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Seed production of alfalfa cultivar Dara in conditions of biological agriculture

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SUMMARY

The aim of this study is to identify opportunities for seed production of organic alfalfa seeds. The field experiment is displayed with a cultivar Dara, resistant to fusarium and lucerne seed chalcid. The experimental work was conducted in the 2011-2014 period, on the soil subtype slightly leached chernozem, without irrigation. The trial was laid out by the split plot method with four repetitions of the variants and a size of 15 m² of harvest plot. Studied eight variants (three at inter-row spacing 12,5 cm and five at spacing 37,5 cm) and are established seed yield and structural elements of production in growing alfalfa without the use of fertilizers and pesticides and conventional.

The results show that in inter-row spacing 37,5 cm crops has been reported a greater length of the stems, a higher number of inflorescences per stem and greater number of seeds per pod. Best values of seed yield performing stand crops grown in spacing 37,5 cm and treated with "Ecofil P", as well as those in conventional technology.

37,5 cm

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- In terms of biological agriculture seed production of alfalfa cv. Dara need to be made in inter-row spacing 37,5 cm with a single treatment with bio preparation "Ecofil P" at phase budding-early flowering.

- It has been found that it is possible production of seeds of alfalfa in terms of organic farming. An important factor in organic seed production of alfalfa is the use of a variety of complex resistance to diseases and pests.

Keywords: biological agriculture, alfalfa, inter-row spacing, seeds, cultivar

2014-2020 .

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(1, , 2014).

1990 .

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20%

(, 2003).

INTRODUCTION

Biological agriculture is an important policy priority for agriculture in Bulgaria and one of the highlights of the Common Agricultural Policy for the period 2014-2020.

- Promoting the farmers to transition to or maintenance of biological agriculture contributes to both environmental protections – strengthening agro-ecosystems for biodiversity conservation, for production of healthy foods have a social effect – creating employment and more jobs compared to conventional agriculture (Ordinance 1, MAF, 2014).

- From the beginning of 1990 global markets associated with organic farming increased by 20% each year (Lukyyanova, 2003). The search for new active factors

Smith, 1987). (Baker and Smith, 1987). impact on plant productivity is a major trend in world agriculture (Baker and Smith, 1987).

(Balezentiene and Sampietro, 2009; Nickel, 1982). Providing free of chemical contamination of food is based on the health status of the population inhabiting all countries and continents (Kuleva and Kuznetsov, 2004; Balezentiene and Sampietro, 2009; Nickel, 1982).

(Kalinin, 1984; Kalashnikov and Kovalev, 1995; Karin and Berova, 2001). One way to achieve the goal is through the management and regulation of life processes of plants without the use of chemical compounds (Kalinin, 1984; Kalashnikov and Kovalev, 1995; Karin and Berova, 2001). At this stage, our efforts are aimed primarily at learning the elements set out in the definition of "biological agriculture" in alfalfa cultivar "Dara". Alfalfa has a leading role in forage production in our country. It is due to the large productive opportunities.

(Radeva et al., 2009). Protein harvested from this crop is relatively low cost and it has a high nutritional value (Radeva et al., 2009).

The aim of the experiment is to identify opportunities for seed production of biological alfalfa seeds cultivar Dara.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted during the period 2011-2014 in

the second experimental field in Institute of Forage Crops with alfalfa cv. Dara. The variety has a high vigor, persistence and resistance to fusarium and lucerne chalcid (Certificate 10590-description). The study was conducted on the soil subtype slightly leached chernozem, without irrigation. It used the split plot method with four repetitions of the variants and a size of 15 m² of harvest plot.

15 m².
: /

12,5 cm (1 – ; 2 – ; 3 – ”); / 37,5 cm (4 B/ inter-row spacing 37,5 cm (variant 4 control – a conventional technology, variant 5 – without chemical and physical activity; variant 6 – only 1-2 cultivation of rows; variant 7 – BAS treatment of organic origin – "Ecofil P"; variant 8– treatment of organic origin – "Ecofil P" + 1-2 cultivation of rows).

Alfalfa of control options is grown on conventional technology (Radeva et al. 2009). Treatment with bio preparation "Ecofil P" (bio insecticide) is performed in phenophase budding - beginning of flowering at a dose of 3,5 l/da. Hilling is performed after harvesting of the first cut. Seed

(kg/da).
 :
 (cm),
 ,
 ,
 1000
 STATGRAPHYCS plus
 for Windows.

- harvesting was carried out after the first year of the second growth with miniature plot harvester.
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- They were reported yield of cleaned seeds (kg/da) by year and average for the period. Structural analysis of seed yield indicators include: stem length (cm), number of inflorescences per stem, number of pods per stem, number of seeds per pod, weight of 1000 seeds.
- The data were processed with the software STATGRAPHYCS plus for Windows.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.
 ,
 12,5 cm
 (75,5 cm)
 1
 -
 (72 cm).
 37,5 cm
 79
 cm, . . . 7,5% - ,
 12,5 cm.
 (83 cm
 84 cm)
 8, 5 6.
 4 4,4% 6,3%.

The results of the structural analysis of seed yield are presented in Table 1. With respect to the stem length data show that inter-row spacing 12,5 cm longest stems (75,5 cm) were recorded in plants variant 1 grown on conventional technology. In crop grown without chemical and physical activity, stem length is the smallest (72 cm). Plants grown in the variants at inter-row spacing 37,5 cm with longer stems, an average of 79 cm, i.e. with 7,5% longer than that of inter-row spaced 12,5 cm. The highest values (between 83 cm and 84 cm) on this indicator are variants 8, 5 and 6. The plants in these variants are higher, as the deviation from the control variant 4 is from 4,4% to 6,3%.

1.

(2012-2014 .)

Table 1. Structural elements of seed yield of alfalfa cultivar Dara average for the period (2012-2014) depending on the applied agronomic techniques

Variants	Length of stems (cm)		Number of inflorescences per stem		Number of pods per stem		Number of seeds per pod		1000 seed weight	
	%	% to var.4	%	% to var.4	%	% to var.4	%	% to var.4	%	% to var.4
-	12,5 cm / A - inter-row spacing 12,5 cm									
1-1-control	75,5	95,6	11,6	96,7	77,1	99,2	4,8	96,0	2,19	100,0
2	72,0	91,1	10,3	85,8	70,3	90,5	4,7	94,0	2,15	98,2
3	73,0	92,4	10,3	85,8	73,0	94,0	4,7	94,0	2,12	96,8
/average	73,5	-	10,7	-	73,5	-	4,7	-	2,15	-
-	37,5 cm / B - inter-row spacing 37,5 cm									
4-1-control	79,0	100,0	12,0	100,0	77,7	100,0	5,0	100,0	2,19	100,0
5	83,5	105,7	11,2	93,3	73,0	94,0	4,9	98,0	2,08	95,0
6	82,5	104,4	11,7	97,5	77,7	100,0	5,0	100,0	2,17	99,1
7	80,0	101,3	12,3	102,5	78,7	101,3	5,1	102,0	2,22	101,4
8	84,0	106,3	12,7	105,8	73,3	94,3	4,9	98,0	2,18	99,5
/average	79,0	-	12,0	-	76,1	-	5,0	-	2,17	-

- 12,5 cm, (11,6) (2 3) 10,3 37,5 cm (12) 8

A similar trend is observed in number of inflorescences per stem. In inter-row spacing 12,5 cm, control version features a higher value (11,6) compared to the other two variants (2 and 3) of the same group, respectively with 10,3 number. The inflorescences per stem at inter-row spacing 37,5 cm generally more (an average of 12).
- The results showed that plants of variant 8 with the greatest number of inflorescences per stem (with

5,8%),

5 6

1.

(1 4)

cm – .7 (78,7), .6 (77,7
.4 (37,5
2 3 – 77,7).

12,5 cm ”

37,5 cm.

7, 6 4 ()

1000

7 (”).

(5,8% over the control) immediately after it is var. 7.

Variants 5 and 6 relinquishing of control and values are similar to those of variant 1.

The data on number of pods per stem showed that in the control variants (1 and 4) there are no significant differences. The highest number of pods are registered in variants grown in inter-row spacing 37,5 cm – var. 7 (78,7), var. 6 (77,7) and var.4 (control – 77,7). Variants 2 and 3 of this indicator are the lowest values. A similar trend is reported for the number of seeds per pod. The smallest and equal number of in-between has distinguished plants grown at 12,5 cm spacing treated "Ecofil P" and these organically reared. And in this indicator higher values were found in variants grown in spacing 37,5 cm. Variants 7, 6 and 4 (in the conventional technology) have a greater number of seeds per pod compared to the other variants. They are aligned with the values and form an average of five seeds per pod.

At the weight of 1000 seeds, there was no significant difference depending on the method of alfalfa growing. A slight tendency outlines for a higher seed weight in both control variants and var. 7 (treated with "Ecofil P").

The analysis of the key

cm
37,5
4
8
2.
2. (kg/da)

elements of seed yield shows that the cultivation of alfalfa in inter-row spacing 37,5 cm reported higher values in all studied indicators. The plants of variants from 4 to 8 are with a greater length of the stems, a higher number of inflorescences per stem and a larger number of seeds per pod.

Seed yield per year and average for the period of the study are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Cleaned seeds yields (kg/da) of alfalfa cultivar Dara depending on the applied agronomic techniques per year and the average for the period

Variants	2012	2013	2014	Average	% to var.4	
					A- var.1	B- var.4
- 12,5 cm / A - inter-row spacing 12,5 cm						
1 - Variant 1 - control	22,0 ^{ABC}	34,0 ^A	24,8 ^B	26,93	100,00	104,38
2 / Variant 2	20,0 ^{BC}	23,0 ^{CD}	22,2 ^C	21,73	80,69	84,22
3 / Variant 3	17,0 ^C	24,0 ^C	23,1 ^C	21,37	79,35	82,83
/ Average per A	19,7	27,0	23,4	23,36	-	-
- 37,5 cm / B - inter-row spacing 37,5 cm						
4 - Variant 4 - control	21,0 ^{ABC}	29,0 ^B	27,4 ^A	25,80	100,00	100,00
5 / Variant 5	26,0 ^{ABC}	23,0 ^{CD}	23,1 ^C	24,03	93,14	93,14
6 / Variant 6	23,0 ^{ABC}	24,0 ^C	22,5 ^C	23,17	89,81	89,81
7 / Variant 7	30,0 ^A	29,0 ^B	23,4 ^C	27,47	106,47	106,47
8 / Variant 8	30,0 ^A	20,0 ^D	24,6 ^B	24,87	96,40	96,40
/ Average per B	26,0	25,0	24,2	25,07	-	-
St. error	2,260	0,722	0,535			
LSD 0,05% -	9,876 kg/da	3,154 kg/da	1,562 kg/da			

cm
2012 . () ,

12,5 It is evident that the inter-row spacing 12,5 cm in 2012 (first year of seed harvesting) of the crop

kg/da

22,0

2,0 kg/da .2

5,0 kg/da . 3.

37,5 cm (21,0 kg/da)

(. 6). 30,0 kg/da

2 3.

7 8,

12,5 cm (34,0 kg/da).

11,0 kg/da . 2

10,0 kg/da . 3.

grown on conventional technology received 22 kg/da cleaned seeds. In this group the control variant is higher yield respectively 2,0 kg/da and 5,0 kg/da than those at var. 2 and var. 3. It can be assumed that when growing in conventional technology resulting yield is economically justified compared derived from the crop treated with Bio preparation "Ecofil P". Compared, however, with the crop grown organically, the control proved uneconomic.

When the seed set at inter-row spacing 37,5 cm at low yield (21,0 kg/da) is derived from a crop grown in the conventional technology, followed by two cultivation (var. 6). Maximum yield of 30,0 kg/da was picked up by the seventh and eighth variants. These yields are mathematically very well proven to variants 2 and 3. From an economic point of view, variant 7 proved more effective than variant 8 because there is no cultivation of rows.

In the second year results differ previous year. At crop grown in row spacing 12,5 cm and conventional technology has produced the highest yield (34,0 kg/da). The value of the control variant is higher by 11,0 kg/da and 10,0 kg/da, the differences in yield are supported by those of the var. 2 and var. 3. The comparison shows that the yield derived from a crop grown in technology is cost-

cm . 37,5
 . - (20,0 kg/da)
 8, (23,0 kg/da).
 (29,0 kg/da)
 7 4.
 (24,8 kg/da)
 ,
 ,
 37,5 cm
 - 27,4 kg/da
 - 22,5 kg/da
 6.
 .
 12,5 cm
 26,93 kg/da.
 20,65% 19,31% -
 , ,
 () . ()
 37,5 cm)

effective compared to those received by the other two variants. At inter-row spacing 37,5 cm results are almost similar. The lowest yield (20,0 kg/da) was picked up by variant 8, followed by the application of biological method of cultivation (23,0 kg/da). Maximum yields cleaned seeds (29,0 kg/da) were received by variant 7 and 4.

During the third year in experimental in group A higher seed yield (24,8 kg/da) was obtained from the crop grown on conventional technology. Although the control variant is higher yield than the other two types in the group, the difference is negligible.

At inter-row spacing 37,5 cm maximum yield - 27,4 kg/da picked up by the control variant, the lowest - 22,5 kg/da of the crop in variant 6. Other variants occupy an intermediate position.

Average for the study period results show a clear advantage of some of the variants depending on the way of growing. At inter-row spacing 12.5 cm stands out variants grown under conventional technology in a yield of 26,93 kg/da. The same is 20,65% and 19,31% higher yield than crops grown by treatment with "Ecofil P" and no chemical and physical activity (biological).

In group B (inter-row spacing 37,5 cm) with the highest seed yield

-
 ” (27,47 kg/da),
 25,80 kg/da.
 8
 6.
 37,5 cm
 ()
 4,38%.
 37,5 cm
 ” .
 ,
 ,
 ,
 ,

- differs variants treated with "Ecofil
 - P" (27,47 kg/da), followed by crop
 - grown on conventional technology,
 - respectively 25,80 kg/da.

The other crops from this group
 are a lower seed yield in the range
 of 3,60% in the variant 8 to
 10,19% in the variant 6.

The experiment was
 conducted in order to produce
 seeds. Universal control crops all
 studied variants taken this up with
 inter-row spacing 37,5 cm and
 grown under conventional
 technology. The data shows that
 two variants (seventh and first)
 stand out and exceed the control
 with 6,47% and 4,38%. From the
 analysis follows that, the seed
 production of alfalfa cultivar Dara
 should be done at inter-row
 spacing 37,5 cm with a single
 treatment of a crop with bio
 preparation "Ecofil P".

According to international
 standards used in organic farming
 seeds and seedlings must be
 organically produced.

The survey results show that the
 main forage crop – alfalfa can be
 accomplished stand in terms of
 biological agriculture.

It is important to note that the
 study was conducted with alfalfa
 variety, which is characterized by
 resistance to fusarium and lucerne
 chalcid. That is why we believe in
 organic seed production is

(2009),

- important variety to be distinguished by comprehensive sustainability of basic culture diseases and pests.
- Moreover, according to Bojanova and Detchev (2009), the creation of suitable varieties and study of the selected varieties already on the conditions of organic agriculture is one of the key factors for the success of this system of agriculture.

CONCLUSIONS

- It has been found that it is possible seed production of alfalfa in terms of biological agriculture.
- An important factor in organic seed production of alfalfa is the use of a variety of complex resistance to diseases and pests.

37,5 cm

- In inter-row spacing 37,5 cm was reported a greater length of the stems, a higher number of inflorescences per stem and greater number of seeds per pod.

37,5 cm

- Best values of seed yield performing stand crops grown in spacing 37,5 cm and treated with "Ecofil P", as well as those in conventional technology.

37,5 cm

- In terms of biological agriculture seed production of alfalfa cv. Dara need to be made in inter-row spacing 37,5 cm with a single treatment with bio preparation "Ecofil P" at phase budding-early flowering.

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Chemical composition and palatability of main weeds in agrocenoses of forage crops

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SUMMARY

In organic production of forages the share of weeds is significant, but their nutritional qualities are weakly studied. The aim of research was to be compared the chemical composition and palatability of some commonly found weeds in agrocenoses of fodder crops, grown in conditions of organic farming. It was established that the studied weeds *Portulaca oleracea*, *Lamium purpureum*, *Erigeron canadense*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Amaranthus ssp.* and *Setaria ssp.* are edible.

With the most favourable chemical composition (including crude protein, crude fibre, crude fat and ash) were characterized *P. oleracea*, *L. purpureum*, *E. canadense* and *Amaranthus ssp.*

The highest palatability of green mass had *E. canadense*, *L. purpureum*, *P. oleracea* and *S. halepense*. The drying of weeds changed their palatability as the ranking was in the followed order: *Amaranthus ssp.* (31.23%), *L. purpureum* (22.13%), *E. canadense* (21.70%), *S. halepense* (12.62%), *Setaria ssp.* (9.99%), *P. oleracea* (2.33%). The palatability of hay from *Amaranthus ssp.*

Amaranthus ssp. (24.13%)
Medicago sativa (22.73%) –
Medicago sativa

(24.13%) was comparable with the palatability of the hay from *Medicago sativa* (22.73%) – a fact established also in other previous studies. *Medicago sativa* can be accepted as a standard in determining the palatability of weeds.

Key words: weeds, palatability, chemical composition

INTRODUCTION

Patriquin et al. (1988) Clemens et al. (1994)

In conditions of organic farming weeds are considered as natural and an integral part of agrophytocenoses. According to Patriquin et al. (1988) and Clemens et al. (1994) in organic farming conditions and at relatively not so high density, the weeds can play a positive role under the form of assured food and habitat for the common beneficial species in agrobiocenoses. Although weeds are often thought to be harmful, a large number of them are consumed by animals as fodder and by humans as green vegetables and herbal medicines.

et al., 2013).

(Khan

Yaqoob (2005)

Younas &

Before recommending the utilization of weeds as supplemental feeding of animals, there is an urgent need to explore their nutritional qualities (Khan et al., 2013). In support of this are the results of researches of Younas & Yaqoob (2005) which showed that weeds could play a significant role in livestock if their chemical composition is known in order to formulate their nutritional value as fodder.

	<p>According to the authors nowadays the collection and use of the weeds was carried out on the basis of their formed biomass and not on their nutritional value. Therefore the studies should be directed to those of them that provide balanced nutrition in order to be popularized among the farming community. According to Younas & Yaqoob (2005) the use of weeds as fodder would contribute to maintenance of low density of weeds associations due to the fact that the weeds are collected before forming seeds.</p>
<p>Younas & Yaqoob (2005)</p> <p>1981). Benkov (1981)</p> <p>ssp., Plantago ssp., Amaranthus ssp.)</p> <p>(<i>Cirsium ssp.</i>, <i>Sinapis ssp.</i>)</p>	<p>- the studies should be directed to those of them that provide balanced nutrition in order to be popularized among the farming community. According to Younas & Yaqoob (2005) the use of weeds as fodder would contribute to maintenance of low density of weeds associations due to the fact that the weeds are collected before forming seeds.</p> <p>The issue of the importance of weed species in regard to their nutrition value is debatable (Benkov, 1981). According to Clapp (1961), Benkov (1981) and Kirilov (1990) some weeds species (Taraxacum ssp., Plantago ssp., Amaranthus ssp.) are distinguished with high content of protein, minerals and some anti-nutritional substances. Other species (<i>Cirsium ssp.</i>, <i>Sinapis ssp.</i>) are avoided by the animals.</p>
<p>(Dora et al., 2008),</p> <p>(Khan et al., 2013). Khan et al. (2013)</p>	<p>- Modern studies showed that a significant part of weeds have good-quality as forage plants and they meet the recommended values in the rations of animals (Dora et al., 2008), but unfortunately there is little published data for the nutritive value of weed species (Khan et al., 2013). Khan et al. (2013) defined the grassy weeds as an important source of fibres</p>

and the broadleaf weeds – as source of protein and minerals. According to Kalita et al. (2007) and Dora et al. (2008) many weeds contained high amounts of mineral elements required for healthy growth and development of animals. Mineral deficiencies are frequently encountered in livestock and in this regard some weeds are suitable for eliminating the consequences of this deficiency. Longstanding researches of Khan et al. (2009, 2012, 2013) showed that a large part of the most widespread weeds worldwide (*Cynodon dactylon*, *Chenopodium album*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Convolvulus arvensis*, *Rumex crispus*, *Amaranthus ssp.*, *Portulaca oleracea*) are species with favourable chemical composition and are able to provide balanced nutrition of animals.

The nutritional value of a fodder is a concept which covers many indicators including chemical composition, digestibility, consumption, energy and protein value. There are dependencies among most of the indicators and by the values of an indicator it can be deduced for other quality indicators such as energy and protein nutrition or consumption of the fodder (Dulphy and Demarquilly, 1994; Kirilov, 2010). By existing positive correlation between the quantity of consumed feed during the main meal after, the first after laying the fodder,

(Dulphy, 1971; Kirilov, 1988)

(Gillet et al., 1983).

(Abaye et al., 2009).

and the total consumed fodder per day (Dulphy, 1971; Kirilov, 1988) can be judged for its total consumption. This dependence can be used in determination and comparison of palatability of fodder between them (Gillet et al., 1983). Palatability is a key factor in determining the quality of weeds since the nutritional value (high or low) is irrelevant if animals do not consume weeds species (Abaye et al., 2009).

The aim of study was to be compared the chemical composition and palatability of some commonly found weeds in agrocenoses of fodder crops in conditions of organic farming.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(*Sorghum halepense* L.),
 (*Amaranthus* ssp.),
 (*Setaria* ssp.), (*Portulaca oleracea* L.),
 (*Lamium purpureum* L.)
 (*Erigeron canadense* L.).

in vivo

Object of research were some of the main weeds in the agrocenoses of fodders crops in the region of Pleven: johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense* L.), amaranth (*Amaranthus* ssp.), setaria (*Setaria* ssp.), sedum (*Portulaca oleracea* L.), dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum* L.) and canadian fleabane (*Erigeron canadense* L.). Of each species at stage of earing of grassy weeds and budding of broadleaf weeds was mown sufficient amount of green mass for conducting of in vivo experiments with rams of the Pleven Blackhead Sheep breed.

One part of the biomass was used as a fresh mass and another part

6. (), (), (), (), (), (), (AOAC, 2010).

Of each fodder were taken samples for chemical analysis (crude protein (CP), crude fiber (CFb), ash, crude fat (CF) nitrogen free extracts (NFE)) which was determined by the generally accepted methods (AOAC, 2010) in Institute of Forage Crops.

1 (Khan et al., 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Table 1 is presented the chemical composition of green mass and hay from the weeds, with which is conducted the experiment. The protein is an essential nutrient necessary for the proper nutrition of all animals (Khan et al., 2013). All animals require protein for building and recovery of the body tissues, for the normal function of different enzymes, hormones, water balancing, the nutrient transport as well as muscle contractions (Khan et al., 2012).

(Khan et al., 2012). Roger et al. (2005), *P. oleracea* (20.56%), *E. canadense* (13.23%) *L. purpureum* (13.15%),

Roger et al. (2005) reported that the protein deficiency is the main factor responsible for the nutritional pathology. The amount of crude protein in the different weed species in conditions of the present experiment ranged in wide limits. With the highest protein content in green mass was distinguished *P. oleracea* (20.56%), followed by *E. canadense* (13.23%) and *L. purpureum* (13.15%), which is a prerequisite for their high nutritional value, and with the lowest content was *Setaria ssp.*

(7.93%). *Setaria* ssp. (7.93%). Intermediate position occupied by *Amaranthus* ssp. and *S. halepense* (9.39%).
Amaranthus ssp. (10.85%)
S. halepense (9.39%).

1. (), %
Table 1. Chemical composition of weeds (green mass and hay), %

/Species	/CP	/CFb	/CF	/Ash	/NFE
/ Green mass					
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	9.39	28.12	1.94	7.09	53.46
<i>Amaranthus</i> ssp.	10.85	19.67	2.23	13.98	53.27
<i>Setaria</i> ssp.	7.93	27.87	1.72	13.21	49.27
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	20.56	15.72	4.14	20.68	38.91
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	13.15	21.57	3.14	13.55	48.59
<i>Erigeron canadense</i>	13.23	22.98	3.25	11.77	48.77
/ Hay					
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	16.92	27.53	1.41	8.14	46.00
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	6.64	29.05	1.98	6.91	55.42
<i>Amaranthus</i> ssp.	12.54	20.63	1.71	13.07	52.05
<i>Setaria</i> ssp.	13.32	22.35	3.08	13.06	48.19
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	18.34	14.57	3.48	23.23	40.38
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	18.47	16.83	2.92	14.84	46.94
<i>Erigeron canadense</i>	13.76	21.57	2.49	11.21	50.97

70%
(Khan et al., 2013).
15.72
28.12%,
S. halepense 28.12
Setaria ssp. (27.87%).
(Khan et al., 2013).

Fiber composition of fodders is essential because the process of fermentation in the rumen converts fibers into fatty acids, which provide more than 70% of the energy of ruminants (Khan et al., 2013).
Our results showed that the content of crude fibers ranged from 15.72 to 28.12%, as maximum values were established in *S. halepense* and *Setaria* ssp. (respectively 28.12 and 27.87%). The high fiber content affects feed uptake and digestibility of feed and it is strongly influenced by the stage of development of the weeds (Khan et al., 2013).

o
 (Khan et al., 2012),
 - P. oleracea
 (20.68 4.14%)
 -
 -
 - 68.6 73.5%
 .
Lamium purpureum *Amaranthus*
ssp.
Amaranthus ssp.
 Pospišil et al. (2009),
 ,
Amaranthus
ssp.
 -
 (*Sorghum bicolor* × *S. sudanense*).

: -
P. oleracea,
L. purpureum, *E.*
canadense *Amaranthus ssp.*

P. oleracea *L.*
purpureum -
 ,
 ,
 . Abaye et al.
 (2009)
 (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*,
Chenopodium album) -
 -

The ash content, which is an index of the mineral content (Khan et al., 2012), and crude fat content were the highest in *P. oleracea* (respectively 20.68 and 4.14%) as compared to the other studied weed species the exceeding was average with 68.6 and 73.5% respectively. With increased synthesis of ash and crude fat and was characterized the biomass of *Lamium purpureum* and *Amaranthus ssp.* Similar data for *Amaranthus ssp.* are reported by Pospišil et al. (2009), which also established that the above-ground biomass of the species *Amaranthus ssp* exceed the quality of this of sorghum hybrids (*Sorghum bicolor* × *S. sudanense*).

Analysis of the data regarding the chemical composition of the dry weed biomass showed trends similar to those established in regard of the green mass: with the most favorable composition was characterized *P. oleracea*, followed by *L. purpureum*, *E. canadense* and *Amaranthus ssp.* Alfalfa hay compared to hay of *P. oleracea* and *L. purpureum* was distinguished by a low nutritional value, based on a reduced content of protein, fat and ash and on increased synthesis of crude fiber. Abaye et al. (2009) also reported that some weeds (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Chenopodium album*) have nutritional value greater or equal to the high

	nutritional value of high-quality species such as alfalfa.
Abaye et al. (2009)	According to Abaye et al. (2009) the quality of a weed or fodder has no value if animals are not going to consume it. Several factors affect the palatability of the plants, including texture, leafiness, fertilization, water content, the presence of pests and chemical composition (Ball et al., 2001).
(Ball et al., 2001).	The data for palatability (preference) of weeds, determined with rams of the Pleven Blackhead Sheep breed, showed higher palatability of the green mass of <i>E. canadense</i> , <i>L. purpureum</i> , <i>P. oleracea</i> and <i>S. halepense</i> (Table 2). With low palatability were <i>Amaranthus ssp.</i> and <i>Setaria ssp.</i>
<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i>	The lower palatability of <i>Amaranthus ssp.</i> as green mass was found in our other previous studies (Kirilov and Naneva, 1988; Kirilov, 1990) and that of <i>Setaria ssp.</i> was probably due to the rough fibers on ears of the plants (http://www.agro-consultant.net/ , 2012).
<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i>	In the later stages of maturity <i>Setaria ssp.</i> can cause stomatitis (inflammation of the oral mucosa) and salivation (strong salivation) in the animals, which is why their use is recommended in earlier phenological stages.

2.

, %

Table 2. Palatability of green mass and hay of weeds, %

/Species	/Green mass		/Hay
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	16.07±3.32	(12.62)*	9.75±2.90
<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i>	9.66±1.39	(31.23)	24.13±6.86
<i>Setaria ssp.</i>	6.34±6.95	(9.99)	7.72±3.14
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	17.88±3.79	(2.33)	1.80±1.88
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	20.21±9.52	(22.13)	17.10±4.38
<i>Erigeron canadense</i>	29.84±3.57	(21.70)	16.77±8.50
<i>Medicago sativa</i>			22.73±5.06

*

in brackets are given comparative data only among weeds

<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i>	(31.23%)	-	The drying of weeds
<i>L. purpureum</i>	(22.13%)	L.	changed the palatability of studied
<i>E. canadense</i>	(21.70%)	E.	species. The hay from
<i>P. oleracea</i> ,			<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i> has a
(3-4)			significantly higher palatability
), ú			(31.23%) than the hay of other
<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i>	(24.13%)	-	weeds, followed by the hay of <i>L.</i>
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	(22.73%).		<i>purpureum</i> (22.13%) and <i>E.</i>
(Abaye et al.,			<i>canadense</i> (21.70%). It should be
2009).			noted the low palatability of dry
			mass of <i>P. oleracea</i> , which is
			probably due to the fact that the
			thick and juicy stems and leaves
			dried very long (3-4 weeks), which
			probably reduces its taste in
			comparison with those of the
			green mass. Interesting is the fact
			that the palatability of the hay from
			<i>Amaranthus ssp.</i> (24.13%) was
			comparable with the palatability of
			the hay from <i>Medicago sativa</i>
			(22.73%). Similar results were
			reported by other authors (Abaye
			et al., 2009).
			In general, the trend
			established in regard of the
			palatability of the hay is not
			following the trend with regard to
			the chemical composition of
			weeds i.e. the weeds with more
			favorable chemical composition

- respectively higher nutritional value, are not preferred by the animals in a greater extent. Further researches are needed to
- expand the spectrum of studied weed species and to determining
- their chemical composition, nutritional value and the preference of different groups of animals.

CONCLUSIONS

The conducted experiment showed that the studied weeds *Portulaca oleracea*, *Lamium purpureum*, *Erigeron canadense*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Amaranthus ssp.* and *Setaria ssp.* are edible. With the most favourable chemical composition (including crude protein, crude fibre, crude fat and ash) were characterized *P. oleracea*, *L. purpureum*, *E. canadense* and *Amaranthus ssp.*

The highest palatability of green mass had *E. canadense*, *L. purpureum*, *P. oleracea* and *S. halepense*. The drying of weeds changed their palatability as the ranking was in the followed order: *Amaranthus ssp.* (31.23%), *L. purpureum* (22.13%), *E. canadense* (21.70%), *S. halepense* (12.62%), *Setaria ssp.* (9.99%), *P. oleracea* (2.33%).

The palatability of hay from *Amaranthus ssp.* (24.13%) was comparable with the palatability of the hay from *Medicago sativa* (22.73%) – a fact established also in other previous studies.

Portulaca oleracea, *Lamium purpureum*, *Erigeron canadense*, *Sorghum halepense*, *Amaranthus ssp.* *Setaria ssp.*

(
)
P. oleracea, *L. purpureum*, *E. canadense* and *Amaranthus ssp.*

E. canadense, *L. purpureum*, *P. oleracea* and *S. halepense*.

: *Amaranthus ssp.* (31.23%), *L. purpureum* (22.13%), *E. canadense* (21.70%), *S. halepense* (12.62%), *Setaria ssp.* (9.99%), *P. oleracea* (2.33%).

Amaranthus ssp. (24.13%)

Medicago sativa (22.73%) –

Medicago sativa

Medicago sativa can be accepted as a standard in determining the palatability of weeds.

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(*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)

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Cyanogenic glycosides content according to the growth rate of Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)

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SUMMARY

2008-2010
 -
 (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) Kazitachi
 (), Vercors ()
 9 ().
 ,
 ,
 Kazitachi
 (BBCH-15)
 18.5 21.9
 cm, Vercors 9

The trials were carried out during the period 2008-2010 in the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops - Pleven with three varieties of Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) with different origins Kazitachi (Japan), Vercors (USA) and Voronezhskaya 9 (Russia).

The aim of this study was to determine the optimal height of the plants and growth stage the development on the three varieties Sudan grass for use as forage, depending on the the course of the changes in the quantitative content cyanogenic glycosides in them.

We have established that variety Kazitachi can be used as forage in growth stage 5 leaves (BBCH-15) and plant height of 18.5 to 21.9 cm, while Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 may be used to forage without the risk of intoxication of livestock in growth stage Flag leaf sheath opening (BBCH-47) to Full flowering (BBCH-63÷67) and the height plants from

(BBCH-47) (BBCH-63÷67)
 271.8 cm. 138.9
 -
 -
 - r
 Kazitachi -0.920 -0.992.
 ,
 (BBCH-15),
 Vercors 18.5 21.9 cm
 9
 BBCH-47
 BBCH-63÷67
 138.9 271.8 cm.
 :
 (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.),

138.9 to 271.8 cm. The content of cyanogenic glycosides in fresh biomass by growth stage and development of Sudan grass is very high negative correlation according dynamics of growth of culture – r ranges -0.920 to -0.992.

Variety Kazitachi can be used as forage in future breeding programs, as a donor because, low content of cyanogenic glycosides in their aboveground biomass in growth stage five leaves (BBCH-15) and plant height of 18.5 to 21.9 cm, while Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 may be used to forage without the risk of intoxication of livestock in growth stage BBCH-47 to BBCH-63÷67 and the height plants from 138.9 to 271.8 cm.

Keywords: Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.), cyanogenic glycosides, plant height

INTRODUCTION

- During the last decades in Bulgaria establish lasting changes in climatic conditions with increasing air temperatures and frequently occurring droughts during the summer season.

- These conditions are prerequisite for more intensive use of Sudan grass and Sorghum x Sudan grass hybrids in the production of forage, silage and hay during the summer depression in perennial forage grasses (Slanev et al., 2011; Smith and Federiksen, 2000; Kikindonov et al., 2008; 2015).

(, 2011;
 ., 2015; Smith and Federiksen, 2000; Kikindonov et al., 2008).
 (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.)

Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) is a annual grass. It is a adapted to low

e
,
(Kertikov,
2007; Kikindonov et al., 2013).

Vogel et al. (1987), Wheeler
(1994), Ramos et al. (1998), Sher
et al. (2002) Zahid et al. (2012)
Sorghum

(Gorashi et al., 1980; Fjell et
al., 1991; Montagner et al, 2005).

(Vough and Cassel, 2002).

(Adewusi,
1990).

Nguyen and Quintana (1979);
Kim (1987); Wheeler (1994);
Kumar and Devender (2010)

atmospheric humidity and
unpretentiousness to soil fertility
(Slanev et al., 2011; Kikindonov et
al., 2008; 2013; 2015).

According Vogel et al. (1987),
Wheeler (1994), Ramos et al.
(1998), Sher et al. (2002) and
Zahid et al. (2012) species of the
genus Sorghum may be harmful
for livestock under certain agro-
climatic and edaphic conditions,
that determine the increased
content of cyanogenic glycosides
in them.

In the early growth stages of
development the Sudan grass
contain cyanogenic glycosides,
and accumulate which can cause
toxic effects in some farming
animals (Gorashi et al., 1980; Fjell
et al., 1991; Melo, 2003;
Montagner et al., 2005). The toxic
effect is due to hydrocyanic acid
which is released in the enzymatic
hydrolysis of the glycoside (Vough
and Cassel, 2002).

Content of cyanogenic
glycosides at 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).

Nguyen et al. (1979); Kim
(1987); Wheeler et al. (1990);
Kumar and Devender (2010)
reported that with the increase of
the growing season and the

(Gleadow and Woodrow, 2002).

increase in plant height the cyanogenic glycosides content ultimately decreases. Variation in the content of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass in Sudan grass is also associated by genetic differences (Gleadow and Woodrow, 2002).

- The aim of this study was to determine the optimal height and growth stage the development of three varieties Sudan grass for use as forage, depending on the the course of the changes in the quantitative content cyanogenic glycosides in them.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2008-2010
 (43° 37' 70.80"N,
 24°45'36.34"E),
 150 200 m
 (Sorghum
 sudanense (Piper) Stapf.)
 – Kazitachi
 (), Vercors ()
 Voronejskaya 9 ()

he experimental work was conducted during the period 2008-2010 at the experimental field of the Institute of Forage Crops in Pleven, Bulgaria (43° 37' 70.80"N, 24°45'36.34"E), at 150 to 200 m altitude and weak southern slope.

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) tested in a comparative trial of 20 mutant forms (with three replications and plot size 5m²).

20 ()
 5m²).
 25
 - Aboveground biomass of the

The height of plants is determined by growth stages by the development of culture, by measuring the height of the 25 plants in four replicates for all treatments of the experiment.

(BBCH-15),
 (BBCH-17÷18),
 (BBCH-47)
 (BBCH-63÷67) (Meier,
 2001).
 -
 -
 -
 0.5-1.0 cm.
 -
 -
 -
 (mg/100 g
) Ermakov
 et al. (1987),
 (mg/100 mg)
 (1980)
 .
 (IR) -
 -
 -
 ú Ahn and
 Chung (2000).
 -
 -
 STATGRAPHICS Plus for
 Windows Ver. 2.1 Statistica Ver. 10.

available varieties Sudan grass is collected randomized from each variety in growth stage five leaves (BBCH-15), seven-eight leaves (BBCH-17÷18), Flag leaf sheath opening (BBCH-47) and Full flowering BBCH-63÷67 (Meier, 2001). No separated aboveground biomass of the available varieties Sudan grass was chopped to the length of 0.5-1.0 cm.

Samples of aboveground fresh biomass of Sudan grass varieties were analyzed in laboratory condition to determine content of cyanogenic glycosides (mg/100 g dry matter) by method of Ermakov et al. (1987) and plastid pigments content in leaves (mg/100 mg fresh weight) was determined by Zelenskii and Mogileva (1980), according growth stage of development on the plants for all treatments of the study.

The percentage of reduction (IR) of content cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of Sudan grass in growth stage from development plants was determined by the adapted formula by Ahn and Chung (2000). The collected data were analyzed using the software STATGRAPHICS Plus for Windows Ver. 2.1 Statistica Ver. 10.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(*Sorghum* (BBCH-15)
sudanense (Piper)
 Stapf.) - -

In the initial stages of development BBCH-15 of the Sudan grass (*Sorghum sudanense* (Piper) Stapf.) accumulates a

138.65 mg/100 g

29.83

41.8

86.0%

(1)

- larger amount of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass – from 29.83 to 138.65 mg/100 g of dry matter. By increasing the period of vegetation and the increase plant height, the contents of cyanogenic glycosides for all tested varieties Sudan grass reduces average of 41.8 to 86.0% for (Figure 1 and Table 1).

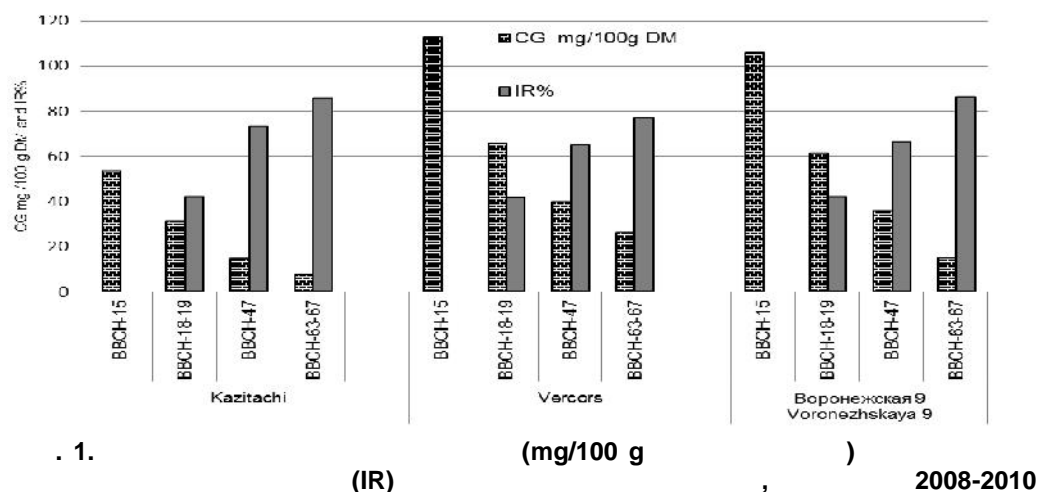


Fig.1. Content of cyanogenic glycosides (mg/100 g of dry matter) and percentage of reduction (IR) according to growth stage and development of Sudan grass, average for the 2008-2010

Legend: CG – content of cyanogenic glycosides (mg/100 g dry matter); IR – Percentage of reduction on cyanogenic glycosides according to growth stage from development of Sudan grass.

Table 1. Content of cyanogenic glycosides at Sudan grass (mg/100 g dry matter) depending on the growth stages of development

Years	Variety	/ Growth stage			
		BBCH-15	BBCH-17÷18	BBCH-47	BBCH-63÷67
2008	Kazitachi	99.04	43.22	14.41	1.80
	Vercors	129.65	61.22	39.61	23.41
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	138.65	43.22	27.01	19.23
2009	Kazitachi	31.07	30.39	26.14	21.14
	Vercors	92.94	91.60	52.85	39.39
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	112.7	98.75	49.32	12.38
2010	Kazitachi	29.83	19.19	2.46	0.00
	Vercors	116.00	44.28	26.35	15.43
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	66.28	42.16	31.00	12.79

(BBCH-17÷18)

(1).

Vercors,
Kazitachi

9

(2 3).

2.

In the earlier (BBCH-17÷18) growth stages of development of Sudan grass were identified differences in the dynamics of accumulation cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of the crop (Table 1).

The highest is the content of cyanogenic glycosides in variety Vercors, and the lowest in variety Kazitachi in all growth stages, average for the period of study. Variety Voronezhskaya 9 occupies an intermediate position, which can be explained by genetic differences, comparisons between them are made under the same agroecological conditions.

The dynamics of increase in plant height and accumulation of pigments in leaves in growth stages of development of Sudan grass varies within a narrow range and depends on the biological characteristics of varieties (Table 2 and Table 3).

Table 2. Dynamics of growth of the height of Sudan grass according to the growth stage of development of culture, cm

Years	Variety	/ Growth stage			
		BBCH-15	BBCH-17÷18	BBCH-47	BBCH-63÷67
2008	Kazitachi	17.9a	72.2ab	138.9a	205.5a
	Vercors	18.7a	77.3b	144.6a	211.6ab
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	19.5a	67.3a	142.4a	217.5b
2009	Kazitachi	18.5a	74.6a	143.5a	212.4a
	Vercors	19.1a	78.8a	147.5a	216.1ab
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	20.2a	69.6a	146.8a	224.3ab
2010	Kazitachi	21.9a	88.5a	170.3a	252.1a
	Vercors	24.0a	98.8ab	184.9b	271.8b
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	24.1a	83.1a	175.2ab	267.6b
2008 2010	Kazitachi	19.4a	78.4b	150.9a	223.3a
	Vercors	20.6a	85.0ab	159.0a	233.2a
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	21.3a	73.3a	154.8a	236.5a

a, b, LSD at 5% (P 0.05)

a, b, statistically proven differences LSD at 5% (P 0.05)

3.
2008-2010 .

Table 3. Plastid pigments content in leaves of Sudan grass average for the 2008-2010

/ Variety	, mg/100 mg Plastid pigments, mg/100 mg fresh weight		Total content
	a+b chlorophyll a+b	carotenoids	
BBCH - 15			
Kazitachi	184.0	36.0	220.0
Vercors	163.1	47.6	210.7
9/Voronezhskaya 9	185.8	36.6	222.4
BBCH - 17÷18			
Kazitachi	254.9	44.8	279.7
Vercors	189.7	47.9	237.6
9 Voronezhskaya 9	216.9	42.1	259.0
BBCH - 47			
Kazitachi	286.9	55.7	342.6
Vercors	314.7	56.6	371.3
9 Voronezhskaya 9	249.9	49.7	299.6
BBCH - 63÷67			
Kazitachi	300.1	62.6	362.6
Vercors	371.3	76.5	447.8
9 Voronezhskaya 9	293.8	58.9	352.7

(BBCH-47 - BBCH-63÷67)

+b (mg/100 g)
(r 0.759 0.856)
, - (r 0.755 0.974)
-0.518) (r -0.085

In the later growth stage (BBCH-47 and BBCH-63÷67) of development of Sudan grass, a common trend of increasing the content of plastid pigments in leaves is established.

The total content of plastid pigments in leaves (chlorophyll a+b and carotenoids) is: high in a positive correlation of growth stage of development of Sudan grass (r is from 0.759 to 0.856) and of the contents of cyanogenic glycosides in the later growth stages of development of culture (r from 0.755 to 0.974) and moderate to weak negative correlation (r from -0.085 to -0.518) on the dynamics of growth in height plants.

Statistically significant correlations between plant height

- and growth stage of development of culture and content of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass in Sudan grass varieties were established.
 - The content of cyanogenic glycosides in fresh biomass by growth stage of development of Sudan grass is very high negative correlation according dynamics of growth of culture – r ranges -0.920 to -0.992 (Table 4).
- (4). - r -0.920 -0.992
- 4.

Table 4. Relationship between plant height and dynamics of accumulation cyanogenic glycosides in three varieties Sudan grass in the early stages of their development

Years	/ Variety	$y \approx f(x)$	R ²	r	SE	P
2008	Kazitachi	$y = (10,33 - 0,045 \cdot x)^2$	0.986	-0.992	0.54	0.01
	Vercors	$y = e^{(4,92 - 0,005 \cdot x)}$	0.979	-0.989	0.13	0.05
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	$y = 276,27 - 50,05 \cdot \ln(x)$	0.915	-0.957	9.70	0.05
2009	Kazitachi	$y = (5,78 - 0,005 \cdot x)^2$	0.936	-0.968	0.13	0.05
	Vercors	$y = e^{(4,72 - 0,005 \cdot x)}$	0.922	-0.960	0.14	0.05
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	$y = 245,94 - 40,27 \cdot \ln(x)$	0.948	-0.920	5.02	0.05
2010	Kazitachi	$y = 43,70 - 2,87 \cdot \sqrt{x}$	0.960	-0.980	3.47	0.05
	Vercors	$y = e^{(4,78 - 0,008 \cdot x)}$	0.962	-0.981	0.20	0.05
	9/Voronezhskaya 9	$y = 133,86 - 20,87 \cdot \ln(x)$	0.970	-0.985	4.78	0.05

: Y – , cm; x – ; r – ; R² – ; P –

Legend: Y – Sudan grass height, cm; x – content of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass of Sudan grass; r – correlation coefficient; SE - standard error; R² – regression coefficient; P - level of significance

- The results of the comparative study of the three varieties Sudan grass showed significant differences in the content of cyanogenic glycosides using fresh aboveground biomass

Stoltenow and Lardy (1998) Kazitachi, (29.83 31.07 mg/100 g) BBCH-15 18.5 21.9 cm. Vercors 9 (66.28 138.65 mg/100 g) BBCH-15 18.7 24.1 cm. 2008, Kazitachi, (99.04 mg/100 g) BBCH-17÷18, Kazitachi (19.19 43.22 mg/100 g) 72.2 88.5 m Vercors

forage in the initial stages of development of culture and the potential risk of toxicity to livestock.

According to the classification of Stoltenow and Hardy (1998) variety Kazitachi, conditionally can be determined with a low risk of toxicity of livestock with cyanogenic glycosides (from 29.83 to 31.07 mg/100 g of dry matter) when used as forage in growth stage BBCH-15 and plant height of 18.5 to 21.9 cm. The varieties Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 can be classified as potential and very dangerous (cyanogenic glycosides – from 66.28 to 138.65 mg/100 g of dry matter) when used in growth stage BBCH-15 and plant height from 18.7 to 24.1 cm.

An exception to the described dependency is established in 2008, when Kazitachi, can be classified as out the potential toxic (99.04 mg/100 g of dry matter) for livestock.

By increasing of the period of vegetation to growth stage BBCH-17÷18 of Sudan grass, the trend remains. Variety Kazitachi is non-toxic (from 19.19 to 43.22 mg/100 g dry matter) at the plant height of 72.2 to 88.5 cm and can be used as fresh biomass forage. The varieties Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 in growth stage BBCH-17÷18 and plant height of

	9		
17÷18		BBCH-	
67.3	98.8 cm		
		42.16	
98.75 mg/100 g			
		-	
BBCH-47	BBCH-63÷67		
	138.9	184.9	
205.5	271.8 cm,		
	2.46	52.85	0.00
39.39	cm		
Kazitachi			
		BBCH-15	
18.5	21.9 cm,	Vercors	
	9		
BBCH-47	BBCH-63÷67		
		138.9	
271.8 cm.			

67.3 to 98.8 cm, and content of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground biomass in the range of 42.16 to 98.75 mg/100 g dry matter determined varieties, such as potentially toxic.

- With the progress of
- vegetation of Sudan grass to
- growth stage BBCH-47 and
- BBCH-63÷67 in plant height,
- respectively, from 138.9 to 184.9
- and 205.5 to 271.8 cm, the content
- of cyanogenic glycosides in
- aboveground biomass ranges
- respectively of 2.46 to 52.85 and
- 0.00 to 39.39 cm and without the
- risk of toxicity to livestock, allowing
- the varieties to be used in fresh
- forage.

- We have established
- phenotypic differences between
- Sudan grass varieties regarding
- reduction of cyanogenic
- glycosides content in fresh
- biomass. Variety Kazitachi can be
- used as forage in growth stage
- BBCH-15 and plant height of 18.5
- to 21.9 cm, while Vercors and
- Voronezhskaya 9 may be used to
- forage without the risk of
- intoxication of livestock in stage
- BBCH-47 to BBCH-63÷67 and the
- height plants from 138.9 to 271.8
- cm.

CONCLUSIONS

- Low content of cyanogenic
- glycosides has a Variety Kazitachi
- in the plant height to 21.9 cm

Kazitachi - 21.9 cm (BBCH-15),
 Vercors -
 9 -
 BBCH-47 -
 138.9 cm.

Kazitachi, Vercors
 9

- r
 -0.920 -0.992.

+b (; mg/100 g
) :

(r 0.759 0.856);

0.974)

(r -0.085 -0.518)

Kazitachi

BBCH-15

18.5 21.9 cm,
 Vercors 9

(BBCH-15), while the Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 is the lowest in BBCH-47 and height plant more than 138.9 cm in the conditions of Central North Bulgaria and the period of study.

It was found that the accumulation of cyanogenic glycosides in fresh biomass by growth stages the development of Sudan grass varieties Kazitachi, Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 is in a negative correlation of the dynamics of growth of culture - r ranges -0.920 to -0.992.

The total content of plastid pigments in leaves (chlorophyll a+b and carotenoids; mg/100 g dry biomass) are: a high in a positive correlation of growth stage of development of Sudan grass (r is from 0.759 to 0.856); of the contents of cyanogenic glycosides in the later grow stages of development of culture (r from 0.755 to 0.974) and moderate to weak negative correlation (r from -0.085 to -0.518) from the dynamics of growth in height plants.

Kazitachi can be used in further breeding programs as a donor, because it has a low concentration of cyanogenic glycosides in aboveground in growth stage BBCH-15 corresponding to a plant height of 18.5 to 21.9 cm, while Vercors and Voronezhskaya 9 may be used to forage without the risk of intoxication of livestock in growth

BBCH-63÷67
BBCH-47
138.9 271.8 cm.

stage BBCH-47 to BBCH-63÷67
and the height plants from 138.9 to
271.8 cm.

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Assessment of germination and initial temp of development of Sudangrass, Sorghum x Sudangrass hybrids and sweet sorghum forms, treated with polyethylene glycol as a model of water deficiency germination

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SUMMARY

<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">, Verkor, Susu, Super</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Sweet</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">5 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">57,2 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">32 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">96 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">82 %</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">61 %</td> <td style="text-align: center;">98 %.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		, Verkor, Susu, Super		Sweet	-	.		5 %	-	-	-	-		-	-	57,2 %	32 %	83%	96 %	82 %		61 %	98 %.		<p>Used in the practice varieties Endje, Verkor, Susu, Super sweet and breeding materials of the Agricultural Institute - Shumen have been assessed for water deficiency resistance. As a model system for water deficiency imitation laboratory germination in 5 % polyethylene glycol solution is applied. It is established a higher resistance to osmotic stress of the Sudangrass genotypes, which co-relates with data of their faster initial development in comparison with the sweet sorghum forms. Also stronger is the reaction towards osmotic stress for the sweet sorghum forms' germination – the germination is decreased on average from 83% to 57%, with variation of 32% to 80%. For the Sudangrass lines the decrease is from 96% to 82%, with variation from 61% to 98%.</p>
	, Verkor, Susu, Super																								
Sweet	-	.																							
	5 %	-																							
-	-	-																							
	-	-																							
57,2 %	32 %	83%																							
96 %	82 %																								
61 %	98 %.																								

The sharp reaction towards the treatment with polyethylene glycol of our variety Endje, which is a hybrid between Sudangrass and sweet sorghum, explains additionally the comparatively slower initial temp of growth.

Key words: Sudangrass, Sorghum x Sudangrass hybrids, sweet sorghum, germination, water deficiency, polyethylene glycol

INTRODUCTION

With their high productive potential and ecological plasticity in conditions of extreme deviations from the agro-climatic norms the sorghum, sweet sorghum forms, the Sudangrass and the Sorghum x Sudangrass hybrids are perspective alternative crops for managing the disbalance in the production of forages and for biofuels raw material (Enchev, 2011; Kikindonov et al., 2011; Slanev and Enchev, 2014; Golubinova et al., 2015). All the cultivated sorghum species belong to the section Sorghum bicolor (Bantalian et al., 2004). Specific requirements for them are the high potential of dry mass accumulation, early maturity and productive accession with repeated mowing, succulence and colour of stem, favorable content of proteins, carbohydrates and fibers, resistance to foliar diseases (Gill et al., 2003).

As thermophilic crops sorghum, sudangrass and sorghum x sudangrass hybrids need high temperatures for their initial development (Cones et al., 1983). The late sowing is

2011;

, 2014;
, 2015).

Sorghum bicolor (Bantalian et al., 2004).

(Gill et al., 2003).

(Cones et al., 1983).

(Krieg, 1994). e

1982). (Abdala,

2001; (Yu and Tuinistra,

1984; (Mohamed and Francis,

2002; Patane et al., 2008). (Foti et al.,

- connected with inadequate soil
- humidity, slow and non-concurrent germination and short vegetation period (Krieg, 1994).
- Breeding for higher germination with resistance to water and temperature stress has a high effectiveness (Abdala, 1982). The tendency of extreme deviations from the climatic norms during the last years updates the necessity of assessment and selection of breeding materials with high germination and resistance to water and temperature stress in the initial phases of development (Yu and Tuinistra, 2001; Golubinova, 2012). The newly created varieties and candidate-varieties need detailed characteristics for their sowing qualities. Basic factors are the fast initial growth, drought resistance and resistance to diseases (Mohamed and Francis, 1984; Marinov et al., 2015).
- One of the applied methods for assessment of the water deficiency resistance is the decrease of the water potential by preliminary treatment of seeds with solutions of sodium salts and polyethylene glycol (Foti et al., 2002; Patane et al., 2008).
- The aim of the research is to assess varieties used in practice and breeding materials of the Agricultural Institute - Shumen for their resistance to water deficiency during germination. Methods of determination of seeds germination

and initial temp of growth were tested. As a model system for imitation of water deficiency is applied germination in laboratory conditions with 5 % solution of polyethylene glycol (PEG).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

<p>2015</p> <p>4</p> <p>2016</p> <p>15</p> <p>:</p> <p>- SVE,</p> <p>- SAV,</p> <p>- ZTE,</p> <p>-SAZ,</p> <p>- ,</p> <p>- Super Sweet,</p> <p>- Susu,</p> <p>- Verkor,</p> <p>- ,</p> <p>5 ,</p>	<p>- 4</p> <p>- 15</p> <p>- :</p> <p>- SVE, stabilized Sudangrass population</p> <p>- SAV, stabilized population from hybridization of Sudangrass with sorghum</p> <p>- ZTE, stabilized sweet sorghum population</p> <p>- SAZ, stabilized population from hybridization of sweet sorghum with grain sorghum</p> <p>- variety Endje, stabilized population from hybridization of Sudangrass with sweet sorghum</p> <p>- variety Super Sweet, hybrid between sorghum and sweet sorghum</p> <p>- variety Susu, sorghum x sudangrass hybrid</p> <p>- variety Verkor, Sudangrass</p> <p>- Individual progenies – lines, obtained by continuous, 5 seasons self-pollination and selection from two elite populations of sudangrass and sweet sorghum of local origin.</p>
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ISTA

10 cm

5 ml
25-27 °

PEG 6000, 4
2015

50
100
2016

5

: 0 %, 2,5 %, 5 %, 7,5
% 10 %

Super Sweet.
5 %
0.86

7-

cm

mg

%

Standard laboratory techniques of ISTA have been used for determination of the seeds sowing qualities – on filter paper discs in 10 cm dishes with 5 ml of the relevant solution, in thermostat at 25-27 °C. The control and the tested variant are treated respectively distilled water and solution of PEG 6000, 50 seeds in 4 replications in 2015 and 100 seeds in the 2016 tests.

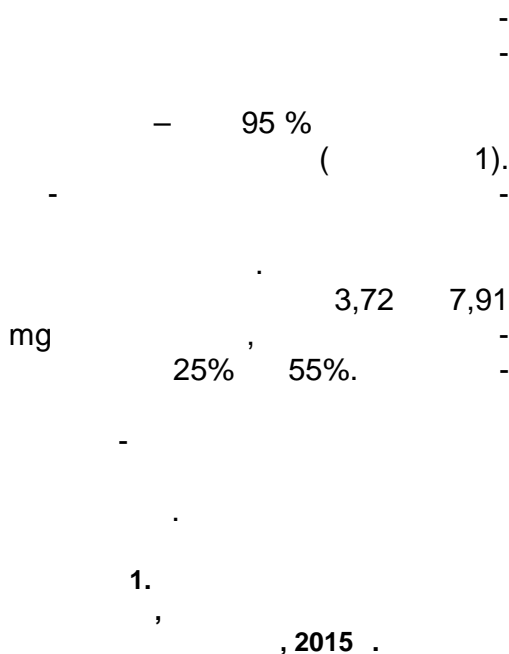
The optimal concentration of the polyethylene glycol is identified on the basis of the established effect of 5 concentrations – 0%, 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and 10% on the varieties Endje and Super Sweet, studied in advance. The 5% concentration is critical and corresponds to water potential of 0.86 MPa – it was used for the assessments.

The readings are made on the 7th day and include: seeds with normally developed germs for determination of the germination in percents; length (in cm) of the root and the hypocotyls; the fresh weight of germs in mg, and the dry matter in % for determination of the initial temp of growth.

(, 1988).

Data of tests have been treated statistically by dispersion analysis, according to Lidanski (1988).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



The tested varieties and super elite populations have high seeds germination, over 95%, in the control of the experiment (Table 1). Greater differences between the genotypes are registered for the initial temp of growth. The variation of germ's weight is from 3.72 mg to 7.91 mg per plant, and the dry matter varies from 25% to 55%. The differentiation between the genotypes is even stronger for traits like length of the initial root and the hypocotyls.

Table 1. Results for laboratory germination germination of seeds of sudangrass, sorghum x sudangrass hybrids and sweet sorghum forms treated with polyethylene glycol, 2015

Variants	Germination %	/ Initial temp of development			
		Weight of germ mg	Dry matter content %	Root length cm	Length of hypocotyls cm
– 0% / Control – 0%					
ndje 1	100.0	3.72	43.1	7.90	3.00
Super Sweet	100.0	4.40	36.9	7.75	3.15
SAV	95.0	6.68	42.7	7.40	4.85
SAZ	100.0	7.90	38.2	10.0	7.85
ZTE	99.5	5.89	26.5	10.1	7.87
SVE	96.7	7.91	25.2	8.10	13.2
SuSu	95.0	6.68	24.8	6,85	11.3
Verkor	95.0	3.88	54,8	7.30	4.22
/Average	97,7	5.88	36.5	8,18	6,93
5% / 5% PEG solution					
Endje 1	25.0	3.30	63.0	4.40	0.10
Super Sweet	70.0	3.21	63.8	4.80	0.15
SAV	65.6	6.42	56.4	4.40	1.65
SAZ	40.0	4.00	60.1	5.85	1.15
ZTE	48.3	3.10	56.3	6.90	1.40
SVE	83.3	4.08	57.7	6.95	2.05
SuSu	70.0	3.09	75.0	5.20	0.45
Verkor	85.0	3,29	65,4	6.00	1.00
/Average	60,9	3,81	62,2	5,56	0,99
GD -1%	4,32	1,54	4,55		
-%	3,21	3,11	2,86		

5 %
 ,
 ,
 .
 ,
 ,
 ,
 . -
 - 37 % 62 %
 6,93 cm 0,99 cm
 .
 - 30 %,
 - 2 mg
 33 %, 8,18 cm
 5,56 cm
 ,
 .
 -

The change of the osmotic pressure by addition of 5% solution of PEG, imitating a water deficiency on biophysical level brings to strong reaction of the genotype for the germination and the initial temp of growth. For all indices the differences between the control and the experimental variant, for the average values, and for most of the genotypes, are statistically proved. The strongest for all the genotypes is the influence of the osmotic stress, expressed in almost double increase of the dry matter – from 37% to 62% and from 6.93 cm to 0.99 cm average decrease of hypocotyls length. The mean values of germination decrease with 30%, of the fresh weigh- with 2 mg or more than 33%, and of the initial root's length – from 8.18 cm to 5.56 cm. The change of the osmotic balance between the environment and the embryonic tissues of seeds suppresses the growth of the initial root, decreases the root's surface and provokes water deficiency for the normal development of the seedling.

These results confirm the effectiveness of using the polyethylene glycol stress for additional assessment of seed's sowing characteristics. It is established a stronger resistance to osmotic stress of the sudangrass origins, which

1,

2.

2016

62% 97%, 86% 100 %.

83% 57,2%
32% 80%.

82%
% 98 %.

- correlates with the data of their faster initial development compared with that of the sweet forms of sorghum. The sharp reaction of our variety Endje 1, which is a hybrid between sudangrass and sweet sorghum, additionally explains the comparatively slow initial temp of growth. This is one of the basic shortcomings of the variety and makes the improvement breeding measures imperative.
- For additional assessment of the gene fund and the possibilities for effective selection for water deficiency resistance during the germination individual progenies – lines of two super-elite populations of sudangrass and sweet sorghum of local origin have been treated with PEG according the established procedure. The results of these researches in 2016 are given in Table 2.
- The continuous self-pollination affects stronger the germination of sweet sorghum lines and varies from 62% to 97%, while for the sorghum x sudangrass hybrids the variation is 86% - 100%. Also stronger is the reaction of the sweet forms, treated with PEG, regarding the germination – the germination decreases on the average from 83% to 57.2%, with variation of 32% to 80%. For the sudangrass lines the average decrease is from 96% to 82%, with variation of 61% to 98%.

2.

, 2016 .

Table 2. Laboratory germination of seeds and initial temp of growth of individual progenies of sudangrass and sweet sorghum treated with polyethylene glycol, 2016

Variant	Germination %		Germ weight mg		Dry matter content %	
	control	with PEG	control	with PEG	control	with PEG
/Sudangrass						
SV0901	100,0	98,2	4,57	3,79	32,4	45,6
SV0902	95,6	86,0	6,37	2,36	21,6	59,5
SV0903	86,1	73,0	2,97	2,76	31,8	54,9
SV0904	100,0	60,9	4,23	2,43	27,7	69,9
SV0905	99,1	83,0	4,23	2,38	35,6	68,3
SV0906	100,0	89,2	5,77	2,13	19,6	63,2
SV0907	92,2	87,5	5,36	2,74	25,4	62,6
SV0908	92,0	78,7	3,67	2,15	36,5	66,7
SV0909	97,7	82,3	4,31	2,60	35,4	57,5
SV0910	97,0	90,5	4,89	2,47	26,4	56,8
SV0911	95,3	71,0	4,67	2,45	30,9	64,4
SV0912	94,6	86,0	5,34	2,50	28,1	66,0
SV0913	99,0	86,7	5,50	2,70	27,3	66,9
SV0914	100,0	74,4	4,62	2,59	32,7	64,1
SV0915	96,2	84,1	5,07	3,19	30,5	60,0
/Average	96,1	82,1	4,51	2,75	31,6	60,4
Sweet sorghum						
SZ0901	97,0	45,3	6,98	4,75	33,4	50,5
SZ0902	83,2	79,0	5,04	4,43	53,8	60,7
SZ0903	67,0	62,2	7,04	4,79	32,8	57,2
SZ0904	61,5	41,1	5,87	3,88	42,2	71,1
SZ0905	71,0	42,0	5,68	4,07	35,4	58,5
SZ0906	73,3	53,2	4,90	3,66	45,2	57,7
SZ0907	80,0	66,6	5,42	3,48	35,9	56,9
SZ0908	89,5	61,4	6,82	3,83	36,6	60,9
SZ0909	89,3	73,3	6,76	5,12	38,9	51,1
SZ0910	90,8	73,0	6,25	3,88	41,7	66,1
SZ0911	88,2	80,0	7,88	4,77	36,8	67,8
SZ0912	70,6	32,2	5,09	3,81	54,8	74,8
SZ0913	88,3	79,1	3,85	3,80	43,1	63,9
SZ0914	73,0	44,0	5,61	4,50	38,4	44,4
/Average	83,1	57,2	5,77	4,49	43,2	61,2
GD -1%		3,22		1,47		5,67
-%		2,66		3,25		4,62

The results for the fresh weight of the seedlings are interesting. The seedling's weight of the sweet forms is not so strongly influenced by the PEG treatment – it is decreased from 5.77 mg to 4.49 mg on the

4,51 mg
14

2,75 mg

-

20% 37%

54% 33%

31% 60%

43% 62%

57,2% 83%

32%

average, and is with higher values than that of the sudangrass, where the decrease is from 4.51 to 2.75 mg mean of 14 lines. That could be explained with the reserved higher homozygosity regardless of the continuous self-pollination, of the sweet genotypes and the higher effect of the selection in the germinated seeds in the control and the experimental variants.

The differences between the genotypes regarding the dry matter content are comparatively smaller – from 20% to 37% for the sudangrass lines, and from 33% to 54% for those of the sweet sorghum. After the polyethylene glycol treatment the dry matter content increases on average from 31% to 60% for sudangrass, and from 43% to 62% for the sweet forms.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study confirm the effectiveness of using the PEG stress for additional assessment of seeds sowing characteristics.

It is established a stronger resistance to osmotic stress of the sudangrass genotypes, which correlates with data of their faster initial development in comparison with the sweet forms. The germination reaction to osmotic stress of the sweet forms is stronger – the average germination decreases from 83% to 57.2%, with variation from 32% to 80%.

80%.

82%,

96%

61% 98%.

For the sudangrass lines the average decrease is from 96% to 82%, with variation of 61% to 98%.
The sharp reaction to PEG treatment of our variety Endje, which is a sudangrass x sweet sorghum hybrid, explains additionally its comparatively slower initial temp of growth.

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Genotypic reaction of fodder beet to organic fertilization

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SUMMARY

The fodder beet is a traditional source of fresh forage and the use of organic fertilizers increases the possibilities of the ecological production. The effect of leaf treatment with a complex of organic fertilizers – 0.5% Arbanasiecosyst + 0.7% Aminobest in a 200 ml/da dose on the productivity and the dry matter content of semi-sugar beet hybrids and parental fodder beet components is studied in the present research. The test period (2014-2015) includes seasons with different agro-climatic conditions and vegetation continuance. The strongest is the effect of organic fertilization on the root yield of the fodder beet origins in the drought conditions of 2015. The application of the tested dose of that organic fertilizers complex could be recommended for the intensive production of beet forage crops.

200 ml/da + 0.7%

2014-2015

2015

K

:

Key words: fodder beet, semi-sugar beet hybrids, organic fertilizer, yield

INTRODUCTION

vulgaris var. crassa) (Beta

1995).

, 1.3 %
, 0.9%

, 0.1%
0.9%

.(DAF, 1998).

(Wu et al., 2004; Alves et al., 2009).

. (Nieberg

The fodder beet (*Beta vulgaris var. crassa*) is grown for fresh forage production. Its productive potential is higher than that of every forage crop. The inclusion of beet in the portions of live stock improves their balanced nutrition. The roots are easily digestible forage and are willingly accepted by the cattle, and by pigs, sheep and horses (Todorov et al., 1995). The dry matter in the roots consists of nitrogen-free extract substances, 1.3% protein, 0.1% oils, 0.9% cellulose and 0.9% ash substances, crude protein, fats and fibers, methionine, cystine, tryptophan, Ca, P, etc.(DAF, 1998).

At the moment the foliar fertilization is widely applied in the schemes of the intensive agriculture, in this way the nutritive substances are supplied much faster in comparison with the conventional soil fertilization. The use of biologically active substances and bio preparations in plant growing is an alternative of the mineral fertilization and the pesticides treatment, whose high doses destroy the ecological balance of the agrocenoses (Wu et al., 2004; Alves et al., 2009). The organic agriculture in Europe progresses quite dynamically because of the increasing interest by the manufacturers and the increased consumption of ecologically clear food (Nieberg

and Offermann, 2008).

100% (, 2013).

(, 2013; Enchev and Kikindonov, 2015).

(, 2012; , 2013; Hashemi et al., 2013).

(Vlahova et al., 2011).

2002).

(Ujvary,

- and Offermann, 2008). The bio-production in Bulgaria is also developing during the last years, and its growth is about 100% (Yakimov, 2013).

- A number of authors have studied the influence of natural , biologically active substances, biofertilizers and biopesticides (Ivanova et al., 2013; Enchev and Kikindonov, 2015). Different bio-preparations are tested with sugar, fodder and table beet crops (Enchev, 2012; Enchev, 2013; Hashemi et al., 2013). It is established an improvement of growth, the physiological status, productivity and resistance of crops in conditions of stress, caused by biotic and abiotic factors. The application of different organic fertilizers brings to increase of the biochemical and physiological indices and the yield of crops (Vlahova et al., 2011). It is considered that the use of bio-preparations is necessary as a new approach in the plant protection (Ujvary, 2002).

The aim of the present research is to study the genotypic reaction of varieties and hybrids of fodder beet to organic fertilization.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research is carried out in the experimental fields of Agricultural Institute-Shumen, during 2014-2015. The field

2014-2015

10.8 m²,

70 cm
(10000 - /da) 20.04

(8-10

25 l/da.

1.

Bacillus subtilis,
Bacillus licheniformis,
zotobacter chroococum
zotobacter vinelandii –
200 ml/da

: 9,5-12,5%; pH 9,0-13;
1,65% ; 4,02%
0,4-0,75%;
: 0,1-0,25%;
0,55-0,7%; : 0,2-0,37;
0,001-0,003%;
0,009-0,013%; : 0,002-0,003%;
: 0,0003-0,0006%;

experiment is arranged by the long plot method, in four repetitions, with a harvest plot of 10.8 m², on carbonate black soil with a slightly alkaline reaction of the soil solution. The sowing is manual, at 70 cm distance between rows (10000 plants per da), made on 20.04 during the two years of tests. The fodder beet origins and their semi-sugar beet hybrids are treated once with organic fertilizers in the phase of leaf rosette forming (8-10 real leaf), with a knapsack sprayer and with a solution of 25.0 l/da. The harvest is manual – during the third decade of September. The dry matter content of the tested origins is measured refractometrically in the chemical-technological laboratory of the Agricultural Institute-Shumen.

Variants of treatment:

1. Treated with complex of organic fertilizers:

Arbanasiecosyst – contains several Bacillus subtilis strains, as well as the bacteria Bacillus licheniformis, Azotobacter chroococum and vinelandii – in 200 ml/da dose.

Aminobest – dry matter: 9.5-12.5%; pH 9.0-13.0; 1.65% humine compounds; 4.02% amino acids; 0.4-0.75% total nitrogen; micro and macro-elements: P – 0.1-0.25%; K – 0.55-0.70%; Na – 0.20-0.37%; Ca – 0.001-0.003%; Mg – 0.009-0.013%; Cu – 0.002-0.003%; Zn – 0.0003-0.0006%; Mn – 0.0005-0.0009%; Fe – 0.001-0.003%;

0,0005-0,0009%;
 0,001-0,003%;
 Ni<0.0005; Cd<0.00003; Hg<0.000005;
 Cr<0.00003; b<0.0005 –
 ml/da

heavy metals: Ni<0.0005;
 Cd<0.00003; Hg<0.000005;
 Cr<0.00003; b<0.0005 – in a dose of
 200 ml/da.

2.
 ().

2. Non-treated with foliar
 fertilizers (control)

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 (,
 1988).

The studied parameters are
 root yield (kg/da-1), dry matter
 content (%), dry matter yield from a
 unit of area (kg.da-1). Data
 received are statistically treated by
 dispersion analysis according to
 Lidanski (1998).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1
 2014 . ,

The agro-climatic conditions
 during the test period are
 unfavorable for the development of
 beet. Data on Table 1 show that
 the rainfalls in 2014 are nearly
 twice exceeding the vegetation
 norm. Their quantities during May
 and September are records for the
 last ten years.

The unusual humidity of soil after
 sowing is also a reason for certain
 negative for the development of
 the crop effect caused by the
 powerful screen of the applied soil
 herbicide. Inevitably this makes
 worse the active accumulation of
 biomass and affects negatively the
 total yield of the tested origins.

T 1.

2014-2015 .

Table 1. Meteorological indexes in the region of Agricultural Institute-Shumen during 2014-2015

Year	Month	Rainfalls					Air temperature
		Decades			Sum	Norm	Mean
2014	V	-	33.8	10.6	44.4	41.0	11.5
	V	26.0	52.9	147.6	226.5	64.0	15.1
	V	37.0	19.9	14.6	71.5	75.0	19.3
	VII	2.2	4.4	63.9	70.5	60.0	21.9
	VIII	29.0	37.3	4.0	70.3	42.0	22.5
	IX	54.3	0.2	-	54.5	28.0	17.5
	Total for the vegetation				537.7		
2015	V	32.6	10.5	10.0	53.1	41.0	14.6
	V	6.3	3.2	6.3	15.8	64.0	20.8
	V	2.5	18.6	3.0	24.1	75.0	23.6
	VII	2.3	6.6	-	8.9	60.0	27.1
	VIII	0.6	8.8	15.2	24.6	42.0	28.4
	IX	1.1	40.2	-	41.3	28.0	22.8
Total for the vegetation				167.8			

2014 .

(2).

(5293 kg.da⁻¹) -

(5466 kg.da⁻¹).

S142 805

-

569 kg -

,

- There is no positive effect of the treatment with the complex of organic fertilizers on the root yield during the wet 2014 (Table 2).
- Even the mean of all the treated variants value of yield (5293 kg.da⁻¹) is lower than that of the non-treated variants (5466 kg.da⁻¹).
- Only the diploid semi-sugar beet hybrid MS142 x 805 reacts to a certain degree positively to the foliar fertilization – the root yield of the treated variant is with 569 kg higher than the yield from the variant, where organic fertilization has not been applied. The

2014

- treatment with the combination of organic fertilizers does not affect significantly the dry matter content of the tested in 2014 beet origins.

- A normal consequence is the lack of significant differences in the dry matter yields from the treated and from the control variants.

T 2.

, 2014 .

Table 2. Economical qualities of fodder beet origins and their semi-sugar beet hybrids, treated with foliar organic fertilizers, 2014

Variant	Root yield kg.da ⁻¹		Dry matter content %		Dry matter yield kg.da ⁻¹	
	Non-treated	Treated	Non-treated	Treated	Non-treated	Treated
M 805-2x	5140	4884	9.8	9.9	504	484
M 802-2x	5524	5537	10.3	9.9	569	548
MS142 x 805	5919	6488	11.2	11.2	663	727
MS 222 x 802	4409	4084	13.0	12.6	573	515
SKR-4x	6134	5878	10.2	10.0	626	588
SKG-4x	4732	4445	11.3	11.3	535	502
MS 66 x SKR-3x	5945	6061	10.6	10.9	630	661
MS 142 x SKR-3x	6207	5421	11.5	11.9	714	645
MS 124 x SKG	5463	5067	11.2	11.4	612	578
MS 0213 x SKG	5189	5073	13.5	13.2	701	670
/ Mean	5466.2	5293.8	11.3	11.2	612.7	591.8
GD 1 %	1233		1.82		138	
P %	5.80		4.05		6.98	

2014 .

- The data of the harvest 2014 therefore clear that the application of combination of the organic fertilizers Arbanasiecosyst and Aminobest in years with higher than normal vegetation rainfalls have no positive effect on the productivity of the fodder beet.

The climatic conditions in the second year of test are unfavorable for the beet's

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 2015 .
 -
)
)
 (3).
 S142 SKG. - S142 805
 (2x), SKR (4x) SKG(4x). 802
 S142 805 (2x) S124
 SKG (3x).
 ()
 S222

development – opposite to the previous year in 2015 the vegetation rainfalls are extremely insufficient for the normal development of the crop. Furthermore in the most critical for the biomass accumulation months (June-August) the rainfalls are scarce, with increased daily temperatures. In such conditions record low yields from the tested origins of fodder and semi-sugar beet are registered. The root yield of all the treated with organic fertilizers fodder beet origins (diploid and tetraploid) is significantly higher than that of the relevant control (non-treated) variants (Table 3).

The same is also valid for some semi-sugar beet hybrids in the test– MS142 x 805 and MS142 x SKG. The mean value of the root yield from all the treated with organic fertilizers variants exceeds significantly the mean value of the control variants. The strongest is the reaction to organic fertilization of the fodder beet origins M802 (2x), SKR (4x) and SKG (4x). Quite a higher root yield is formed also by the treated semi-sugar beet hybrid variants MS142 x 805 (2x) and MS124 x SKG (3x). There are no significant differences between the dry matter content of the treated with organic fertilizers variants and the non-treated variants (except the proved lower values of the index for the treated semi-sugar beet hybrids

802 (2x) S0213 SKG (3x). - MS222 x 802 (2x) and MS0213 x SKG (3x). The higher or the lower values of this index are sooner consequence of the well expressed negative co-relation between the yield and the dry matter content in the roots, and the inheritance of the higher dry matter content of the sugar beet parent in the semi-sugar beet hybrids' roots.

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, 2015 .

Table 3. Economical qualities of fodder beet origins and their semi-sugar beet hybrids, treated with foliar organic fertilizers, 2015

Variant	Root yield kg/da ⁻¹		Dry matter content, %		Dry matter yield, kg/da ⁻¹	
	Non-treated	Treated	Non-treated	Treated	Non-treated	Treated
M 805-2x	3246	3790	15.0	14.0	487	531
M 802-2x	2889	4390	14.0	15.0	404	659
MS142 x 805	2860	3803	16.0	15.5	458	589
MS 222 x 802	2546	2688	17.0	15.6	433	419
SKR-4x	3375	4433	13.5	14.0	456	621
SKG-4x	3003	4147	15.5	14.5	465	601
MS 66 x SKR-3x	4219	4890	15.0	15.0	633	734
MS 142 x SKR-3x	3875	3919	15.5	16.0	601	627
MS 124 x SKG	3289	4261	15.6	15.0	513	639
MS 0213 x SKG	4147	4805	16.9	15.0	701	721
C / Mean	3344.9	4112.6	15.4	15.0	515.1	614.1
GD 1 %	777		1.15		173	
P %	7.34		2.55		3.40	

- In water deficiency conditions
- during the vegetation the tested genotypes react in different way to the treatment with the complex of organic fertilizers. The best is the expression of the increase of the dry matter yield from the treated fodder beet origins – with proved exceeding over the yield of the relevant control variants.

805,
 (MS142 x 805, MS66 x SKR,
 MS124 x SKG),

M805 is an exception, where the organic fertilization id not effective. It was also registered a higher dry matter yield for some of the treated semi-sugar beet hybrids (MS142 x 805, MS66 x SKR, MS124 x SKG), mostly due to the positive effect of the organic fertilization on the productivity of these hybrids.

CONCLUSIONS

The treatment with the complex of organic fertilizers Arbanasiecosyst and Aminobest brings to increase of the yield of roots and dry matter from a unit of area from the tested fodder beet origins and their semi-sugar beet hybrids in drought vegetation conditions. In waterlogged soil conditions because of excess quantities of vegetation rainfalls the application of foliar fertilization with this combination of organic fertilizers does not defy positive genotypic reaction of the tested origins.

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Productive potential of varieties and elite populations sweet sorghum for silage production

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2013-2014
 -
 , Super sweet, Sooner sweet,
 Biomass, , , ,
 .
 2013 .
 2014 .
 35 t.ha⁻¹
 77 t.ha⁻¹ 59 t.ha⁻¹ 84
 t.ha⁻¹,
 - 50 % 74 %, - 14 %
 19%.
 (26 % - 34 %)
 .
 F1 .

SUMMARY

Standard varieties Endje, Super sweet, Sooner sweet, Biomass, Yantar, Stavropolskaya, Galia, populations and hybrid forms from the breeding program of Agricultural institute - Shumen have been tested for green mass productivity in milky-wax stage as a raw material for silage production during 2013-2014.

In the conditions of water deficiency in 2013, and of water-logging and low temperatures in 2014 the average yield varies from 35 t.ha⁻¹ to 77 t.ha⁻¹, respectively from 59 t.ha⁻¹ to 84 t.ha⁻¹. The dry matter content of the green mass is from 50 % to 74 %, the carbohydrates content in the juice is 14 % - 19 %, and the relative portion of the reproductive part (26% to 34%) makes the biomass very useful for qualitative silage production.

The variety Endje exceeds in its
 - productivity and ecological plasticity
 - towards the changing agro-climatic
 - conditions the used in practice standard
 - varieties. The production of F1 hybrids
 with the use of CMS lines is expensive
 and the results for their productivity,

compared with the results of the stabilized forms are not good enough for economically grounded seed production.

Key words: sweet sorghum, productivity, silage

INTRODUCTION

Sweet sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* var. *saccharatum* L.), known as sugar broom, is used in Bulgaria for extraction by extrusion of sweet syrups. This plant is popular as one of the crops in the temperate climate zones with the highest effectiveness of biomass accumulation in conditions of extreme droughts and global warming. The vegetative mass of the sweet forms of sorghum (sugar broom) has high forage value as a green mass, dried to hay, or in the silage production (Kalton, 1988).

Advantage is also its various use as forage and bio-energy crop (Rooney, 2000; Golubinova et al., 2015).

All the cultivated forms of sweet sorghum are subspecies of *Sorghum bicolor*. Even today many of the common varieties are local populations, formed as result of natural and artificial selection (Bantalian et al., 2004). The modern sweet sorghum forms include also various hybrids with sudangrass, technical broom (*Sorghum bicolor* var. *technicum* Korn) and grain sorghum forms. They have strongly expressed heterosis effect and optimal

(Smith and Frederiksen, 2000).

(Stack and Pedersen, 2003).

25

(, 2011; , 2012).

- combination of high productivity,
- multiple undergrowth,
- carbohydrates content, proteins and cellulose and are used for forage production (Smith and Frederiksen, 2000). The breeding with classical methods of hybridization and selection is led for productivity, height, vegetation continuance, qualities of the raw material. The heterosis with application of the cytoplasmic male sterility is also used (Stack and Pedersen, 2003).

During the last 25 years in Agricultural Institute - Shumen have been tested and maintained local populations, and hybrid forms for green mass have been bred for fresh forage and silage production (Kikindonov et al., 2011; Slanev et al., 2012).

The aim of the present study is to assess the productive potential of standard varieties, populations and hybrid forms of sweet sorghum of the Breeding program of the Institute in grain's milky-wax stage as a raw material for silage production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

, Super sweet, Sooner sweet, Biomass

SZM, SZD

The varieties Endje, Super Sweet, Sooner Sweet and Biomass are hybrid forms with sudangrass and technical broom with increased carbohydrates content. Yantar, Stavropolskaya and Galia are typical varieties for sweet substances production. SZT, SZM, SZD re local populations of

SZW, SZA, SZC					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sweet sorghum with different form of broom and origin, SZW, SZA, SZC are stabilized populations after hybridization with grain sorghum, and SZCF1, SZ12F1, SZ19F1, SZ5F1 are hybrids of grain sorghum MS lines.
SZ12F1, SZ19F1, SZ5F1					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The productivity tests are made in 2013-2014 on the experimental fields of Agricultural Institute - Shumen, on leached black soil in long-standing crop rotation with barley, corn, wheat, oats and vetch, beet. The arrangement is according to the long plots method, with area of the experimental plot 10.8 m². The sowing is made on 25-30.04. at 70 cm space between rows, with a sowing density after the rarefaction 50000 plants per da.
	2013	2014			
	-	,			
	,	,			
			10,8 m ²		
		25-30.04.	70		
cm					
50000					
			2013		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cutting is made in a mass milky-wax stage. In 2013 is harvested also an additional growth after the first cutting. The dry matter content is calculated for mixed sample of each variant, after drying the crushed mass in a drier, as a percentage of the green mass.
2014					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2014 the dry matter content of the stems' juice is measured with optical refractometer. By biometrical analysis of 15 plants of each origin, are determined the portions of the vegetative and the reproductive parts of the green mass. The weight and the humidity of grain is measured after manual threshing of brooms. The yield
			15		

t.ha⁻¹

- index is calculated as a ratio of the grain dry mass to the total dry mass.

- A statistical treatment is made for determination of the yield in t.ha⁻¹ and dispersion analysis for the reliability of differences for the productivity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The agro-climatic conditions during the two years of tests are unfavorable for the sorghum development in contrast ways. The total sum of rainfalls – 195 ml, and of temperatures 2683 ° for 130 days of vegetation (from sowing to harvesting) in 2013 are near to the normal for North-Eastern Bulgaria, but the rainfalls are distributed unevenly during the vegetation.

- For more than 30 days before and after the sowing there were no rainfalls, which delayed the germination and brought to irregular sowings with intermittent development of the stages.

- The drought continues to the end of August, and the rainfalls in September compensate the slowing down of growth by forming significant additional undergrowth after the first cutting.

The results of productivity tests and the analysis of yield's components as raw material for silage in 2013 are given on Table 1.

2013
1.

1.

, 2013 .

Table 1. Productivity and analysis of the green mass yield's components of sweet sorghum forms in milky-wax maturity stage, 2013

Variant	Productivity (t.ha ⁻¹)		Dry matter content %	Relative portion of brooms %	Harvest index, %
	Milky-wax maturity	Additional undergrowth			
ndje	76.4	40.9	60.3	26.2	24.4
Super Sweet	50.7	37.5	59.0	28.8	37.5
Yantar	49.6	25.0	66.3	31.5	33.0
Sooner Sweet	47.3	39.3	65.5	27.0	34.9
Biomass	53.9	31.3	74.0	28.7	26.9
SZT	62.7	28.2	62.1	24.2	24.0
SZD	43.2	31.9	61.8	26.3	28.1
SZW	57.3	36.3	63.3	27.3	30.6
SZA	40.4	27.5	64.1	26.8	34.1
SZC	46.4	31.1	63.2	26.9	36.0
SZAF ₁	76.8	56.8	60.7	28.4	38.1
SZ9F ₁	58.0	51.5	62.0	27.1	36.2
SZ15F ₁	34.6	27.3	64.1	28.0	39.0
SZCF ₁	56.1	49.1	61.8	23.7	30.6
Average	53.8	36.7	63.4	27.2	32.4
GD 1%	10.9	8.9			
P %	4.47	4.53			

Regardless of the drought during the critical stages of crops' development the productivity of green mass in milky-wax stage is at comparatively high levels – from 35 t.ha⁻¹ to 77 t.ha⁻¹, mean of 54 t.ha⁻¹ for 14 tested variants. Among the varieties the highest yield (76 t.ha⁻¹) is realized by our variety Endje, which is a stabilized population after hybridization between sweet sorghum and sudangrass. The late harvest of the variety seed production crop brings to selection of the later genotypes with more dense broom, which is characteristic for the sweet sorghum. This is indirectly confirmed by the high

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - productivity of the pure form of sweet sorghum, which participates as a paternal component in the hybridization for variety's maintenance. The variation in the hybrids with grain sorghum is high and depends strongly on the maternal parent component. - The parameters for dry matter content and the relative portion of brooms, and the grain yield index vary in more narrow range and are favorable for the normal flow of the lactic fermentation for the obtainment of high quality silage. The varieties Super sweet, Sooner sweet, Biomass and Yantar fall back in productivity to Endje, but in drought conditions show higher levels of the dry matter content. - The additional average undergrowth of 3.7 t.ha⁻¹ green mass with 30% dry matter content increases the effect of using sweet forms for diversification of the forage balance.
Super sweet, Sooner sweet, Biomass			
t.ha ⁻¹	3,7	30 %	
		2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2014 conditions are extremely unfavorable for realization of the agricultural activities and strongly slowed the development of the crops during the whole vegetation, which continued 133 days to reaching the wax maturity stage. The rainfalls sum (536 ml) exceeds almost three times the norm, and the continuous and cool spring decreased the temperature sum below 2300 °, which is not enough for the realization of the
133			
536 ml			
2300 °			

2013 . - crop's productive potential. In
 2014 . - comparison with the dry 2013, the
 2, Table 2, show a higher productivity
 - of the studied origins.

2.

Table 2. Productivity and analysis of the green mass yield's components of sweet sorghum forms in milky-wax maturity stage, 2013

Variant	Productivity t.ha ⁻¹	Dry matter content %	Dry matter of juice, Brix %	Relative portion of brooms %	Harvest Index %
Endje	72.4	57.0	19.0	33.9	28.8
Super Sweet	63.6	53.8	19.0	26.9	21.9
Yantar	73.8	52.1	16.8	17.5	14.7
Stavropolskaya	70.0	52.9	17.0	24.6	26.8
Galia	59.3	56.5	14.6	23.1	25.5
SZT	70.9	55.1	17.2	33.3	31.6
SZD	84.1	51.7	17.6	22.2	18.0
SZW	70.5	49.4	19.1	32.4	24.4
SZA	72.9	58.7	13.5	29.4	31.4
SZC	68.6	58.8	15.0	26.3	27.4
SZAF1	79.3	53.8	15.3	30.7	31.7
SZ9F1	84.3	53.3	13.0	26.7	30.5
SZ15F1	80.9	52.0	16.5	30.8	29.0
SZCF1	78.2	47.2	19.0	31.9	36.1
Average	73.5	53.7	16.6	27.8	27.0
GD 1%	9.61				
P %	4.10				

t.ha⁻¹ 84 t.ha⁻¹ 59 The green mass yield is from 59
 74 t.ha⁻¹ 74t.ha⁻¹ to 84 t.ha⁻¹, with mean of
 10 matter content decreases with 10
 53,7 % units – from the mean of 53.7 % in
 2013 63,4 % 2014 . - 2013 to 63.4 % in 2014. In the
 - conditions of sumptuous moisture
 - availability the hybrid forms
 - manifest their high productive
 72 t.ha⁻¹ potential. The Endje variety with
 57 % 72 t.ha⁻¹ yield and 57% dry matter
 content keeps its good
 Super performance in the test. The
 varieties Super sweet, Sooner
 sweet, Sooner sweet,

27 %

28 %

13,5 % 19,1 %

6 t.ha⁻¹

50-60%

74 %, 50 %

14 % 19 %

26 % 34 %

- sweet, Yantar, Stavropolskaya and Galia fall back insignificantly to our variety regarding the productivity of green and dry mass.

- The relative portion of brooms and the grain yield index keep their relative values in the frames of 28% and respectively 27%.

- Significant for the quality of the green mass as a raw material for silage is the content of poly-, di- and monosaccharides. By the refractometrical analysis of the stems juice is determined a dry matter content of 13.5% - 19.1%, which to great extent is covered by the carbohydrates content. These levels are sufficient for the quality of the silage, obtained by sweet sorghum forms.

- The tested varieties of sweet sorghum have high potential for green mass accumulation – average of 6 t.ha⁻¹ from a single swath in milky-wax maturity stage for the two years of test. The dry matter content in all the tested genotypes is significantly affected by the seasonal rainfalls, but is in the limits of the optimal levels (50-60%) for silage production. The dry matter content of the green mass (50% to 74%), the carbohydrates content in the juice is 14 % - 19 %, and the relative portion of the reproductive part (26% to 34%) makes the biomass very useful for qualitative silage production.

- Endje is the most productive

- and ecologically plastic variety to
- the changing agro-climatic conditions.
- The production of hybrids with
- the use of CMS lines is expensive
- and the results received for their productivity, in comparison with that of the stabilized pure and hybrid forms, are not good enough for economically grounded seed production.

o

CONCLUSIONS

- The tested standard varieties and sweet sorghum forms from the breeding program of Agricultural Institute - Shumen, manifest their adaptive potential for high yields of green mass in milky-wax maturity with good qualities of the raw material for silage production.

2013

2014

t.ha⁻¹
84 t.ha⁻¹

77 t.ha⁻¹

59 t.ha⁻¹

35

50 % 74 % ,

14 % 19 %

26 % 34 %

- In the conditions of water deficiency in 2013, and of water-logging and low temperatures in 2014 the average yield varies from 35t.ha⁻¹ to 77 t.ha⁻¹, respectively from 59 t.ha⁻¹ to 84t.ha⁻¹.

- The dry matter content of the green mass is from 50 % to 74 %, the carbohydrates content in the juice is 14 % - 19 %, and the relative portion of the reproductive part (26% to 34%) makes the biomass very useful for qualitative silage production.

- Our variety Endje exceeds in productivity and ecological plasticity the used in practice standard varieties.

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