.2% below the moisture content of P9528 and 4.3 % below the moisture content of the hybrid P9494. The reason for the high moisture content at the time of harvesting was the rainfall in 2014 and 2015.

In conclusion, it can be noted that the climatic conditions in the region of Vrazhdebna Training and Experimental Field Centre are not very suitable for harvesting corn in September and October, which is another reason to grow early hybrids.

The yield of grain is shown in Table 2. During the first year of experiment setting the standard had the highest yield – 1344 kg/da were harvested, followed by P9528 – 1305 kg/da and P9175 with 1264 kg/da. From P9494 were harvested 1205 kg/da and the lowest yields were from P9578 – only 1076 kg/da. The differences between the results for the standard and the other three hybrids were determined. On average, 1239 kg/da were harvested during that year. The



1120 kg/da.	1124
9494 –	
1075 kg/da	-
9578 –	
956 kg/da.	
	( 3)
	3-5%

yield, but during the last year more grain was harvested which equaled the hybrid with the previous one – by 1124 and 1120 kg/da respectively. On the penultimate place was P9494 – with a yield of 1075 kg/da and again the least harvested grain was determined for P9578 – only 956 kg/da.

During the experiment, there was an attack by ustilago under field conditions (Table 3) and lodging was not reported. The attack by a corn borer averaged 3-5% in all hybrids, but this had no impact on the yield.

3.

**Table 3. Attack of Ustilago, European corn borer and Lodging before harvest, %**

Indicators:	Assault under field conditions by:		Lodging before harvest, %
	Ustilago zeae, %	Ostrinia nubilalis, %	
9400	marks	3-5%	no
9175	C marks	3-5%	no
9578	C marks	3-5%	no
9528	C marks	3-5%	no
9494	C marks	3-5%	no
Average:	C marks	3-5%	

**CONCLUSIONS**

The shortest vegetation period and the lowest moisture content at the time of harvesting

9175, 9400  
 9578,  
 -  
 -  
 -  
 9175  
 9528.

grain had the hybrids P9175, P9400 and P 9578, which virtually equalled in relation to these indicators.

The highest yield was harvested from the standard variety, which had the shortest vegetation and lowest moisture content of grain, followed by the hybrids P9175 and 9528.

Over the years of the study no attacks by ustilago were reported and the corn borer did not affect the grain yield.

No lodging before harvesting was reported during the studied period.

In the region of Sofia field it is cost-effective to grow corn for grain, which is a good precondition for the resumption of livestock farming in this part of the country.

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