

”

*

I“9, 32000

*E-mail: miramilinkovic@yahoo.com

Effects of different nitrogen doses applications on basic characteristics of soil and yield of ‘Golden Delicious’ apple cultivar

Mira Milinkovi *, Rade Mileti , Svetlana M. Paunovi , Jelena Tomi

Fruit Research Institute, Kralja Petra I/9, 32000 a ak, Serbia

SUMMARY

(90 kgN ha⁻¹ 120
 kgN ha⁻¹)
 (90 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito; 120
 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito)
 ,
 “ ”
 ,
 kgN ha⁻¹ 90 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito 120
 P K
 ,
 pH
 ,
 120 kgN ha⁻¹+

The paper presents the impact made by different doses of nitrogen (90 kgN ha⁻¹ and 120 kgN ha⁻¹) and the combination of mineral and organic nitrogen (90 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito; 120 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito) on the basic characteristics of vertisol-type soil during its gradual decarbonisation, degree of maturity, soluble solids content and the yield of ‘Golden Delicious’ cultivar. During the vegetation period, the treatment variants implying lower doses of nitrogen increased the soil acidity, whereas application of 120 kgN ha⁻¹ and 90 kgN ha⁻¹+Guanito produced the same impact on the humus and nitrogen content. The P and K contents were high in all experiment variants. After harvesting the fruits, the pH value remained at an approximately identical level, whereas the humus and nitrogen content in the soil was significantly increased in all the variants excluding the application of 120 kgN ha⁻¹+ Guanito.

Guanito. -
 (14.5%
).
 ,
 (,),
 -
 90 kgN ha⁻¹.
 : , ,
 “ ,
 ”

The highest yield was obtained by applying 90 kg N ha⁻¹ + Guanito (14.5% increase compared to the control). Increasing nitrogen rates reduced the fruit maturity rate (iodine-starch test), while the quantity of 90 kgN ha⁻¹ contributed to the lowest content of soluble solids in the fruits.

Key words: nitrogen, apple, ‘Golden Delicious’, yield

INTRODUCTION

-
 ,
 (Motosugi et al., 1995; Németh et al., 2002).
 (N)
 ,
 ,
 -
 -
 (Fallahi et al., 1997, 2001; Neilsen and Neilsen, 2002; Raese et al., 2007; Wargo et al., 2003).
 ,
 ,
 (Hansen, 1980; El-Gazzar, 2000; Gosh et al., 2004),
 N
 ,
 (Marsh et al., 1996)
 (Tahir et al., 2007),
 ,
 (Sanchez et al., 2003).
 N

- Nitrogen application has
 - significant direct and indirect
 - effects on the supply of plant
 nutrients (Motosugi et al., 1995; Németh et al., 2002). Nitrogen (N)
 supply of apple trees affects tree
 growth, flower bud formation, yield
 and fruit quality – particularly fruit
 size and colour (Fallahi et al.,
 1997, 2001; Neilsen and Neilsen,
 2002; Raese et al., 2007; Wargo et
 al., 2003).

Although excessive N fertilization
 - leads to yield increase by
 - increasing the average fruit weight
 (Hansen, 1980; El-Gazzar, 2000;
 Gosh et al., 2004), an optimal N
 supply is of great importance in
 order to avoid negative effects
 - such as low fruit quality (Marsh et
 - al., 1996) and storage ability (Tahir
 et al., 2007) and prevent
 - environmental impacts such as
 groundwater pollution (Sanchez et
 al., 2003).

- The most rapid N uptake from the
 fertilizer occurs in the period

between the flowering and the end of shoot growth, corresponding to the highest N demand in the tree. Early spring N application recompenses for the use of N reserves (Toselli et al., 2000).

N application in the summer period leads to N accumulation in perennial parts of the tree, while N supplied by the fertilizer applied during spring ends up in leaves and fruits in the current season (Mili et al., 2012). The highest N content was found in the middle of the growing season (mid June), at the time when the N uptake by plants is at its highest (Mili et al., 2012). Apple trees grown on M9 rootstocks have low requirements for N, ranging from 8.8 to 44 kg ha⁻¹ each year during the first 6 years after planting (Neilsen and Neilsen, 2002).

There is no single N program that is correct for all orchard situations. Apples can generally be divided into "low N" and "high N" requirement groups.

The 'Golden Delicious' belongs to both these groups due to a lack of agreement among countries regarding its classification.

However, there is the general consensus that the fruits with a higher nitrogen content ought to be processed, whereas the fruits with a lower N content ought to be consumed fresh.

(Conway et al., 2002; Peryea et al., 2007; Wójcik et al., 2009).

early fruit development stages to postharvest period, since there is no consensus on optimal application time (Conway et al., 2002; Peryea et al., 2007; Wójcik et al., 2009).

The aim of the research is to study the impact made by different doses of mineral Nitrogen and added organic matter on agro-chemical characteristics of the soil and the yield of the 'Golden Delicious' apple cultivar.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During 2015 various doses of nitrogen were applied in the apple orchard populated with 'Golden Delicious'. The plantation was set up in 2006 on soil with dominant vertisol-to-cambisol component structure, at a planting distance of 4x1.2 m. The experiment was set up in five variants, with each variant allocated to an area of 80 m², (control, 90 kgN/ha, 120 kgN/ha, 90kgN/ha+Guanito, 120kgN/ha+Guanito) and 3 replications within a variant.

Nutrition for the apple trees and application of nitrogen in a 70%-share volume through the soil was effected by the means of base nutrition, using the following fertilizer doses: 600 kg/ha NPK 6:12:18 + 8S (Linzer) in all fertilization variants during February. Hungarian-manufactured KAN (13,5% N-NO₃⁻ and 13,5% N-NO₄⁺, CaO 7% and MgO 5%), at

2015
"
"
2006
4x1.2
m.
,
80
m² (, 90 kgN/ha, 120
kgN/ha, 90kgN/ha+Guanito,
120kgN/ha+Guanito)
70%
: 600
kg/ha NPK 6:12:18 + 8S (Linzer)
KAN (13.5% N-NO₃⁻
13.5% N-NO₄⁺, CaO 7% MgO
5%), 200 kg/ha Guanito

(Hoya) 6% N 30%
P₂O₅,
(90 kgN/ha, . . 120 kgN/ha +
Guanito).
30%
Mg-
(11% N-NO₃ 16% MgO)
Mg-mix (Ca+Mg)
.
-
cm, : 0-30 cm 30-60
(10th 2015)
(15th , 2015).
-
-
-
(1-10),
(t/ha).
pH :
-
-
-
KCl (1M
pH 510, Eutech Instruments,
Singapore),
CaCO₃ ,
Scheiblerov, calcium-meter
tzmman,

200 kg/ha Guanito (Hoya) with 6% organic N and 30% organic P₂O₅, at the beginning of April (90 kgN/ha, i.e. 120 kgN/ha + Guanito).

The remaining 30% of nitrogen was applied through fertilization-irrigation of Mg-nitrate (11% N-NO₃ and 16% MgO) at the beginning June and through foliar nutrition using Mg-mix (Ca+Mg) at the beginning and end of July.

The trial included monitoring the values of different fertility parameters at two respective depths: 0-30 cm and 30-60 cm, measured at two intervals, at the middle of the vegetation period (10th July 2015) an after harvesting the apple fruits (15th October 2015). The impact made by the different doses of fertiliser and application of the mineral and organic form of nitrogen was determined based on the degree of maturity (mono-starch test, on a scale 1-10), soluble solids content (SSC, %) and total yield (t/ha).

The chemical analyses were conducted using the following methods: pH value was determined potentiometrically with a combined glass electrode, by mixing soil with water and 1M KCl solution (ratio 1:2.5) (CyberScan pH 510, Eutech Instruments, Singapore), the CaCO₃ content was determined volumetrically, using the Scheiblerov calcium-meter, the humus levels were established using the tzmman method, nitrogen content was found out by the Kjeldahl method (Bremener and Mulvaney,

(Bremener and Mulvaney, 1982),

AL

AL

Dunett

d' 0.05 d' 0.01.

1982), easily accessible Phosphorus was determined using the colorimetric AL method, whereas the easily accessible potassium was measured using the flame-photometric AL method.

The significance of the differences between the control and the variants implying different nitrogen doses was determined using the Dunett for significance level of d' 0.05 and d' 0.01.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the agro-chemical analyses conducted in two different measuring intervals, changes in contents of basic parameters of soil fertility was established, occurring as a result of different doses and forms of nitrogen (Table 1).

(1).

1.

Table 1. Agro-chemical analyses of soil in 'Golden Delicious' plantation

Parameters	Depth (cm)	Control	Control I		90 kgN/ha		120 kgN/ha		90 kgN/ha + Guanito		120 kgN/ha+ Guanito	
			I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
pH/H ₂ O	0-30	7.28	7.46	7.16	6.69	6.76	7.10	7.19	6.37	6.65	6.76	6.54
	30-60	6.10	6.25	6.23	6.19	5.86	6.87	6.60	6.22	5.72	6.40	6.13
pH/KCl	0-30	6.59	6.79	6.51	6.14	6.37	6.46	6.50	5.73	6.21	6.28	6.57
	30-60	5.80	5.61	5.45	5.47	5.84	6.15	5.90	5.56	5.86	5.78	5.95
CaCO ₃ (%)	0-30	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2
	30-60	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
Humus (%)	0-30	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.3
	30-60	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.1
N total (%)	0-30	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.21	0.20	0.25	0.21	0.26	0.23	0.22	0.20
	30-60	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	0.20	0.17	0.16
Al-P ₂ O ₅ mg 100 g ⁻¹	0-30	13.9	14.2	14.0	22.1	20.4	23.2	21.5	24.1	25.3	24.8	22.1
	30-60	11.5	11.0	11.2	15.2	14.2	15.8	13.2	14.9	16.4	15.9	12.2
Al-K ₂ O mg 100 g ⁻¹	0-30	40.2	39.1	42.3	55.2	53.5	50.2	52.1	56.9	57.5	54.7	53.5

Based on the results of the analyses it was established that the application of different doses of nitrogen made a varying impact

	-	on the tested parameters of the soil fertility.
	-	The variant with no applied nitrogen revealed the highest values of active and substitution acidity, whereas application of 90 kgN/ha of mineral fertiliser and the combination with the organic fertiliser produced the lowest pH values. By increasing the doses of fertiliser, the pH values were kept within the range of the control variant, with no significant differences between the samples taken at different depths. From the aspect of the CaCO ₃ contents (%), the soil belongs to the category of low-carbonate soils, and the application of calcium through foliar nutrition provided the plants with additional doses of this element, contributing to its approximately same levels in the soil. The impact of foliar application of Ca and the antagonism between this element and nitrogen and potassium are the parameters examined by numerous authors (Nosal et al. 1990; Sotiropoulos et al. 2005; Marcelle 1995), who have established the positive impact on the quality of fruits, provided that the nutrition is well-balanced with other elements. The content of humus in the soil was at the level of medium supply, whereas the highest values (3.5-3.6%) were measured in the variant of application of 120 kgN/ha and 90 kgN/ha + Guanito. The optimum
90 kgN/ha	-	
pH.	-	
, pH	-	
, CaCO ₃ (%)	-	
, Ca	-	
(Nosal et al. 1990; Sotiropoulos et al. 2005; Marcelle 1995),	-	
, (3.5-3.6%)	-	
120 kgN/ha 90 kgN/ha +	-	

Guanito.

- provision of the soil with humus
- enabled the intake of nitrogen from the existing reserves, so that the increase in nitrogen did not have an additional impact on the yield and its parameters.

al., 2012

120 kgN/ha+ Guanito

NPK
P₂O₅ (20.4-25.3 mg/100g),

mg/100g).

30-60 cm

- The application of nitrogen contributed to its increased contents in the soil, with higher doses of nitrogen being recorded in the first measuring (mid-July), compared to the values established at the end of vegetation period. Mili et al., 2012 also determined that the highest contents of nitrogen in the soil were detected in the mid-vegetation period, coinciding with the highest intake of nitrogen by the plants. The application of 120 kgN/ha+ Guanito did not result in any significant increase in the nitrogen levels in the different periods of the trial.

- The application of the NPK fertiliser resulted in the increase (20.4-25.3 mg/100g) of P₂O₅, which is an optimum supply level for apple-growing, in accordance with the reaction of the soil solution compared to the control group (13.9-14.2 mg/100g). In the sub-humus horizon lying at the depth of 30-60 cm below the ground surface, the content of phosphorus is considerably lower in comparison with the humus accumulation horizon.

The potassium content

NPK

- before the set up of the experiment was high, and the application of NPK fertilizer contributed to a further increase in the content of accessible potassium. The differences between the various nutrition variants were not significant within the same depth of study. Due to intensive supply of potassium, its highest concentration was established in the surface horizon, gradually decreasing with the larger depth of sampling.

The impact made by the different doses of nitrogen on the volume of yield and level of ripeness of fruits is shown in Table 2.

2.

Table 2. Impact of nitrogen on yield and level of ripeness of fruits of 'Golden Delicious'

No.	Variants	Yield	Yield increase %	Mono-starch	SSC (%)
1	/Control	30.80	100	7.20	11.18
2	90 kgN/ha	31.30 ns	104.3	6.98 ns	10.45 *
3	120 kgN/ha	32.08 ns	106.9	7.13 ns	11.90 ns
4	90 kgN/ha +Guanito	38.25 ns	114.5	6.70 ns	11.80 ns
5	120 kgN/ha+ Guanito	34.35 ns	111.5	6.75 ns	11.75 ns

* Dunett $d' 0.05$ $d' 0.01$

*Dunett' test for level of significance $d' 0.05$ and $d' 0.01$

4.3-14.5%,

(2).

(AGRIOS, Italy

The results of the analyses show that the impact of the different doses of nitrogen is to increase in yield in the range of 4.3-14.5%, which is not considered as a significant improvement compared to the control variant (Table 2). The volume of the yield in our research corresponds to the recommendations

2015)
 kgN/ha,
 -
 (120 kgN/ha+ Guanito)
 -
 kgN/ha + Guanito (14.3%).
 ,
 " " .
 - 90 kgN/ha,
 - 10.45%.

90 (AGRIOS, Italy 2015) for fertilisation dosage of up to 90 kgN/ha, whereas the application of larger doses of mineral nitrogen combined with added organic nitrogen (120 kgN/ha+ Guanito) resulted in a lower yield compared to application of 90 kgN/ha + Guanito (yield increase of 14.3% compared to control variant).

The degree of ripeness of fruits did not show significant differences as a result of application of different doses of nitrogen and was within the optimum values for the harvesting of 'Golden Delicious'. The soluble solids content (SSC) showed statistically significant differences compared to the variant of 90 kgN/ha application, and recorded the lowest value of 10.45%.

CONCLUSIONS

pH
 -
 90 kgN/ha,
 , pH
 ,
 -
 Ca,
 ,

Application of different doses of nitrogen made a varying impact on the studied parameters. The lowest pH values were measure in the application of 90 kgN/ha of mineral fertiliser, as well as in combining the mineral and organic fertiliser. With increased nitrogen doses, the pH values were at the levels of the control group, with no significant differences occurring between the different depths of sampling. The soil examined in the class of low calcareous, with the fact that due to foliar feeding poor adoption of Ca from the soil. The humus content was in the range of medium supply, and the total

P₂O₅,
4.3-14.5%,
90 kgN/ha.

nitrogen supply was at the high level. The supply of P₂O₅, was at the optimum level in all of the trial variants, compared to the very high levels of potassium. The impact made by the different doses of nitrogen contributed to increase in yield in the range of 4.3-14.5%, which is not considered as a significant improvement compared to the control variant. There was no recorded impact on the level of ripeness, whereas the content of dry soluble matter showed significant differences in the variant of application of 90 kgN/ha.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was partially supported by the Ministry of education and science of Republic of Serbia (grant number TR 31080).

(TR 31080).

/ REFERENCES

1. **Bremener J.M., Mulvaney C.S.** Nitrogen-area. Methods of soil analysis. Pt- 2. Chemical and microbiological properties. *In: Agronomy Monograph 9 (A.L. Page, R.H. Miller and D.R. Keeney, eds.). American Society of Agronomy, Madison, WI, 1982, pp. 699-709.*
2. **Conway W.S., Sams C.E., Hickey K.D.** Pre- and postharvest calcium treatment of apple fruit and its effect on quality. *Acta Horticulturae*, 2002, No. 594, pp.413-419.
3. **Drazeta L., Lang A., Morgan L., Volz R., Jameson P.E.** Bitter pit and vascular function in apples. *Acta Horticulturae*, 2001, No. 564, pp. 387-392.
4. **EI-Gazzar A.A.M.** Effect of fertilization with nitrogen, potassium and magnesium on Anna apples. Part 1. Effect of nitrogen fertilization. *Annals of Agricultural Science*, 2000, No. 3, pp. 1145-1152.
5. **Fallahi E., Colt W.M., Baird R.C., Fallahi B., Chun I.J.** Influence of nitrogen and bagging on fruit quality and mineral concentrations of BC-2 Fuji apple. *Hort technology*, 2001, No. 11, pp. 462-466.
6. **Fallahi E., Conway S.W., Hickey K.D., Sams E.C.** The role of calcium and nitrogen in postharvest quality and disease resistance of apples. *Horticultural Science*, 1997, No. 32, pp. 831-835.
7. **Gosh S., Manna S., Mathew B.** Effect of nitrogen and potassium fertilization on custard apple grown under rain fed laterite soils. *Journal of Environment and Ecology*, 2004, No. 22, pp. 144-147.

8. Guidelines for Integrated Pome Cultivation. AGRIOS, 2015. (in Italian)
9. **Hansen P.** Yield components and fruit development in 'Golden Delicious' apples as affected by the timing of nitrogen supply. *Scientia Horticulturae*, 1980, No. 12, pp. 243-257.
10. **Marcelle R.D.** Mineral nutrition and fruit quality. *Acta Horticulturae*, 1995, No. 383, pp. 219-226.
11. **Marsh K.B., Volz R.K., Reay P.** Fruit colour, leaf nitrogen level, and tree vigour in 'Fuji' apples. New Zeal. *Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science*, 1996, No. 24, pp. 393-399.
12. **Mili B., abilovski R., Keserovi Z., Manojlovi M., Magazin N., Dori M.** Nitrogen fertilization and chemical thinning with 6-benzyladenine affect fruit set and quality of golden delicious apples. *Scientia Horticulturae*, 2012, No. 140, pp. 81-86.
13. **Motosugi H., Gao Y-P., Sugiura A.** Rootstock effects on fruit quality of 'Fuji' apples grown with ammonium or nitrate nitrogen in sand culture. *Scientia Horticulturae*, 1995, No. 3-4, pp. 205-214.
14. **Neilsen D., Neilsen G.H.** Efficient use of nitrogen and water in high-density apple orchards. *Hort technology*, 2002, No.12, pp.19-25.
15. **Németh T.** Talajaink nitrogén-tartalma és a nitrogén trágyázás. *Debreceni Egyetem Agrártud. Közl.* 2002, No. 9, pp. 51-61.
16. **Nosal K., Poniedzialek W., Kropp K., Porebski S.** Effectiveness of nitrogen and potassium fertilization on apple trees. *Acta Horticulturae*, 1990, No. 274, pp. 361-364.
17. **Peryea F.J., Neilsen G.H., Faubion D.** Start-timing for calcium chloride spray programs influences fruit calcium and bitter pit in 'Braeburn' and 'Honeycrisp' apples. *Journal of Plant Nutrition*, 2007, No. 30, pp. 1213-1227.
18. **Raese J.T., Drake R.S., Curry A.E.** Nitrogen fertilizer influences fruit quality, soil nutrients and cover crops, leaf color and nitrogen content, biennial bearing and cold hardiness of 'Golden Delicious'. *Journal of Plant Nutrition*, 2007, No. 30, pp. 1585-1604.
19. **Sanchez J.E., Edson C.E., Bird G.W., Whalon M.E., Willson T.C., Harwood R.R., Kizilkaya K., Nugent J.E., Klein W., Middleton A., Loudon T.L., Mutch D.R., Scrimger J.** Orchard floor and nitrogen management influences soil and water quality and tart cherry yields. *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*, 2003, No. 128, pp. 277-284.
20. **Sotiropoulos T. E., Therios I. N., Dimassi K. N., Tsirakoglou V.** Effects of applications of a complex and N-Ca fertilizer on leaf and fruit nutrient concentrations and some fruit quality parameters in two apple cultivars. *Horticultural Science*, 2005, No. 32 (1), pp. 9-16.
21. **Tahir I.I., Johansson E., Olsson E.M.** Improvement of quality and storability of apple cv. Aroma by adjustment of some pre-harvest conditions. *Scientia Horticulturae*, 2007, No. 112, pp. 164-171.
22. **Toselli M., Flore J.A., Zavalloni C., Maragoni B.** Nitrogen partitioning in apple trees as affected by application time. *Hort technology*, 2000, No.10, pp.136-141.
23. **Wargo M.J., Merwin A.I., Watkins B.C.** Fruit size, yield and market value of 'Gold Rush' apple are affected by amount, timing and method of nitrogen fertilization. *Hort technology*, 2003, No.13, pp.153-161.
24. **Wójcik P., Gubbuk H., Akgül H., Gunes E., Ucgun K., Koçal H., Küçükyumuk C.** Effect of autumn calcium spray at a high rate on 'Granny Smith' apple quality and storability. *Journal of Plant Nutrition*, 2009, No. 33, pp. 46-56.

**

1*, 1, 1, 2, 1,

1, 2, 32000, 32000, 32000,

*E-mail: aleksandarleposavic@yahoo.com

Yield and quality of fruit of highbush blueberry cultivars grown in western Serbia**

Aleksandar Leposavi^{1*}, Olga Mitrovi¹, Branko Popovi¹,
Darko Jevremovi¹, Dragan Petrovi²

¹ Fruit Research Institute, 32000 Zlatibor, R. Serbia

² Faculty of Agronomy, 32000 Zlatibor, R. Serbia

**

TR-1661046

**Original scientific paper; Supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Serbia, Project No. TR-1661046

SUMMARY

- Increasing economic importance and steady growth of blueberry production in the world add up to the use value of fruit, profitability of growing and high merchantability production.
- Dozens of blueberry cultivars are grown in countries that traditionally cultivate this fruit.
- Commercially grown cultivars differ in a number of properties: requirements in respect of agricultural and environmental and other conditions, fruit ripening time, harvest length, grit and other organoleptic characteristics of the fruit, yield, resistance of fruit to diseases, pests and adverse environmental conditions

This paper presents the results of the study of yield and the most important

Wood (1989)	"	"	The results obtained by
- (2.1 g),	"	"	Wood (1989) showed that 'Nui' had
" (1.6 g)	"	"	larger fruit (2.1 g) than 'Reka' (1.6
(1.7 g),	-	-	g) and 'Bluecrop' (1.7 g), but had
1991-1996, Stanisavljevic & Cerovi (1997)	-	-	lower average yield per bush. Over
1980.	-	-	the 1991-1996 period,
1/91	-	-	Stanisavljevic & Cerovi (1997)
(1.61 g),	-	-	studied physiological and
(4700.00 g	-	-	pomological characteristics of
12.530 kg ha ⁻¹).	-	-	three blueberry cultivars and one
"	-	-	hybrid in a planting established in
"	-	-	1980. The results of their studies
1.39	-	-	suggested that the hybrid 1/91 had
g,	-	-	the largest fruit (1.61 g) as well as
g (11,997 kg ha ⁻¹).	-	-	the highest yield per plant and unit
Carter et al. (2002),	-	-	area (4700.00 g and 12,530 kg
6	-	-	ha ⁻¹ respectively). As for the
"	-	-	performance of 'Bluecrop' in these
"	-	-	studies, its fruit weight was 1.39 g
(12.309 kg ha ⁻¹)	-	-	and yield of 4500.00 g per plant
(1.4 g),	-	-	(11,997 kg ha ⁻¹).
"	-	-	The results of the studies
5.456 kg ha ⁻¹ .	-	-	conducted by Carter et al. (2002),
Beaudry (1992),	-	-	which involved 6 highbush
"	-	-	blueberry cultivars grown in
"	-	-	southwestern Arkansas, showed
10 mm	-	-	that 'Ozarkblue' had the highest
(10%),	-	-	yield (12,309 kg ha ⁻¹) and largest
(0.3-1.3%),	-	-	fruits (1.4 g), while the poorest
pH	-	-	performance was recorded in
	-	-	'Premier' which yielded only 5, 456
	-	-	kg ha ⁻¹).
	-	-	According to Beaudry (1992),
	-	-	criteria affecting quality of
	-	-	blueberry fruit are as follows: fruit
	-	-	size, which is expected to be in
	-	-	excess of 10 mm in diameter,
	-	-	soluble solids content (in excess of
	-	-	10%) total acid content (0.3-1.3%)
	-	-	fruit juice pH value (2.25-4.25) and
	-	-	sweetness index (10-33). Dry

(2.25–4.25)
(10-33).
(Castrejón et al., 2008)

- matter content increases with maturation of fruit (Castrejón et al., 2008).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(2008-2010)
2006
(43°53.654'
20°20.619'
m . . ,
245
orientation).

The three-year studies (2008-2010) were carried out in the experimental blueberry planting established in the spring of 2006 at the 'Cacak' site, premises of Fruit Research Institute Cacak (43°53.654' north latitude and 20°20.619' east longitude, 245 m altitude, north-south planting orientation).

2014).
10 cm
(Leposavi ,
2.5 x 1.5 m.

The planting was established with three-year, certified seedlings of highbush blueberries, planted at a distance of 2.5 x 1.5 m. Most commonly used planting system both locally and globally – in a bush – was employed in the planting (Leposavi , 2014). The inter-row space was layered with 10 cm conifer sawdust.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The results of the studies relative to yield parameters are shown in Table 1.

1. 2008-2010

Table 1. Yield of highbush blueberry grown at the site of 'Cacak' over the 2008–2010 period

Cultivar	Yield per bush (g)	Yield per unit area (kg ha ⁻¹)	Fruit weight (g)	Total dry matter %	Total anthocyanins g/l
'Duke'	2202,36 ns	5,871.48 ns	1.76**	12.97 *	144.21 ns
'Nui'	1318,18 **	3,514.26 **	1.99**	12.06 **	150.18 ns
'Reka'	2626,53 **	7,002.34 **	1.37**	12.93 **	103.40 ns
'Ozarkblue'	2029,62 **	5,410.97 **	1.64 ns	13.53 ns	154.47 *
'Bluecrop'	2219,78	5,917.93	1.58	13.55	119.29

8-
,
,
,
(2008),
-
ha⁻¹).
8-
,
(140 m, 175 m, 440 m
690 m)
(Celik, 2009),
-
. Celik (2009)
,
.
,
.
,
.
,"
,"
Oblak et al. (1984).
"
1,

Significantly lower yield of 8 highbush blueberries per bush, but higher yield per unit area, compared to the results of our study, was reported by Wach (2008), which can be explained by a much larger number of plants per unit area (5,000 plants ha⁻¹).

Compared to the yield per bush in 8 highbush blueberries grown at different altitudes (140 m, 175 m, 440 m and 690 m) in the south-eastern part of Turkey (Celik, 2009), all blueberry cultivars in our study achieved higher yields.

- Celik (2009) also reports that meteorological factors and altitude of the planting may play a significant role in yield formation.

- The results obtained in these studies are expected, given the cultural practices and the growing system applied.

- Yield per unit area is in accordance with yield per plant, so that the differences among the cultivars studied are in full agreement with the results obtained for yield per plant.

- In this study, all the cultivars examined, except 'Nui', had higher yield compared to those studied by Oblak et al. (1984).

- As for fruit weight and yield of 'Ozarkblue', shown in Table 1, in our studies it had larger fruit but

Carter et al. (2002),
 , , , "
 .
 ,
 12.06% (" ")
 13.55% (" "),
 Beaudry
 (1992) and Cocetta (2012)
 (
).
 Molina et al. (2008)
 -
 .
 , -
 Celik (2009) 8
 .
 ,
 Molina et al.
 (2008) Celik (2009)
 (
)
 (
)
) ,
 .
 ,

- fruits compared to the results
 obtained by Carter et al. (2002),
 who also recorded that in respect
 of yield 'Ozarkblue' and 'Legacy'
 performed significantly better than
 other cultivars studied.

- Over the three-year study
 period, total dry matter content in
 our study ranged from 12.06%
 ('Nui') to 13.55% ('Bluecrop'),
 which is, as reported by Beaudry
 (1992) and Cocetta (2012), within
 the limits for most commercial
 cultivars (over a relatively long
 period of time).

, Compared to the results of our
 study, Molina et al. (2008)
 recorded significantly lower total
 dry matter content in the fruit of
 three southern-type highbush
 blueberries. Also, lower total dry
 matter content was also reported
 by Celik (2009) in 8 northern-type
 highbush blueberries.

- However, environmental
 conditions in which Molina et al.
 (2008) and Celik (2009) conducted
 their investigations (Huelva –
 Spain and southeastern part of
 Turkey) are totally different
 (excessively low humidity and high
 temperatures during growing
 season) from those in which our
 investigation was set up, which
 may account for the lower dry
 matter content in the fruits of
 blueberries in their studies.

- In our studies, over a three-

119.29 g/l (" ") 154.47 g/l (" ").
 Georgiev et al. (2011),

year period, total anthocyanins ranged averagely from 119.29 g/l ('Bluecrop') to 154.47 g/l ('Ozarkblue'). Total anthocyanins were considerably higher than those reported by Georgiev et al. (2011) in their studies, which can to some extent be attributed to the specific environmental conditions of the growing regions.

CONCLUSIONS

" "

Grown in older plantings all the cultivars in our investigation showed stable yield. In all the years of study 'Reka' showed significantly higher yields compared to other cultivars.

In contrast, 'Nui' had considerably lower yield compared to other cultivars over the same period, so that caution is necessary when making recommendations for its growing. 'Bluecrop', 'Duke' and 'Ozarkblue' perform similarly in respect of yield and may be attractive for commercial growing in the Republic of Serbia.

REFERENCES

1. , 1983, 66 (4): 25-37. (in Serbian)
2. (Vaccinium corymbosum L.). 2014, 1-127 + 29. (in Serbian)

1. **Arsov T., Kiprijanovski M., Gjamovski V.** Research on highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) cultivated in Macedonia. *Contemporary Agriculture*, 2010, 59, 1/2: 99-104.
2. **Beaudry R.** Blueberry quality characteristics and how they can be optimized. *Annual Report of Michigan State Horticultural Society*, 1992, 122: 140-145.
3. **Carter P. M., Clark J. R.,**

3. ,, ,, ,, , 1984, 67-68 (1-2): 51-58. (in Serbian)
4. **Arsov T., Kiprijanovski M., Gjamovski V.** Research on highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) cultivated in Macedonia. *Savremena poljoprivreda*, 2010, 59, 1/2: 99-104.
5. **Beaudry R.** Blueberry quality characteristics and how they can be optimized. *Annual Report of Michigan State Horticultural Society*, 1992, 122: 140-145.
6. **Carter P. M., Clark J. R., Striegler R. K.** Evaluation of southern highbush blueberry cultivars for production in southwestern Arkansas. *HortTechnology*, 2002, 12 (2): 271-274.
7. **Castrejón A. D. R., Eichholz I., Rohn S., Kroh L. W., Huyskens-Keil S.** Phenolic profile and antioxidant activity of highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) during fruit maturation and ripening. *Food Chemistry*, 2008, 109: 564-572.
8. **Celik H.** Yield and berry characteristics of some northern highbush blueberries grown at different altitudes in Turkey. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Berry Production in Changing Climate Conditions and Cultivation Systems in the context of COST – Action 863, Geinsenheim (Germany), Acta Horticulturae*, 2009, 838: 63-66.
9. **Cocetta G.** Characterization of bioactive compounds and quality attributes in highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) during ripening and storage in controlled atmosphere. *Thesis of doctoral dissertation, Università degli studi di Milano*, 2012.
10. **Ehlenfeldt M. K., Martin Jr R. B.** Seed set, berry weight, and yield interactions in highbush blueberry cultivars (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) 'Bluecrop' and 'Duke'. *Journal of*
- Striegler R. K.** Evaluation of southern highbush blueberry cultivars for production in southwestern Arkansas. *HortTechnology*, 2002, 12 (2): 271-274.
4. **Castrejón A. D. R., Eichholz I., Rohn S., Kroh L. W., Huyskens-Keil S.** Phenolic profile and antioxidant activity of highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) during fruit maturation and ripening. *Food Chemistry*, 2008, 109: 564-572.
5. **Celik H.** Yield and berry characteristics of some northern highbush blueberries grown at different altitudes in Turkey. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Berry Production in Changing Climate Conditions and Cultivation Systems in the context of COST – Action 863, Geinsenheim (Germany), Acta Horticulturae*, 2009, 838: 63-66.
6. **Cocetta G.** Characterization of bioactive compounds and quality attributes in highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) during ripening and storage in controlled atmosphere. *Thesis of doctoral dissertation, Università degli studi di Milano*, 2012.
7. **Ehlenfeldt M. K., Martin Jr R. B.** Seed set, berry weight, and yield interactions in highbush blueberry cultivars (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) 'Bluecrop' and 'Duke'. *Journal of American Pomological Society*, 2010, 64 (3): 162-172.
8. **Georgiev D., Georgieva M., Dinkova H.** Growth and development of blueberry variety Brigitta Blue in the region of Troyan. *Book of Abstracts | Proceedings 46th Croatian & 6th International Symposium on Agriculture, Opatija*, 2011, p 21.
9. **Gough R. E.** The Highbush Blueberry and Its Management. *Food Production Press, Haworth Press, Inc. New York*, 1994.
10. **Krgovi Lj.** Pomological characteristic of fruit and blueberry yields in the conditions of Polimlje. *Journal of Yugoslav Pomology*, 1983, 66 (4): 25-37.

American Pomological Society, 2010, 64 (3): 162-172.

11. **Georgiev D., Georgieva M., Dinkova H.** Growth and development of blueberry variety Brigitta Blue in the region of Troyan. *Book of Abstracts / Proceedings 46th Croatian & 6th International Symposium on Agriculture, Opatija*, 2011, p 21.

12. **Gough R. E.** The Highbush Blueberry and Its Management. *Food Production Press, Haworth Press, Inc. New York*, 1994.

13. **Molina J. M., Calvo D., Medina J. J., Barrau C., Romero F.** Fruit quality parameters of some southern highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) grown in Andalusia (Spain). *Spanish Journal of Agricultural Research*, 2008, 6 (4): 671-676.

14. **Siefker J. A., Hancock J. F.** Yield component interactions in cultivars of the highbush blueberry. *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*, 1987, 111: 606-608.

15. **Stanisavljevic M., Cerovic R.** The characteristics of blueberry hybrid 1/91 (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.). *Acta Horticulturae*, 1997, 446: 165-169.

16. **Wach D.** Estimation of growth and yielding of highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) cultivated on soil developed from weakly loamy sand. *Folia Horticulturae*, 2008, 20/2, 47-55.

17. **Wood H. F.** Blueberry – variety Nui. *United States Patent*, 1989. Patent number 6, 699.

(in Serbian)

11. **Leposavi A.** Pomological properties of newly introduced highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) cultivars. *University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture*, 2014, 1-127 + 29. (in Serbian)

12. **Molina J. M., Calvo D., Medina J. J., Barrau C., Romero F.** Fruit quality parameters of some southern highbush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) grown in Andalusia (Spain). *Spanish Journal of Agricultural Research*, 2008, 6 (4): 671-676.

13. **Oblak M., Petronijevi M., Krgovi Lj., Milutinovi M.** The problems in blueberry growing and blueberry cultivars for Yugoslavia. *Journal of Yugoslav Pomology*, 1984, 67-68 (1-2): 51-58. (in Serbian)

14. **Siefker J. A., Hancock J. F.** Yield component interactions in cultivars of the highbush blueberry. *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*, 1987, 111: 606-608.

15. **Stanisavljevic M., Cerovic R.** The characteristics of blueberry hybrid 1/91 (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.). *Acta Horticulturae*, 1997, 446: 165-169.

16. **Wach D.** Estimation of growth and yielding of highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.) cultivated on soil developed from weakly loamy sand. *Folia Horticulturae*, 2008, 20/2, 47-55.

17. **Wood H. F.** Blueberry – variety Nui. *United States Patent*, 1989. Patent number 6, 699.

*E-mail: joro_kornov@abv.bg

A state of raspberry production and prospects for its development in lowland conditions

Georgi Kornov*, Kouman Koumanov, Irina Staneva

Fruit Growing Institute, 12 Ostromila Str., 4004 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

- There is an increasing interest in the raspberry crop because of the good international market conditions and the quick pay back of investments.

- In Bulgaria, the occupied areas increase steadily, expanding to regions without traditions in raspberry production.

- However, the indispensable qualitative breakthrough can be achieved only by intensification of raspberry production, which necessitates introducing of state of the art equipment and crop management approaches. In order to meet these requirements, a technology for growing of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivar was developed at the Fruit Growing Institute in Plovdiv. It is environmentally friendly and provides high yields and fruit quality, fast pay back of the investments and very good profitability.

- This is a technology, which requires modern equipment, grower education, awareness, access to technological resources, and adherence to strict scheduling of each operation. Micro-irrigation, fertigation and process

mechanization are indispensable elements of that technology. It is applicable to other primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivars as well.

Key words: raspberry, intensification, drip irrigation, fertigation

There is an increasing interest in the raspberry crop because of the good international and national market conditions, the quick pay back of investments and the permanent management and processing improvements, including selection of new cultivars with high technological and gustatory characteristics (Hristov et al., 1977; Hristov and Boycheva, 1982; Rangelov, 1990; Pritts, 1991; Stiles et al., 2002; Knight, 2004; Bushway and Pritts, 2008; Fernandez and Krewer, 2008; Veljkovic et al., 2008; Petrovic and Leposavic, 2011).

FAOSTAT

2012

543030

133000

127055

100775

96078

72 %

12-

6109

1980-2012

1 -

mechanization are indispensable elements of that technology. It is applicable to other primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivars as well.

Key words: raspberry, intensification, drip irrigation, fertigation

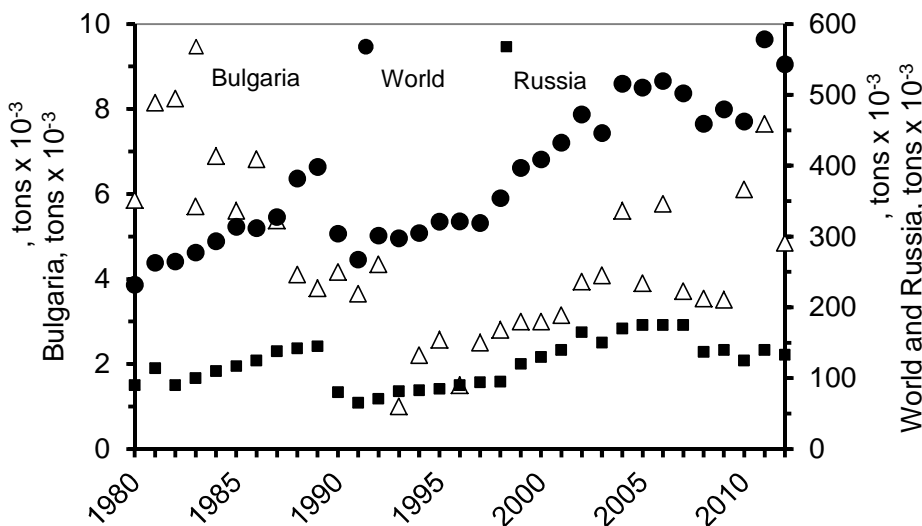
There is an increasing interest in the raspberry crop because of the good international and national market conditions, the quick pay back of investments and the permanent management and processing improvements, including selection of new cultivars with high technological and gustatory characteristics (Hristov et al., 1977; Hristov and Boycheva, 1982; Rangelov, 1990; Pritts, 1991; Stiles et al., 2002; Knight, 2004; Bushway and Pritts, 2008; Fernandez and Krewer, 2008; Veljkovic et al., 2008; Petrovic and Leposavic, 2011).

According to FAOSTAT data, in 2012 raspberry production in the world is 543030 tons. Russia is the biggest producer with 133000 tons per year, followed by Poland with 127055 tons, U.S.A. with 100775 tons and the Serbia with 96078 tons.

Bulgaria is on the 12th position in this rating with annual production of 6109 tons.

The trends of raspberry production in the period 1980-2012 are illustrated on Figure 1, respectively for Bulgaria, Russia

and totally for the first 20 producing countries in the world. For that period, the world production had doubled. The production decline in the end of eighties and the first half of the nineties is obviously due to the perturbations in the economies of the former socialist countries and mostly of the biggest producer – Russia. In the last 20 years, however, the trend towards increasing of the raspberry fruit production is unambiguous, the growth rate in Bulgaria being identical with that in Russia. Apparently, in the last years Bulgaria has reached levels comparable with those before the changes.



1. () 1980 2012
 ()
 ()
 FAOSTAT, 2016)

Fig. 1. Production of raspberry fruit (metric tons) from 1980 till 2012 in Bulgaria, Russia (former Soviet Union) and total for the first 20 countries-producers in the world (data from FAOSTAT, 2016)

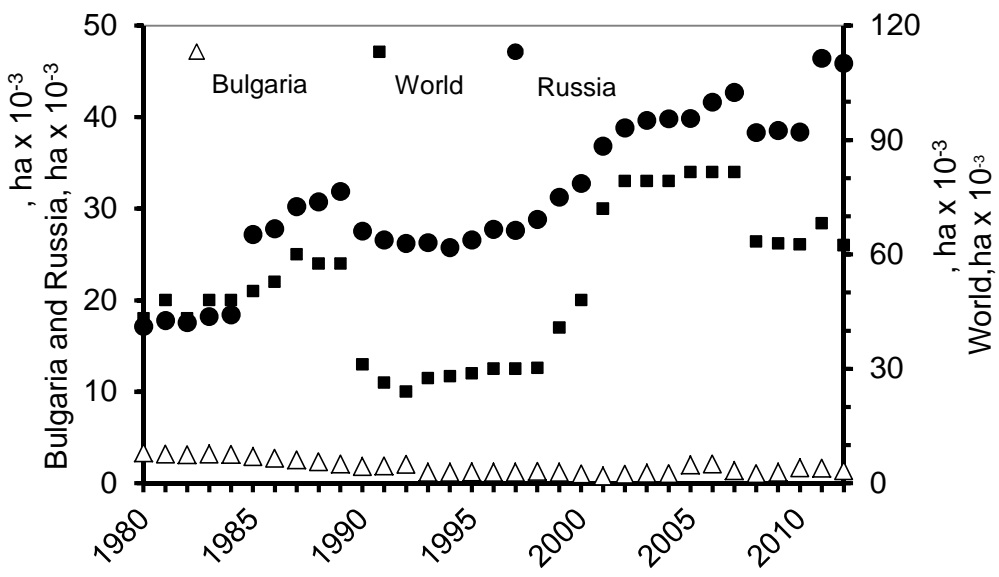
(2)

;

(3)

: 5-6 mg ha⁻¹.

The examination of the 30-year data about the area of the raspberry plantations (Figure 2) reveals strong correlation between the cultivated area and the produced fruit, which may be considered indicator for the extensive character of the production. Indeed, the average-yield data (Figure 3) show that in both the individual countries and the world the yields have remained relatively constant during the last decades: 5-6 mg ha⁻¹.



2. () , 1980 (2012 . FAOSTAT, 2016)
Fig. 2. Area occupied by raspberry plantations from 1980 till 2012 in Bulgaria, Russia (former Soviet Union) and total for the first 20 countries-producers in the world (data from FAOSTAT, 2016)

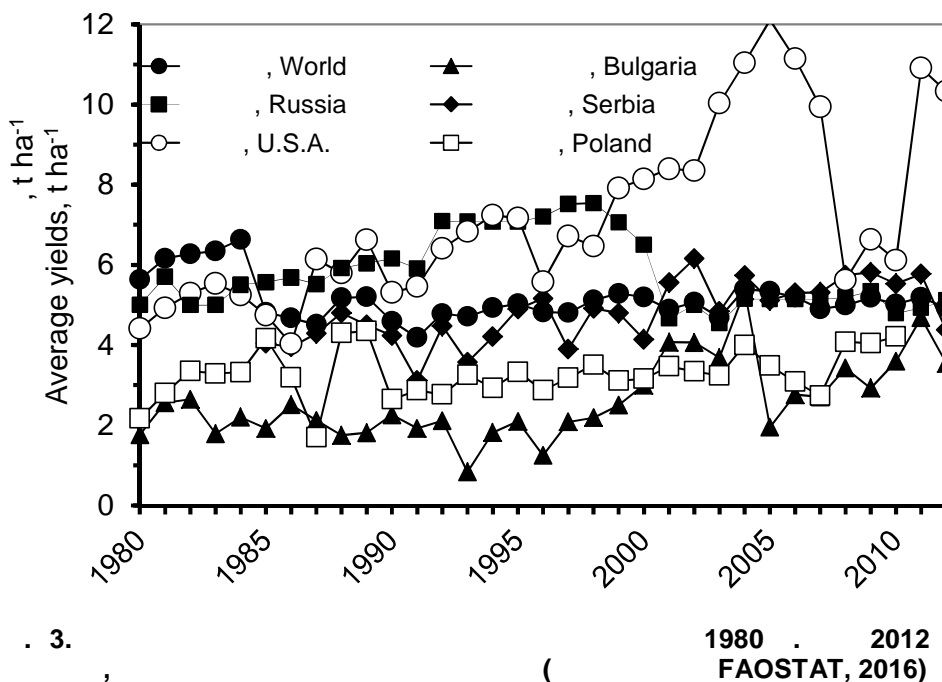
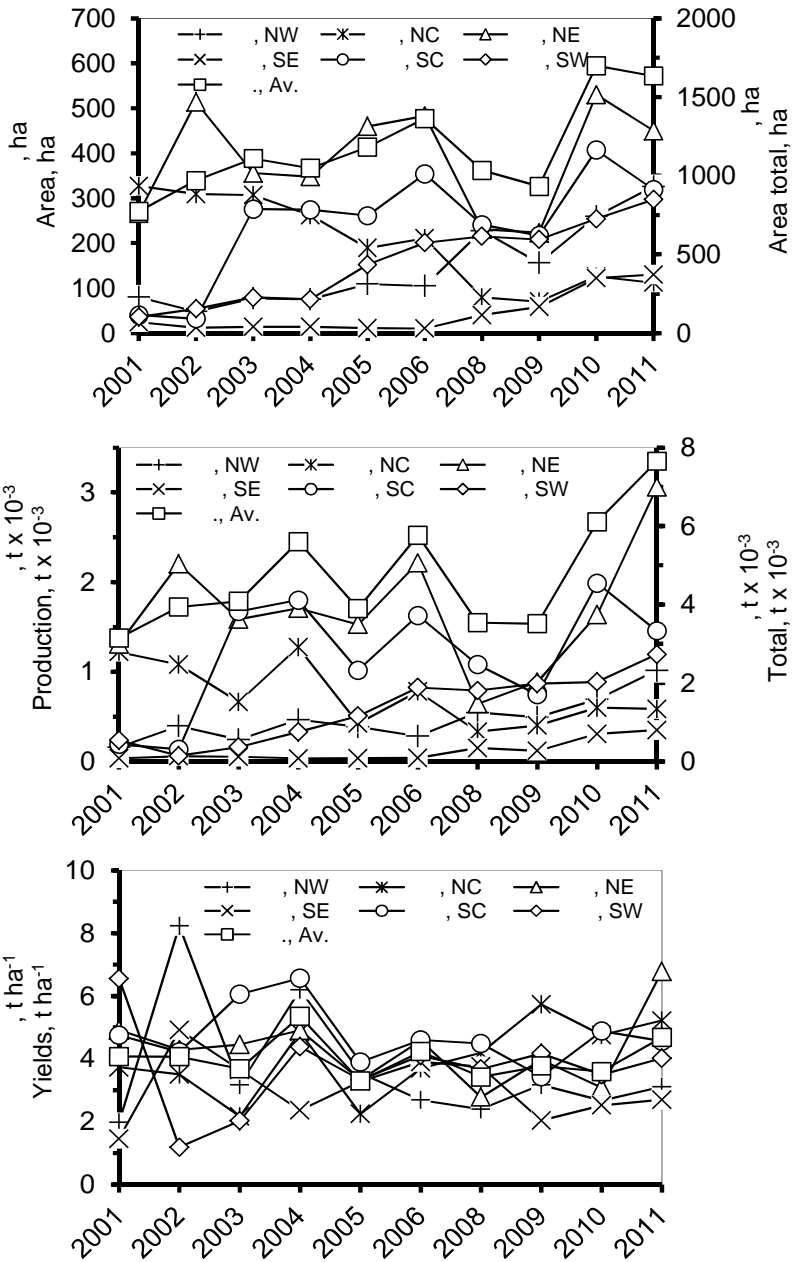


Fig. 3. Average yields of raspberry fruit from 1980 till 2012 in Bulgaria, other countries and average for the world (data from FAOSTAT, 2016)

Bulgaria is not an exception. Moreover, in our country we observe stable trend extension of the production towards regions without traditions in the growing of raspberries, including lowlands. Data about the raspberry production in the last decade, provided by the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, are shown on Figure 4. It can be seen that the increase of the area occupied by raspberry plantations is most significant in the South Central region, and this is on behalf of both North Central and North Eastern regions. The average yields remain at levels about 4 mg ha⁻¹, the highest ones again being those in the South Central region.

4 mg ha⁻¹,



. 4.

2001-2011 . (

, <http://www.mzh.government.bg>)

”
Fig. 4. Production, occupied area and yields of raspberry fruit by regions and total for Bulgaria for the period 2001-2011 (data from the Agrostatistics Dept. of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, <http://www.mzh.government.bg>)

3).

1998

11-

- The review shows, that for
- the last thirty years producing
- raspberries newer fruits is growing
- due to the increase in employed
- with raspberry plantations areas.
- On the other site, the drawn into
- imperative sustainable
- development and the gradually
- decreasing agricultural land
- impose improvement in both the
- productivity and the economic
- efficiency of the raspberry
- production. Apparently, such a
- complicated task requires
- comprehensive measures. The
- adherence to technological
- specifications is at the first place
- and will have immediate effect.
- Bulgaria is one of the countries,
- which have the potential to
- increase the yields two-three times
- within the framework of the
- traditional management of the
- raspberry crop (see Figure 3).
- However, a qualitative leap
- forward is possible only throw
- intensification of the raspberry
- production, which requires
- adopting the state of the art
- technological achievements in all
- stages of the production process.

- For that purpose, an 11-year
- experiment with the 'Lyulin'
- primocane-fruiting cultivar was set
- up in 1998 on the territory of the
- Fruit Growing Institute in Plovdiv,
- Bulgaria. The crop water use, the
- irrigation management under drip
- irrigation, the spatial and temporal
- distribution of the root uptake, the
- fertilizer assimilation by plants
- under fertigation, timing and

(Kornov et al., 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013; Koumanov et al., 2006, 2009).

- application doses, as well as the
 - economic efficiency of the
 - raspberry production were studied
 - (Kornov et al., 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013; Koumanov et al., 2006, 2009).

The investigation resulted in a technology for growing of the "Lyulin" primocane-fruiting cultivar in lowland conditions, which is environmentally friendly and provides high yields and fruit quality, fast pay back of the investments and very good profitability, Table 1 and Figure 5.

(1 5).
 1.

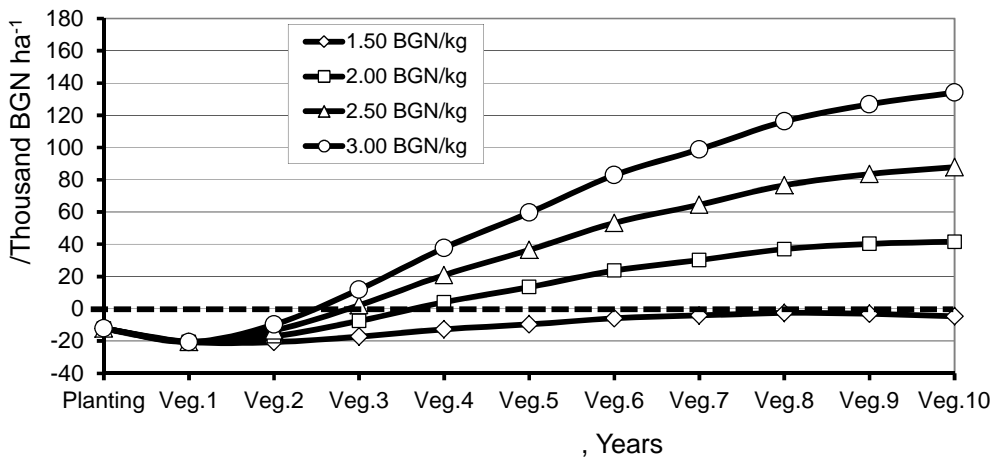
(« »)

Table 1. Economical indices (per one hectare) for raspberry fruit production of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruiting cultivar under the studied variants of regulated deficit drip irrigation

Variants ¹	Yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Costs (BGN ²)	Incomes at the indicated price in BGN kg ⁻¹				Profit at the indicated price in BGN kg ⁻¹			
			1.50 (BGN)	2.00 (BGN)	2.50 (BGN)	3.00 (BGN)	1.50 (BGN)	2.00 (BGN)	2.50 (BGN)	3.00 (BGN)
Vc-100	92480	143353	138720	184960	231200	277440	-4633 (-3.2%)	41607 (29.0%)	87847 (61.3%)	134087 (93.5%)
V1-75	81620	133320	122430	163240	204050	244860	-10890 (-8.2%)	29920 (22.4%)	70730 (53.1%)	111540 (83.7%)
V1-50	100970	144414	151455	201940	252425	302910	7041 (4.9%)	57526 (39.8%)	108011 (74.8%)	158496 (109.8%)
V2-75	86760	129474	130140	173520	216900	260280	665 (0.5%)	44045 (34.0%)	87425 (67.5%)	130805 (101.0%)
V2-50	77180	121317	115770	154360	192950	231540	-5547 (-4.6%)	33043 (27.2%)	71633 (59.0%)	110223 (90.9%)
V3-75	97610	138285	146415	195220	244025	292830	8130 (5.9%)	56935 (41.2%)	105740 (76.5%)	154545 (111.8%)
V3-50	77790	121417	116685	155580	194475	233370	-4732 (-3.9%)	34163 (28.1%)	73058 (60.2%)	111953 (92.2%)

100 %, 75 % 50 %
 1.58817 BGN 1.00 USD
²BGN: (: 1.95583 BGN 1.00 EURO

¹ Variants of regulated deficit drip irrigation: during the main phenophases – 1) intensive growth, 2) blossom, and 3) fruit ripening – the application rate equaled 100 %, 75 % and 50 % of the optimum. ² BGN: Bulgarian Lev (Bulgarian currency was exchanged at rates of 1.95583 BGN for 1.00 EURO and 1.58817 BGN for 1.00 USD)



. 5.

” ; BGN:

Fig. 5. Cash flow of the ‘Lyulin’ primocane-fruiting raspberry production in lowland conditions from planting to tenth leaf; BGN: Bulgarian Lev (Bulgarian currency was exchanged at rates of 1.95583 BGN for 1.00 EURO and 1.58817 BGN for 1.00 USD)

Microirrigation, fertigation and process mechanization are indispensable elements of that technology. The technology is applicable to other primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivars as well.

REFERENCES

1. Bushway L. and Pritts M. Introduction. In: Bushway, L., M. Pritts and D. Handley (Eds.), *Raspberry and Blackberry Production Guide for the Northeast, Midwest, and Eastern Canada*, 2008, *NRAES-35*: 1-2.
2. Fernandez G.E. and Krewer G. Southwest Regional Bramble Production Guide, *NCSU and A&TSU Cooperative extension*, 2008, AG-697-W: 30 pp.
3. Hristov L. and R. Boycheva Selection and introduction of raspberry country, requirements for industrial varieties. *Fruit culture*, 1982, 7: 30-33. (in

- V (4): 16-22.
5. **Bushway L. and Pritts M.** Introduction. In: Bushway, L., M. Pritts and D. Handley (Eds.), *Raspberry and Blackberry Production Guide for the Northeast, Midwest, and Eastern Canada*, 2008, *NRAES-35*: 1-2.
 6. **Fernandez G.E. and Krewer G.** Southwest Regional Bramble Production Guide, *NCSU and A&TSU Cooperative extension*, 2008, AG-697-W: 30 pp.
 7. **Knight V.H.** Rubus breeding worldwide and the raspberry breeding programme at Horticultural Research International, East Malling. *Jugoslovensko Vo arstvo*, 2004, 38(145-146): 23-38.
 8. **Kornov G., K. Koumanov, Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the fruit chemical composition of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2011, 14(6): 1319-1330.
 9. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Tsareva I.** Content of mineral elements in the leaves of the "Lyulin" primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar under regulated deficit drip irrigation and fertigation. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2013, 16(4): 1009-1019.
 10. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Kolev K., Rankova Z., Milusheva S., Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the growth of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2010, 13(5): 1374-1384.
 11. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Milusheva S., Kolev K., Rankova Z., Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the yield of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2009, 12(6): 1553-1565.
 12. **Koumanov K., Kornov G., Kolev K., Rankova Z.** The daily yield impact on the harvesting economical efficiency for primocane-fruited raspberry varieties. *Acta Horticulturae (ISHS)*, 2009, 825: Bulgarian)
 4. **Hristov, L., V. Ivanov, A. Ivanov, S. Stoyanov, I. Gergov, Mayor's J. and S. Dimov** Status and Problems of raspberry production in the country. *Agricultural Science*, 1977, XV (4): 16-22. (in Bulgarian)
 5. **Knight V.H.** Rubus breeding worldwide and the raspberry breeding programme at Horticultural Research International, East Malling. *Jugoslovensko Vo arstvo*, 2004, 38(145-146): 23-38.
 6. **Kornov G., K. Koumanov, Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the fruit chemical composition of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2011, 14(6): 1319-1330.
 7. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Kolev K., Rankova Z., Milusheva S., Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the growth of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2010, 13(5): 1374-1384.
 8. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Milusheva S., Kolev K., Rankova Z., Tsareva I.** Regulated deficit drip irrigation impact on the yield of the 'Lyulin' primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2009, 12(6): 1553-1565.
 9. **Kornov G., Koumanov K., Tsareva I.** Content of mineral elements in the leaves of the "Lyulin" primocane-fruited raspberry cultivar under regulated deficit drip irrigation and fertigation. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2013, 16(4): 1009-1019.
 10. **Koumanov K., Kornov G., Kolev K., Rankova Z.** The daily yield impact on the harvesting economical efficiency for primocane-fruited raspberry varieties. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 2006, 9(6): 1065-1076.
 11. **Koumanov K.S., Tsareva I., Kolev K., Kornov G.** Fertigation of primocane-fruited raspberry – leaf and soil nutrient content between applications. *Acta Horticulturae (ISHS)*, 2009, 825:

Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans, 2006, 9(6):1065-1076.

13. **Koumanov K.S., Tsareva I., Kolev K., Kornov G.** Fertigation of primocane-fruited raspberry – leaf and soil nutrient content between applications. *Acta Horticulturae (ISHS)*, 2009, 825: 341-348.

14. **Pritts M.** Introduction. In: Pritts M. and D. Handley (Eds), *Bramble Production Guide*. 1991, *NRAES-35*: 1-2.

15. **Stiles H.D., Donohue S.J., Baker J.C.** Selected topics for raspberry producer in Virginia. *Virginia Cooperative Extension*, 2002, Publication 423-700, 5 pp.

16. **Veljkovic B., Glisic I., Leposavic A.** An analysis of raspberry production conditions in Serbia. *Acta Agriculturae Serbica*, 2008, XIII (25): 9-16.

341-348.

12. **Petrovi S. and Leposavi A.** Raspberry – new technologies of cultivation, protection and processing. *Fruit Research Institute, a ak*, 2011, 237 p. (in Serbian)

13. **Pritts M.** Introduction. In: Pritts M. and D. Handley (Eds), *Bramble Production Guide*. 1991, *NRAES-35*: 1-2.

14. **Rangelov L.** Production of raspberries in the world and in our country. *Agricultural Science*, 1990, XXVIII (1): 16-22. (in Bulgarian)

15. **Stiles H.D., Donohue S.J., Baker J.C.** Selected topics for raspberry producer in Virginia. *Virginia Cooperative Extension*, 2002, Publication 423-700, 5 pp.

16. **Veljkovic B., Glisic I., Leposavic A.** An analysis of raspberry production conditions in Serbia. *Acta Agriculturae Serbica*, 2008, XIII (25): 9-16.

N7, 1331
*E-mail: vessi1@abv.bg

Optimization on laying depth for subsurface drip irrigation of intensive crops and vegetables

Vesela Petrova-Branicheva*, Rumiana Kireva

*Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant protection "N. Pushkarov",
7 "Shosse Bankya" Str., 1331 Sofia, Bulgaria*

SUMMARY

Intensive crops that are grown in regions with moderate continental climate in Bulgaria do not have enough natural moisture during the summer months, so irrigation appears to be a decisive agrotechnical event, without which provide stable yields with high quality output of most crops is impossible.

In this respect especially promising for drip irrigation, which all applied in practice methods and technologies for micro-irrigation based on different methods for localized feeding of water and nutrients in the soil have already proven capabilities for use in irrigated agriculture.

Based on soil and climatic conditions in the region are carried out analytical studies and analyzes and established optimum depth for laying irrigation line in subsurface drip irrigation, depending on the contours the distribution

0,50m

of the water on leached maroon forest soil in the region of Sofia field.

- Most authors offer drip irrigation lines to make a depth of 0,50m in the middle of the beds in cereals sunflower, maize, cotton, tobacco etc. taking into account the processing techniques of soil.

- The main criteria when choosing a depth of irrigated wings in this study is the area to be wet around each plant depending on the development of the root system.

- The objective of this study was to develop a optimizing the placement depth of drip lines depending on the depth of the root system in subsurface drip irrigation for intensive crops and vegetables that provides sparingly and rational consumption of water, preservation of soil fertility and conservation of water and soil pollution.

Key words: subsurface drip irrigation, optimization dept drip irrigation, root system

INTRODUCTION

- Subsurface drip irrigation is used mainly in intensive crops such as fruit trees (apples, peaches, pears, apricots, etc.), vineyards, vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and more. growing outdoors and in greenhouses), strawberries, raspberries and currants, tobacco, cotton, sugar beets, flowers and more. The laying of irrigation line is done mechanically by means of drilling knife in the soil and spreading the required length of drip line.

- Particularly appropriate is its

crop, allowing moisture in the root layer is maintained throughout the growing season about a high and optimum value without placing the plants in water stress.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The approach in implementing the main objective is experimental and analytical. The field experiment was carried in ISSAP "N. Pushkarov" and former IHM in Chelopechene during the period 1998-2015 year berries – raspberries and strawberries, some vegetable crops and fruit trees.

The soil is leached maroon forest, slightly sandy loam to plow layer. Soil characteristics in layers 0-0,60m layer is: 22.1%, a bulk density is 1,47g/cm³. For soil layer 0-100m same indicators have values: 21.8%, a bulk density is 1,50g/cm³.

Drawing the contours of the distribution of moisture in the soil used the software Surfer8.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the many years researches the authors have established the following advantages and disadvantages of underground laying of irrigation wings in drip irrigation.

« .
»
« »,
1998-2015
o 0-0,60m:
-22,1%,
1,47g/cm³.
0-1,00m
: -21,8%,
1,50g/cm³.

Surfer8.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Advantages of subsurface drip irrigation compared with surface disposal of laterals.</i></p>
<p>1. 20% 30%, (, 2013).</p>	<p>1. A significant the water saving of 20% to 30% due to absence of evaporation from the surface of the ground (Petrova, 2013).</p>
<p>2. - (1).</p>	<p>2. Better evenness of distribution of the irrigation water (Figure 1).</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>3. Reduce the value of capital of investments of a drip irrigation system and reduced energy usage.</p>
<p>4. , . 0,10-0,15m., 0,30-0,40m.</p>	<p>4. Water and fertilizer are submitted directly into the zone of the root system, thereby protect against the plants from harmful effects of evaporation of water. At vegetable crops irrigated line are applied at a depth of 0,10-0,15m., for perennials, vineyards, raspberries and fruit trees is 0,30-0,40m.</p>
<p>5. , ,</p>	<p>5. Increases the soil aeration, small particles are not washed away of the surface area and the soil remained loose, improves the development of the root system.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>6. The soil surface is retained dry, which impedes the growth of weeds, which leads to a reduction of the means for herbicides and plant protection products.</p>
<p>7. PVC , ,</p>	<p>7. The irrigated lines, usually made from or polyethylene hose and should be buried below ground because they easily degrade when exposed to direct solar radiation hail and others.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>8. Reduces the faults per irrigation</p>

9.

lines caused by livestock, poultry and the vandalizing interference.

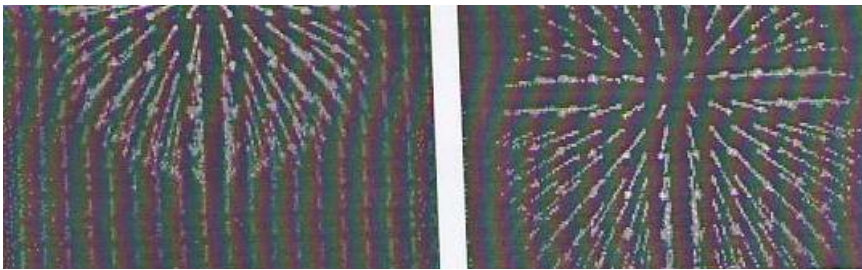
10.

9. Irrigation lines not interfere with the mechanized cultivation of the soil

- 10. Subsurface drip irrigation finds wide application in intensive orchards, contributes to deepening of the root system.

11.

- 11. Decrease is reported in exploitation expenses in connection with the elimination of an accident.



. 1.

()

Fig. 1. Moistured zone the soil under the dripper according to location of irrigation lines (laterals), (on surface or subsurface)

1.

- **Disadvantages**
- 1. Mechanized laying the irrigation lines and mechanized retraction of irrigated vegetable crops laterals at the end of vegetation

2.

- 2. Partial clogging of the drippers

The above advantages of using subsurface drip irrigation attest to the appropriateness of the wider introduction of this method and the technology in the practice.

The main elements of the

drip irrigation system are water source, pump unit, water taking and control head, filters to clear the water, main and distribution lines, laterals, irrigated facilities of pipework.

The pump unit takes water from the source and provides the right pressure for delivery into the pipe system.

The submission of fertilizer (liquid or a good solubility solid) and the herbicide in the network simultaneously with the water is carried out by fertilization installation or a injector.

The type and the main characteristics of the drippers must be selected according to the type of irrigated crops and the time needed for the realization of the irrigation rate on the one hand and the on the other – with specific soil characteristics of irrigated lands.

They can be taken from the manufacturer's catalog or can be established by tests.

In cases where the drippers are grouped only around of trees, the number and location are determined by distribution the roots.

It is appropriate the drippers use to installing at distance not fewer than 0,25-0,30m from the stem of

0,25-0,30m.

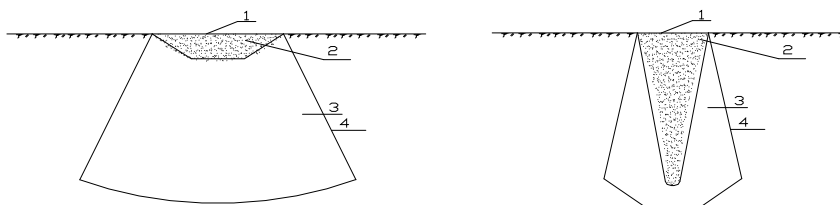
1,5-2,5m

2),

trees.

It is generally accepted that the area where the roots spread is equal to the area covered by the the crown and the it should be moistened and the for most orchards is 1,5-2,5 m in diameter.

Dissemination of moisture in the soil depends mainly on the soil characteristics (Figure 2), under each dripper is formed moistened volume with two characteristic areas: saturated zone, which has an elongated shape and getting thinner in a depth in the sandy highly permeable soils, and for clay soils, it is more a shallow and the with width greater; wetted zone in which the water movement into the soil is carried out in the direction of the largest gradient.



2.

Fig. 2. Character of the wetted zone in the soil depending on: the location of the drippers; soil type; A-clay soils; B-sandy soils

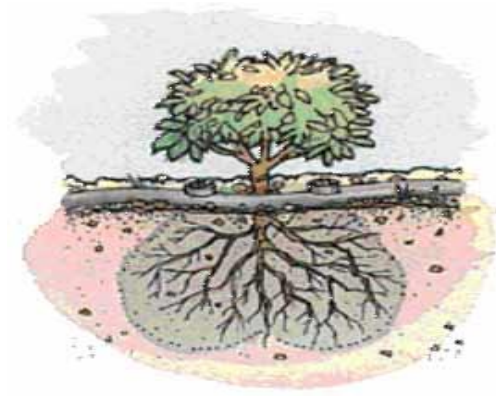
Amount of the wet zone determined the number and quantity of water from the drippers and laterals the duration of irrigation, irrigation systems

parameters of batteries. The wet areas of individual drippers should be overlapping and a distance between them is determined by the diameter of these wet zones.

For example, for leached maroon forest soils, medium sandy clay, was found it most suitably to use two drippers a tree/two laterals off 0,25-0,30 m tree stem because the wet volume under each dripper at a rate of 4,5 l/h has the form of a bulb with a diameter of 0,30 m and the a surface a depth 0,60m-0,80-0,90m, a root system reaches 2,0-3,0 m in width, as the intake capacity in end of root is the highest or circular available on laterals – Figure 3 (Petkov et al., 2007).

parameters of batteries. The wet areas of individual drippers should be overlapping and a distance between them is determined by the diameter of these wet zones.

For example, for leached maroon forest soils, medium sandy clay, was found it most suitably to use two drippers a tree/two laterals off 0,25-0,30 m tree stem because the wet volume under each dripper at a rate of 4,5 l/h has the form of a bulb with a diameter of 0,30 m and the a surface a depth 0,60m-0,80-0,90m, a root system reaches 2,0-3,0 m in width, as the intake capacity in end of root is the highest or circular available on laterals – Figure 3 (Petkov et al., 2007).

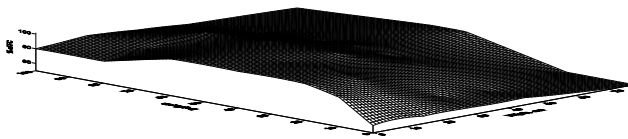
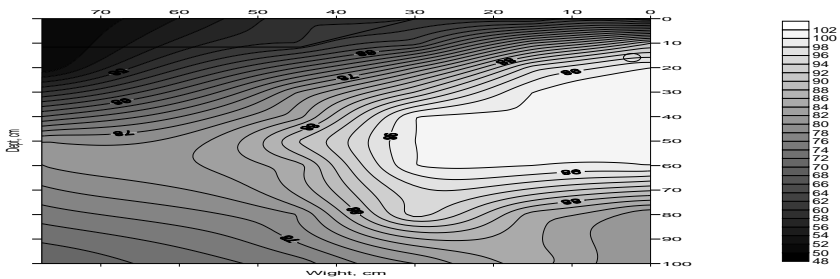


3. Fig. 3. Circular available on the laterals of the drip irrigation around tree

10m³/da,

(4) -
-
0-0,05m
60-70%

The subsurface drip irrigation with irrigation rate 10m³/da, for leaching maroon forest soil (Figure 4) was observed lowering soil moisture in upper layer 0-0,05m, reaching up to 60-70% of FC, this is due to highest average air temperatures and soil surface.



. 4. p

100%

Fig. 4. Transversal profile of distribution of easily accessible water reserve in the one-meter soil layer under subsurface drip irrigation with 100% irrigation rate leaching maroon forest soil

0,10 m
,
(0,15 m).
0,10-0,30 m
85 95%
0,40 m. 0,70 m
80%

- At 0.10 m depth is an increase of moisture due to capillary rise of water quantity submitted in irrigation laterals (located at 0,15 m). For soil layer 0,10-0,30 m soil moisture is in the range of 85 to 95% of PPW within a radius of 0,40 m.

- Under 0,70 m wet contours of moistening with 80% of FC

0,60m

100%

0,40 m

0,50 0,70m

24

0,60 m

80%

(

2012; 2013; , 2014).

15% 20%,

3 17m³/da.

1

1

reached 0,60 m within a radius.

- In strawberries and raspberries fields wet zone of optimal moisture 100% irrigation rate are in the the disposal of irrigation lateral 0,10-0,12 m are 0,40 m within a radius a depth of 0.50 to 0,70 m in the the active root system 24 hours after submission of irrigations. Perpendicular to the lateral soil moisture at the same a depth reaches to 0,60 m soil with soil moisture to 80% by FC, which is sufficient for the crop development (Petrova, 2012, 2013, Petrova-Branicheva and Banishka, 2014).

- For some berries and vegetable crops established optimal irrigation regime and formations yield. In this method of irrigation has been observed in high moisture in the active layer of the soil of 15% to 20% which due to a missing of evaporation from the the terrain surface.

- During the different phases of the development of vegetable crops, deepening of the root system and the need for water is different.

- Irrigation norms vary from 3 to 17m³/da. For the needs of farmers in the Table 1 are given the average of the obtained results. In Table 1 are presented the number of irrigations, irrigation norm and applied water for the growing season and the resulting yields in irrigated and non irrigated conditions.

1.

Table 1. Irrigation scheduling of the vegetable and berries crops

Cultures	/ Irrigation scheduling			/ Yield		
	Number of irrigations	Irrigation norm	Irrigation norms	Irrigation	Without irrigation	Additional yield from irrigation
	.	m ³ /da	m ³ /da	kg/da	kg/da	kg/da
Tomatoes	26	15	390	5500	0	5500
Peper	26	10	260	3500	0	3500
Onion	6	10	60	2800	1800	1000
Raspberry	20	15	300	860	220	640
Strawberry	20	10	200	1 400	600	800

2.

Table 2. Depth of laying the irrigation lines

Cultures	Distance between cultures m		k / Depth of laying the irr. line M	Biological demands on water -	Depth of the roots zone M
	between rows	in row			
Vines	4	1,5-2,0	0,30	moisture growing	1,50-2,00
Apples	4	1,5-2,0	0,40	moisture growing	1,50
Pears	4	1,5-2,0	0,40	moisture growing	1,50
Plums	6	4,5-5,0	0,40	sparingly moisture	1,30
Cherries	6- 7	5,0-6,0	0,40	sparingly moisture	1,50
Apricots	6	4,5-5,0	0,30	drought resistant	1,20
Peach	5- 6	3,0-5,0	0,30	sparingly moisture	1,20
Raspberries	2,0- 2,8	0,30- 0,50	0,15	very moisture growing	0,50
Strawberries	0,8/0,35 double-breasted bed	0,20	0,10	very moisture growing	0,30
Tomatoes	1,50-2,2	0,50-0,80	0,20	most moisture growing	0,50 (1,0)
Peper	0,7	0,20	0,10	very moisture growing	0,30 (0,70)
Onion	0,20	0,10	0,10	drought resistant	0,30
Cucumbers	0,70	0,20-0,50	0,15	very moisture growing	0,20-0,30

*

(, 2012)

* The depth of the root system and biological water requirements is taken from (Daskalova, 2012)

2

- In Table 2 is shown the depth of the laying of irrigation pipes, depending on the depth of the root zone and the established lines of distribution moisture at an optimum irrigation regime in leached maroon forest soil.

CONCLUSIONS

- Based on the experimental data and analysis of results of maroon forest soil was developed optimizing of placement depths of irrigated laterals depending on the depth of the root system in subsurface drip irrigation for intensive crops and vegetables that provides economically and rational consumption of water conservation of soil fertility and conservation of water and soil pollution.

1.
10m³/da
, 24
0-0,05 m,
60-70%
0,10-0,30 m
85 95%
0,40 m. 0,70 m
80%
0,60 m.
2.

1. Subsurface drip irrigation with irrigation rate 10m³/da leaching maroon forest soil 24 hours after submission of watering has been observed reduction of soil moisture in the upper layer 0-0,05 m reaching up to 60-70% of FC. For soil layer 0,10-0,30 m soil moisture is in the range of 85 to 95% of FC within a radius of 0,40 m. Under 0,70 m contours of moistening with 80% of FC reach 0,60 m radius.

2. The depth of laying the irrigation laterals in fruit trees (grapes, apples, pears, plums,

(, , ,)
 , , , -
) 1,30-
 2,00m,
 10-15m³/da 0,30-0,40m.
 3.

()
 0,30-0,50 m,
 10m³/da, 0,10-0,15 m.
 4.

(, ,)
 , (),
 0,30-0,50 m
 10-15
 m³/da, 0,15 m.
 5.

1/3
 ,
 0,40-0,50 m.

(pH 8, Fe 1mg/l, Mn 1,5-2mg/l,
 HCO 300mg/l, CO₃ 200mg/l, SO₄
 400mg/l) (, 2007;
 Petrova et. al., 2008).

cherries, apricots, peaches) with
 root system 1,30-2,00m with an
 average irrigation rate 10-15m³/da
 experimentally established
 0,30-0,40 m.

3. The depth of laying
 irrigation laterals at berries
 (strawberries and raspberries) with
 root system 0,30-0,50 m with an
 average irrigation rate 10m³/da, is
 0,10-0,15 m.

4. The depth of laying
 irrigation laterals at vegetable
 crops (tomatoes, peppers, onions,
 cucumbers) with root system 0,30-
 0,50 m with an average irrigation
 rate 10-15m³/da, is 0,15 m.

5. It is found that the depth of
 the laying drip line is 1/3 of the
 depth of the active root system, but
 not deeper than 0,40-0,50 m

Subsurface drip irrigation is
 not a substitute for other proven
 viable method of irrigation.

This water supply is used in
 moisture-growing plants requiring
 frequent irrigation and water
 sources water quality compatible
 (pH 8, Fe 1mg/l, Mn 1,5-2mg/l,
 HCO 300mg/l, CO₃ 200mg/l,
 SO₄ 400mg/l), (Petkov et al.,
 2007; Petrova, et al., 2008).

REFERENCES

1. , ,
 , 2012, . 254-255.

1. **Daskalova A., Gaidarova St.**
 Land Reclamation Agromelioration.
Hydraulic Engineering, 2012, pp. 254-255.

