

6 : *Alternaria alternata*; *Alternaria solani*, *Fusarium moniliforme*, *Helminthosporium turcicum*, *Aspergillus* ssp., *Peronospora* ssp., *Mucor* ssp.

Alternaria alternata; *Alternaria solani*, *Fusarium moniliforme*, *Helminthosporium turcicum*, *Peronospora* ssp., as well as the *Aspergillus* and *Mucor* species.

These pathogens are capable of damaging seeds and sprouts, thereby aggravating the sowing properties of sorghum-sudangrass hybrids. When introducing new species of agricultural cultures in specific region, the information on seeds germination, seed-borne diseases, their eventual manifestation and development are of explicitly important.

Key words: *Sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, seed micophlora, qualities of seeds, Alternaria alternate*

INTRODUCTION

The sorghum-sudangrass hybrids are one-year cultures, result of crossing of sorghum for fodder and sudangrass or different forms (*Sorghum bicolor* x *S. bicolor* var. *sudanese*). They give good results as fodder and energy cultures and as cultures for green manure.

They help in the fight against weeds, they improve the structures and enhance the content of the organic ingredient in the soil (Valenzuela and Smith, 2002). The sorghum-sudangrass hybrids are with a higher productivity of green and dry mass in different vegetation phases, not like the standard sorts, as the examinations shows (Kikindonov et al., 2013, Kikindonov et al., 2015, Donchev et al., 2018). The C-4 manner of carbon dioxide fixation during photosynthesis, allows effective usage of solar radiation and soil moisture.

The yields of agriculture cultures depend on the seeds quality, as an indicator for their sowing suitability. The germination, the germination energy and its resilience to diseases are all factors of the seed development in environment of increased humidity (Mohamed and Francis, 1984).

(*Sorghum bicolor* x *S. bicolor* var. *sudanese*).

(Valenzuela and Smith, 2002; Slanev, 2012).

(Kikindonov et al., 2013; Kikindonov et al., 2015; Donchev et al., 2018). „C-4“

(Mohamed and Francis, 1984).

(), (Stancheva, 2010). (Dawar and Ghaffar, 1991; Bakan et al., 2002; Thakur et al., 2007; Little et al., 2012), (Sharma et al., 2015). (Stancheva, 2010). (Isakeit and Jaster, 2005; Ramathani, 2010). (Degefu, 1990; Takur et al., 2003).

The composition of the seeds' mycoflora is determined as an aggregate of all types of microorganisms, colonizing the sheath and the internal parts of the seeds, such as viruses, bacteria and microfungi. Part of those microorganisms are pathogenic and they are referred as pathogenic microflora in literature (Stancheva, 2010). In accordance with researchers on seeds pathology (Dawar and Ghaffar, 1991; Bakan et al., 2002; Thakur et al., 2007; Little et al., 2012) the microorganisms, colonizing the seeds endosperm, infect the seeds systematically and other microorganisms occupy the surface of the seeds and infect the healthy plants under suitable conditions. The results from tests, made by the above-cited authors, show that this is a variety of pathogenic microorganisms, adherent to different groups. According to (Stancheva, 2010) the surfaces of the agricultural seeds may be colonized on their surface also by microorganisms, which do not cause any visible pathological changes in the seeds, they do not participate in diseases transmission and they are determined as non-pathogenic microflora. The microorganisms colonizing the seeds as pathogenic or non-pathogenic microflora are predominantly representatives of different types of bacteria and fungi (Sharma et al., 2015).

All transmitted sorghum seed-borne diseases affect the growth and the productivity of the crop. (Stancheva, 2010). The infected seeds are characterized with reduced germination and rotting; local and systematic infections are observed in later stages of the plantation development. (Isakeit and Jaster, 2005; Ramathani, 2010).

The only way to reduce to minimum the risk of transmission of seed-borne diseases and the introduction of new types or strains is the good knowledge of the pathogens biology and the modes of transmission from vegetation to vegetation (Degefu, 1990; Takur et al., 2003). Some fungi, infecting the sorghum and corn

(*Fusarium*, *Aspergillus*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Penicillium*, *Helminthosporium*)

(Cook, 1980; Domsch et al., 1980; Degefu, 1990; Stancheva, 2010).

Pythium
Peronospora,

(Isakeit and Jaster, 2005).

: *Fusarium* *Alternaria*,
(Bakan et al., 2002; Stancheva, 2010).

Stancheva (2010)
Fusarium (*Fusarium moniliforme* J. Sheld; *Fusarium graminearum*) *Alternaria* (*Alternaria alternata*),

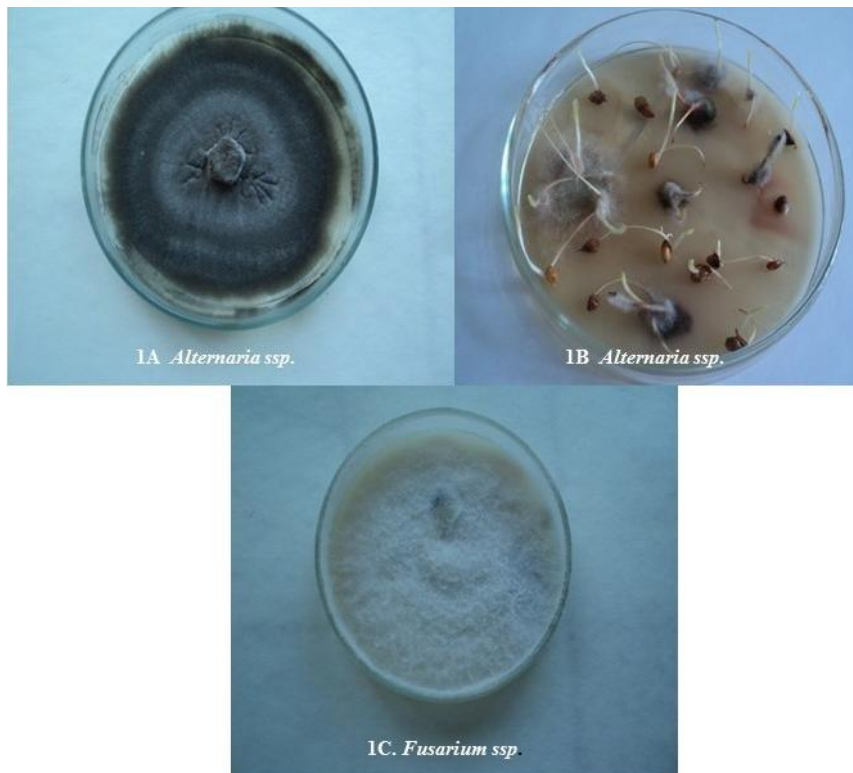
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seeds – representatives of *Fusarium*, *Aspergillus*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Penicillium*, *Helminthosporium*, attack and destroy the seeds' endosperm by eating the starch inside, leading to reduced germination and incapacity to develop normal sprouts (Cook, 1980; Domsch et al., 1980; Degefu, 1990; Stancheva, 2010).

Representatives of *Pythium* and *Peronospora* ssp., attack the young seedlings and lead to rotting of the roots and the bases of the plants at the initial phases of their development, which leads to reduction of the crop (Isakeit and Jaster, 2005). Examinations on the seeds' microflora of the cereal grain crops show that the colonization of the seeds by representatives of the following species: *Fusarium* and *Alternaria* decrease the production efficiency (Stancheva, 2010; Bakan et al., 2002). The authors consider that those pathogens, under certain conditions, may associate in pathogenic complexes causing withering, root and stem rotting for the whole vegetation.

Stancheva (2010) describes *Fusarium* (*Fusarium moniliforme* J. Sheld; *Fusarium graminearum*) and *Alternaria*, (mainly *Alternaria alternata*) species as the causative agents of a complex pathological syndrome, showing pathologic symptoms on the seeds, the vegetative organs and the roots.

Figure 1 shows pictures of the causative agents of those symptoms.



1. ,
Fig. 1. Pathogens causing diseases

: *Fusarium moniliforme* J. Sheld, *Fusarium culmorum*, *Penicillium* ssp. (Stancheva, 2010; Tanova and Andreeva, 2011).

The pathogenic fungi - *Fusarium moniliforme* J. Sheld, *Fusarium culmorum*, *Penicillium* ssp. are the causative agents of those pathologies (Stancheva, 2010; Tanova and Andreeva, 2011). When introducing new species of agricultural cultures in specific region information on seeds germination, seed-borne diseases eventual manifestation and development is explicitly important. In this connection, the present research is directed towards the germination and germination energy of the seeds, as well as the mycoflora of different sorghum-sudangrass hybrids under laboratory conditions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In March 2019 an examination on germination and germination energy is conducted in the phytopathology laboratory of the Natural Science Faculty

2019 .
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1.
2. COF5/
COF – SUSU; 4. COF3 – SA; 5.
COF4/Vercor; 6. COF – 6/SWI
COF8/

100 ()
25-27° ,
20
5-
7
4
100 (Popkova, 1989; Popkova
et al., 2005).
0,01% HgCl₂. 7-
(Stancheva, 2010).
„Optika – B150“.

- of the University in Shumen.

The subject of the examination are 7 sorghum-sudangrass hybrids of the selection program of Shumen Agricultural Institute, as follows: 1. Endje 1 (standard), 2. COF5/Stavropolskaya, 3. COF-SUSU, 4. COF3-SA, 5. COF4/Vercor, 6. COF-6/SWI, 7. COF8/Saccharum

The seeds germination and the germination energy is determined in line with the standard methods of the Executive Agency in Species Testing, Approbation and Seed Control of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture.

In order to determine the germination and the germination energy we used paper filter discs, placed in petri dishes and dampen with distillate water. 4 series of 100 seeds were used for the experiment, in a thermostat at 25-27° C, 20 seeds in each petri dish. The reporting took place on the 3rd and the 5th day.

The seeds analyzed in order to determine epiphytic microflora were soaked for 2 hours in sterile water and then introduced in wet chamber for an incubation period of 7 days and nights. The pathogens determination in the sub epidermal microflora is implemented through the means of standard phytopathology methods, therefore each version includes 4 repetitions with 100 seeds (Popkova, 1989, Popkova and others, 2005). The seeds are designated for phytopathological examinations of seeds with surface, sterilized with 0.01 % HgCl₂. On the 7th day after the start of the incubation reporting was done in order to determine the quality and quantity content of the seed microflora (Stancheva, 2010).

Binocular microscope “Optika-B150” is used for the microscopic examinations.

The accuracy of the difference between the compared estimates of each

(Zaprianov, 1983).

version of measurements is valued through the means of the so called marginal difference.
 The number of the seeds, contaminated with different species fungi is reported in %. The results of the laboratory analysis are statistically processed through the means of a variation analysis of the qualitative signs (Zapryanov, 1983).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the germination and germination energy examination of sorghum-sudangrass hybrids are presented in Figure 2.

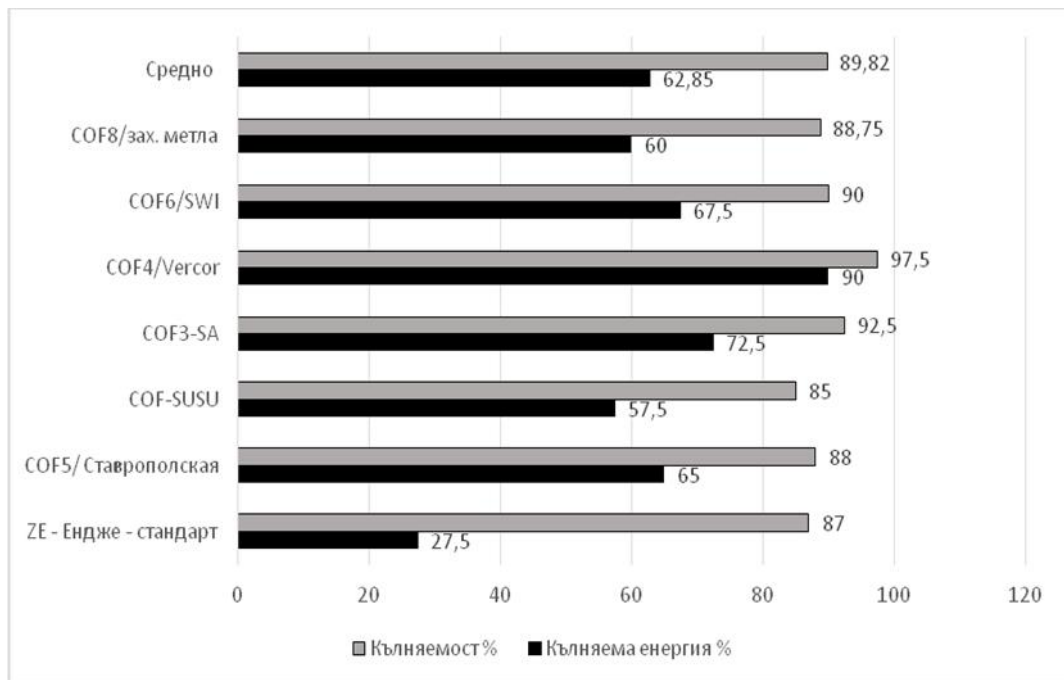


Fig. 2. Germination energy and germination of sorghum-sudan hybrids

27,5% ()
 90,0% (COF4/Vercor).

62,85%

89,82%

COF4/Vercor

The germination energy of the examined genotypes is presented in wide ranges – from 27.5 % (for the Endje standard), to 90,0 % (for COF4/Vercor). The average germination energy of all genotypes is 62.85 % and the average germination – 89.82 %.

Visible from the results presented, the germination energy is highest with the

1.

Table 1. Significance of differences between genotypes tested and controls

/ Germinating energy						
/ Genotype	COF5 /	COF - SUSU	COF3 - SA	COF4 / Vercor	COF6 / SWI	COF8 /
1 / Standard	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29
/ Germination						
/ Genotype	COF5 /	COF - SUSU	COF3 - SA	COF4 / Vercor	COF6/SWI	COF8 /
1/ Standard	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29	t 3,29

t 1,96 not credibility
 t 1,96 = 5%
 t 2,58 = 1%
 t 3,29 = 0,1%

7
 6
 (Alternaria alternata; Alternaria solani),
 (Fusarium moniliforme J. Sheld),
 (Helminthosporium turcicum Pass),
 - Peronospora ssp.,
 Aspergillus
 Mucor. - 2.
 : Alternaria alternata, Alternaria solani, Aspergillus ssp., Mucor ssp., Helminthosporium turcicum, Fusarium moniliforme J. Sheld, Peronospora ssp.
 - Alternaria alternata.
 -
 COF6/SWI (19%), 1 (18%)
 COF-SUSU (14%), -
 COF5/ (6%).
 (Alternaria solani)
 COF5/
 COF-SUSU, Alternaria solani (19%)

7 fungi species are determined by the surface and sub epidermal mycoflora, referring to 6 genus. They have different frequencies of presence, depending of the seeds origin. Two of them are causing the alternariosis disease (*Alternaria alternata*; *Alternaria solani*), Fusariosis (*Fusarium moniliforme*), septoriosis (*Helminthosporium turcicum*), dawny mildew - *Peronospora ssp.*, as well as the causative agents of the *Aspergillus* and *Mucor* species. The research data is presented in Table 2.

Contamination of the seeds surface is reported: *Alternaria alternata*, *Alternaria solani*, *Aspergillus ssp.*, *Mucor ssp.*, *Helminthosporium turcicum*, *Fusarium moniliforme*, *Peronospora ssp.*

Most frequent presence is for *Alternaria alternata*, present in the content of the seed microflora of all examined origins.

Highest presence of this pathogen is determined with COF6/SWI (19%), Endje 1 (18%), COF-SUSU (14%). Lowest frequency of presence is determined for COF5/Stavropolskaya (6%). Contamination with the other causative agent for alternaosis – *Alternaria solani* is absent only in the seed microflora of COF5/Stavropolskaya and it is most frequently present in COF-SUSU – frequency of presence (19%). The fusariosis causative agent – *Fusarium moniliforme* – is determined in (23%) of the samples, not

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Reaction of “Dunaviya” Wheat Variety to Some Soil Herbicides

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

At the experimental field of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik” - Ruse, in 2013-2016, a study was conducted to determine the reaction of “Dunaviya” wheat variety, treated with soil herbicides at optimal and double doses - linuron (135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s.), pendimethalin (132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s.) and metribuzin (56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s.).

Soil herbicides linuron - 135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s. and pendimethalin - 132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s., showed highly selectivity to wheat, and metribuzin - 56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s. caused a strong phytotoxic effect (score 7).

Metribuzin demonstrated an inhibitory effect on plant growth and development at a dose of 56 g da⁻¹ a.s. and partial plant death by increasing the test dose (112 g da⁻¹ a.s.).

The observed phytotoxic effect of metribuzin, applied at doses of 56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s., also had an inhibitory effect on wheat density.

(135 270 g da⁻¹ . .)
(132 264 g da⁻¹ . .)

12%.

Grain yield, formed after application of the soil herbicides linuron (135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s.) and pendimethalin (132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s.) was close to the control variant, and metribuzin reduced the grain yield up to 12%.

Key words: wheat, herbicides, selectivity, productivity

INTRODUCTION

The main prerequisite for the development of high-yield agriculture with a sharp decrease in the cost price of the agricultural production is the rational weed control. A large number of studies and centuries of experience in agricultural practice have shown that weeds, "the green enemy" cause great damage to agriculture.

More over, they appear every year and everywhere, unlike diseases and pests, storm of hail and other harmful factors, which usually do not occur every year or affect only certain areas.

Weeds are rivals of cultivated plants in terms of all vital factors, complicate and worsen the quality of field work, often make impossible their mechanization, support the development of diseases and pests of the cultivated plants. In addition, weeds have a number of biological features that help them easily get to arable land and make it difficult to control them (Andreeva-Fetvadzhieva, 1966).

Weed control requires an integrated approach, including agrotechnical means (crop rotations, tillage, etc.) and chemical methods (herbicides).

Due to their high efficiency and competitive pressure, the application of herbicides is an indispensable element in modern agricultural technologies. At the same time, it is necessary to point out that the chemical method should not be absolutized, as it has some shortcomings (Shkalikov, 1995; Boger, 1997; Hain, 1997).

Fetvadzhieva, 1966).

(Andreeva-

(Shanin, 1965),

50 m²

(1,98%),

N P₂O₅, 550

K₂O m².

g.l⁻¹ - ; - 450

135 270 g.da⁻¹ . . ;

264 g.da⁻¹ . . -330 g.l⁻¹ 132

56 112 g.da⁻¹ . . - 700 g.kg⁻¹

30 l da⁻¹,

(Popov et al., 1966).

17 30

9

EWRS (European Weed

2013. It has good resistance to lodging and high cold resistance. It is moderately resistant to important economic diseases and has very good baking qualities.

The experiment was based on the block method in four replications, with the size of the harvest plot 50 m² and randomized location of the variants (Shanin, 1965), under non-irrigated conditions on highly leached chernozem, with low humus content (1.98%), poorly stocked with N and P₂O₅, well stocked with K₂O and sowing density 550 germinating seeds m².

During the experiment, the selectivity of the herbicides linuron, pendimethalin and metribuzin, applied at optimal and twice increased dose, was studied, by a schema - control - untreated; linuron - 450 g.l⁻¹ in a dose 135 270 g.da⁻¹ a.s.; pendimethalin -330 g.l⁻¹ in a dose 132 264 g.da⁻¹ a.s. and metribuzin - 700 g.kg⁻¹ in a dose 56 112 g.da⁻¹ a.s.

The herbicidal formulations used in the study were registered to control annual broad leaved and certain cereals (linuron and metribuzin) and annual cereals and broad leaved weeds (pendimethalin) and they have not been yet applied to wheat.

The herbicides were applied with a back sprayer at a working solution consumption of 30 l da⁻¹, applied after sowing before emergence. The predecessor of wheat during the experimental period was winter oilseed rape. Tillage involved triple disking and rolling after sowing (Popov et al., 1966).

During the growing season, weeds were removed manually to eliminate their negative effects and only the influence of herbicides on wheat to be studied.

The following indicators were reported: phytotoxicity of the herbicides on the 7th, 17th and 30th day after their application, using the 9-point logarithmic scale of EWRS (European Weed

Research Society) - 1 () -
 9 () -
); (lx) -
 10 m² (kg da⁻¹),
 ; 10 m²,
 ; () -
 (dx) -
 (Kx)
 Begon et al. (1986)
 Marinov-Serafimov and Golubinova, (2019).

(lx):

$$l_x = m_{x2} / m_{x1}$$

$$: m_{x1} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$; m_{x2} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

(dx):

$$d_x = l_{x1} - l_{x2}$$

$$: l_{x1} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$l_{x2} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

(lg m_{x1} - lg m_{x2}):

$$= \lg m_{x1} - \lg m_{x2}$$

$$: m_{x1} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$; m_{x2} - \text{ (br da}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$; \lg -$$

(mm)

(°C).

(1966).

Walter

Research Society) - point 1 (no damage) -
 point 9 (the crop is completely destroyed);
 plant survival (lx) - determined at the end
 of the vegetation of the crop on an area of
 10 m² for all replications; productivity (kg
 da⁻¹), reported from 10 m², by variants
 and replications; reduction (death) of
 plants (dx) and intensity of death (Kx) were
 determined according to the adaptive
 methodology of Begon et al. (1986) and
 Marinov-Serafimov and Golubinova,
 (2019).

Survival ability of plants (lx):

$$l_x = m_{x2} / m_{x1}$$

where: m_{x1} - stand density (br da⁻¹) in the
 control variants; m_{x2} - stand density (br
 da⁻¹) in the variants treated with
 herbicides;

Reduction (death) of plants (dx):

$$d_x = l_{x1} - l_{x2}$$

where: l_{x1} - plant survival (br da⁻¹) in the
 control variants; l_{x2} - plant survival (br da⁻¹)
 in the variants treated with herbicides;

Intensity of death (reduction) (Kx):

$$= \lg m_{x1} - \lg m_{x2}$$

where: m_{x1} - stand density (br da⁻¹) in the
 control variants; m_{x2} - stand density (br da⁻¹)
 in the variants treated with herbicides;
 lg - decimal logarithm;

During the experiment, the
 agrometeorological parameters were
 monitored - sum of precipitation (mm) and
 average monthly air temperature (°C). The
 data about the meteorological conditions
 for the time of the study were taken from
 the stationary meteorological cell in the
 IASS "Obraztsov Chiflik", located near the
 experimental field.

The graphical method of Walter
 (1966) was used for estimation of drought
 for the time of application and reporting of
 soil herbicides in wheat. After that
 method, precipitation and doubled value
 of air temperature were recorded on one
 and the same scale. Periods of drought

were considered the periods during which the precipitation curve fell below the temperature curve. Periods longer than 10 days were taken into account. In the present study, the method has been modified for ten-day calculations.

The statistical processing of the experimental data was performed by the method of analysis of variance for yield, and the differences between the variants were determined by the multi-rank Duncan test, using the software product SPSS 19.0.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The impact of meteorological factors in the area of the Institute - amount of precipitation (mm) and average daily temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), in relation to the biological requirements of wheat are relatively favorable. Agrometeorological conditions varied in the years of study, which determined specific development of plants and differences in yield by year (Table 1).

The average monthly air temperatures during the vegetation period of the crop varied from -1.86 to 22.36 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, with average values from 8.56 to 10.63 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Deviations from the average monthly air temperatures varied from 3.58 to 5.58 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, higher than the values of the climatic norm (1896-2005).

The distribution of precipitation during the wheat vegetation was uneven and varied from 0.5 to 166.7 mm per month, with average values from 62.7 to 70.4 mm. The deviation from the climatic norm was in the range from 44.5 to 107.2 mm, with average values from 15.2 to 22.9 mm.

During the autumn-winter period, on average for 2013-2016, extremely low temperatures were not observed, the precipitation was slightly above the climatic norm for the region, which allowed the timely and even emergence of

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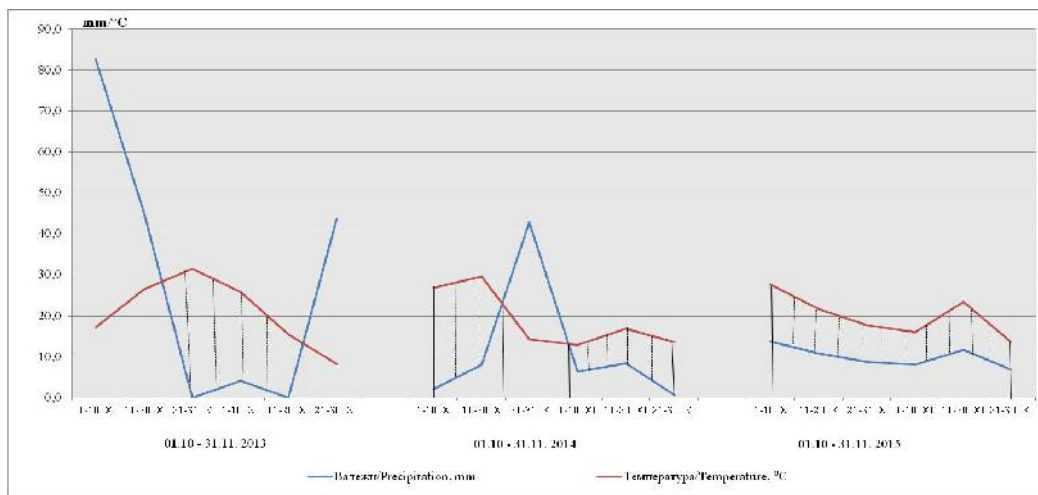
wheat. The spring months were also characterized with precipitation and temperatures close to the norm for the period, and the summers - dry and hot.

1. 2013-2016
Table 1. Meteorological parameters during the period 2013-2016

Periods	/ Period of vegetation									Average for -V, t °C
	Average monthly air temperature, -V, t °C									
							V	V	V	
2013/14	12.50	8.23	-0.22	-0.05	1.96	8.91	11.68	16.38	18.86	8.66
Deviation from climatic norm	4.94	5.57	2.38	5.95	5.86	8.91	0.28	-0.05	-0.62	3.69
2014/15	11.77	5.19	1.44	1.03	2.10	6.33	10.76	19.09	19.68	8.56
Deviation from climatic norm	4.26	2.49	4.04	7.03	6.00	6.33	-0.27	2.11	0.20	3.58
2015/16	11.18	8.88	4.33	-1.86	7.86	7.65	14.63	20.60	22.36	10.63
Deviation from climatic norm	3.98	6.18	6.93	4.14	11.76	7.65	3.24	4.16	2.23	5.58
Periods	/ Monthly precipitation, mm									Amount for -V, mm
							V	V	V	
							V	V	V	
2013/14	127.6	47.7	1.4	55.6	1.8	77.5	64.8	166.7	90.1	70.4
Deviation from climatic norm	87.6	2.7	-40.6	18.6	-27.2	42.5	14.2	100.2	8.0	22.9
2014/15	53.0	91.2	149.2	2.6	51.5	80.8	48.0	22.0	66.0	62.7
Deviation from climatic norm	13.0	46.2	107.2	-34.4	22.5	45.8	-2.6	-44.5	-16.1	15.2
2015/16	61.1	70.8	0.5	83.2	37.0	67.0	83.0	102.0	82.0	65.2
Deviation from climatic norm	21.1	25.8	-41.5	46.2	8.0	32.0	32.4	35.5	-0.1	17.7

15 Walter (1966), (1).
 ➤ 2013 . - 25
 ;
 ➤ 2014 ., : 5 - 18
 04 - 30 ;
 ➤ 2015 ., -
 01 30 .
 ,

During the application of soil herbicides on wheat, the drought periods were determined by the method of Walter (1966), modified for calculations by decades (Figure 1).
 ➤ 2013 - between October 25 - November 15;
 ➤ 2014, the drought periods were between: October 5 - October 18 and November 4 - November 30;
 ➤ 2015, there were periods of drought from October 1 to November 30.
 During those periods, the amount of precipitation was minimal and did not allow the applied herbicides to reach their maximum herbicidal effect.



1. 2013-2015 .
Fig. 1. Drought periods during the treatment with the herbicides linuron, metribuzin and pendimethalin, 2013-2015

The results of visual readings in phytotoxicity scores on the EWRS scale showed that the applied soil herbicides (linuron, pendimethalin and metribuzin) had from indifferent (score 1) to strong phytotoxic effect (score 7) (Table 2).

The herbicides used to control annual broad leaved and cereal weeds (linuron - 135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s. and pendimethalin - 132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s.) showed high selectivity (score 1) to wheat. No phytotoxic effects on the crop were observed during the period of the experiment.

The soil herbicide metribuzin (56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s.) during the period from emergence to the 7th day had a high selectivity (score 1). Seventeen days after treatment, the observed symptoms of phytotoxicity increased, as at the optimal dose (56 g da⁻¹ a.s.) of herbicide severe symptoms of chlorosis were shown and a slight delay in plant growth (score 4), which at a later stage (after the 30th day) were overcome (score 2).

Metribuzin, applied at increased

(112 g da⁻¹ . .), 17
 (7). -
 , 30 ,
 , (3).

dose (112 g da⁻¹ a.s.), after the 17th day
 caused severe damages, expressed in
 - severe chlorosis leading to necrosis and
 partial death of plants (score 7). At a later
 stage of their development, after the 30th
 - day, wheat plants failed to completely
 overcome the phytotoxic manifestations,
 expressed in chlorotic changes (score 3).

2. ” ”
Table 2. Selectivity of the herbicides to "Dunaviya" wheat variety

Herbicides		Day of reporting		
		7 7 th day	17 17 th day	30 30 th day
Linuron	135 g da ⁻¹	1	1	1
	270 g da ⁻¹	1	1	1
Pendimethalin	132 g da ⁻¹	1	1	1
	264 g da ⁻¹	1	1	1
M	56 g da ⁻¹	1	4	2
Metribuzin	112 g da ⁻¹	1	7	3

g da⁻¹ . . , 56 112
 ,
 ,
 α=0.05
 (3).
 ,
 ,
 (1).
 (I_x)
 0.64 0.96 (0.78 0.94),
 (d_x) 12 142
 (22 79.33) (3).
 ()
 , 0.030 0.197

On average over the period, the
 observed phytotoxic effect of metribuzin
 herbicide, applied at doses of 56 and 112
 g da⁻¹ a.s., had an inhibitory effect on
 - wheat crop density, in which there were
 - statistically proven differences at α = 0.05
 compared to the control variants (Table
 3). The difference in the values of the
 - parameter - crop density, between the
 different variants, varied by year. That
 - variation was due to the specific climatic
 conditions in the individual years and the
 - amount of precipitation during the
 treatment of wheat with soil herbicides
 (Figure 1).

During the years of study, the
 survival (I_x) of wheat varied from 0.64 to
 0.96 (average 0.78 to 0.94), and the plant
 mortality coefficient (d_x) ranged from 12 to
 142 (average 22 to 79.33) (Table 3).

The results regarding the intensity
 of plant death after completion of
 treatment with soil herbicides (K_x) were
 similar. The highest intensity of plant
 death, from 0.030 to 0.197 (average from
 0.076 to 0.105), was reported in the

(0.076 0.105),
 112 g da⁻¹ . . . , -
 ,
 0.016 0.073 (0.027
 0.042).
 2.5 2.8
 ,
 (3).

variant with applied soil herbicide
 metribuzin at doses of 56 and 112 g da⁻¹
 a.s., and the lowest after treatment with
 linuron, at both test doses ranging from
 0.016 to 0.073 (mean from 0.027 to
 0.042).

The intensity of plant death was 2.5 to 2.8
 times lower compared to metribuzin
 herbicide, which caused a strong
 phytotoxic effect in wheat (Table 3).

3.

Table 3. Effect of soil herbicides on the number of plants of "Dunaviya" wheat variety

Year	Herbicides	Dose, g da ⁻¹	/ Characteristics			
			/ Plant number, da			
			m _x	l _x	d _x	K _x
2013 - 2014	/ Control	-	390b	-	-	-
	/ Linuron	135	368b	0.94	22.0	0.025
	/ Pendimethalin	132	364b	0.93	26.0	0.030
	M / Metribuzin	56	262a	0.67	128.0	0.173
	/ Linuron	270	354b	0.91	36.0	0.042
	M / Pendimethalin	264	360b	0.92	30.0	0.035
M / Metribuzin	112	248a	0.64	142.0	0.197	
2014 - 2015	/ Control	-	334b	-	-	-
	/ Linuron	135	322b	0.94	12.0	0.016
	/ Pendimethalin	132	286ab	0.83	48.0	0.067
	M / Metribuzin	56	312ab	0.91	22.0	0.030
	/ Linuron	270	282a	0.82	52.0	0.073
	M / Pendimethalin	264	302ab	0.88	32.0	0.044
M / Metribuzin	112	288a	0.84	46.0	0.064	
2015 - 2016	/ Control	-	380b	-	-	-
	/ Linuron	135	348b	0.92	32.0	0.038
	/ Pendimethalin	132	358b	0.94	22.0	0.026
	M / Metribuzin	56	352b	0.93	28.0	0.033
	/ Linuron	270	366b	0.96	14.0	0.016
	M / Pendimethalin	264	354b	0.93	26.0	0.031
M / Metribuzin	112	330b	0.87	50.0	0.061	
Average for the period	/ Control	-	368b	-	-	-
	/ Linuron	135	346b	0.94	22.00	0.027
	/ Pendimethalin	132	336b	0.91	32.00	0.040
	M / Metribuzin	56	308ab	0.84	59.33	0.076
	/ Linuron	270	334b	0.91	34.00	0.042
	M / Pendimethalin	264	338b	0.92	29.33	0.036
M / Metribuzin	112	288a	0.78	79.33	0.105	

d_x - ; m_x - ; m²; l_x - ;
 Legend: m_x - experimentally recorded plant number, m²; l_x - survival ability of plants; d_x - death (reduction) of plants; - death intensity (reduction)

4). 3,29%,
270 ml.da⁻¹ ..
(135 ml.da⁻¹ . . .) (132
264 ml.da⁻¹ . . .) -
0.2% 0.94%,
3.53% 12%

An important parameter characterizing the selectivity of herbicides was their influence on wheat productivity. The results of the grain yield showed that linuron and pendimethalin soil herbicides, applied at optimal and increased doses, could be applied to Dunaviya wheat variety (Table 4). A larger decrease in yield by 3.29%, on average for the period, was reported in the variant with linuron soil herbicide at a dose of 270 ml.da⁻¹ a.s. In the variants treated with linuron (135 ml.da⁻¹ a.s.) and pendimethalin (132 and 264 ml.da⁻¹ a.s.) a slighter negative effect was reported from 0.2% to 0.94%, which regarding the reliability of the differences was from the group of untreated control, i.e. did not have a negative impact on the crop.

The soil herbicide metribuzin, applied in both tested doses, reduced grain yield by 3.53% and 12% compared to the control. Its use in wheat stand was associated with a mathematically proven reduction of yield.

4. " " **Table 4. Effects of herbicides on the yield of "Dunaviya" wheat variety**

Variants	/Seed yield (kg.da ⁻¹)							
	2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		Average for the period	
	Yield	%	Yield	%	Yield	%	Yield	%
Control untreated	498	-	466	-	313	-	425	-
45 / Afalon 45SK -300 ml.da ⁻¹	487 ^a	2.21	458 ^a	1.72	334 ^a	6.71	426 ^b	0.20
330 / Stomp 330EK -400 ml.da ⁻¹	491 ^a	1.40	474 ^a	1.72	317 ^a	1.28	427 ^b	0.47
70 / Zenkor 70VG -80 g.da ⁻¹	483 ^a	3.01	449 ^a	3.64	297 ^a	29.79	410 ^{ab*}	3.53
45 / Afalon 45SK -600 ml.da ⁻¹	490 ^a	1.61	411 ^a	11.80	332 ^a	6.07	411 ^{ab}	3.29
330 / Stomp 330EK -800 ml.da ⁻¹	471 ^a	5.42	473 ^a	1.50	318 ^a	1.60	421 ^b	0.94
70 / Zenkor 70VG -160 g.da ⁻¹	452 ^a	9.23	362 ^a	22.32	308 ^a	1.60	374 ^{a*}	12
/ Average	482	3.21	442	5.15	317	1.28	413	2.82

<0.05,

<0.05; 0.01; 0.001.

Legend: Different letters indicate statistically significant differences among variants at $P < 0.05$.

*, **, *** - Statistically significant differences of the variants vs. control at $P < 0.05$; 0.01 and 0.001, respectively.

(5)

From the three-factor analysis of the variance (Table 5) in terms of yield, it was found that the years had the

59.25%
 1.94% 1.57%.
 0.01,
 ()
 0.05. () - 0.526%,

strongest influence - 59.25% from the total variation. Herbicide and dose had a very small effect on grain yield - 1.94% and 1.57%. In the three tested factors, the strength of influence was statistically proven.

There was a well-proven relation between the conditions of the year and the tested herbicides (AxB) at P 0.01, as confirmed by the fact that the meteorological conditions in different years had different effects on the soil herbicides.

The effect between the conditions of the years and the doses of the herbicides (AxC) was not proven. The latter operated in one direction in all years and had not affected grain yield.

The correlation between the factors herbicides and doses of application (BxC) - 0.526%, at P 0.05, also was proven. This means that the applied herbicides at optimal and increased dose can have a negative effect on wheat plants. Here we can say that varietal sensitivity to the tested herbicides and the applied doses is observed.

5.

Table 5. Analysis of variance for grain yield

Source of variation	Degrees of freedom	Sum of squares	Influence of factor, %	Mean square
/Total	83	1664.960	100	-
- /Factor A-Years	2	975.916	59.255	487.958**
- /Factor B-herbicides	2	32.020	1.944	16.010**
- Factor C-dose	1	12.971	1.575	12.971**
AxB	4	17.774	0.540	6.750**
AxC	2	13.499	0.820	4.331
BxC	2	8.662	0.526	4.443*
AxBxC	4	21.372	0.649	5.343
/Pooled error	63	518.795	6.959	8.235

CONCLUSIONS

Soil herbicides linuron - 135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s. and pendimethalin - 132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s., were highly selective to wheat, while metribuzin - 56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s. caused a strong phytotoxic effect (score 7).

Metribuzin had an inhibitory effect on plant growth and development at a dose of 56 g da⁻¹ a.s. and partial plant death by increasing the test dose (112 g da⁻¹ a.s.).

The observed phytotoxic effect of metribuzin, at doses of 56 and 112 g da⁻¹ a.s., also had an inhibitory effect on wheat density.

The grain yield formed after treatment with soil herbicides linuron (135 and 270 g da⁻¹ a.s.) and pendimethalin (132 and 264 g da⁻¹ a.s.) was close to the control variant, and could be applied in cultivation of Dunaviya wheat variety.

Metribuzin, at both doses tested, reduced grain yield up to 12%, and its use is not recommended in practice.

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(x *Triticosecale* Wittm.)

, 9521

Effect of the Productivity Principal Components on the Yield Formation of Bulgarian Triticale Cultivars (x *Triticosecale* Wittm.)

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The yield formation is not a one-sided but a complex and dynamic process influenced by numerous factors of the environment. In order to determine the main yield components of triticale and their formation, 11 Bulgarian cultivars (Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) were investigated during three highly contrasting cropping seasons. The effect of each of the investigated yield components was determined through PCA analysis. Based on the performed analysis, it was found out that over 80 % of the total variation was due to three principal components. The correlation varimax matrix showed that the most significant role for the formation of productivity was played by the generative component related to the effect of the weight of grains in spike and the number of grains in spike. Second in importance was the vegetative component related to the number of productive tillers. A third component was related to the parameter

thousand kernels weight. Test weight, plant height and days to heading were related to the fourth, fifth and sixth component. Thus grouped, the investigated indices allowed purposefully directing the breeding of triticale toward specific breeding tasks.

Key words: triticale cultivars, yield, yield components

INTRODUCTION

The yield from cultural plants is one of the most important parameters and the aim of breeding and improvement work (Tsenov et al., 2014); therefore, it has been subjected to a large number of studies (Fox et al., 1990, Alaru et al., 2004, Santiveri et al., 2004; Schwarte et al., 2006; Gibson et al., 2008; Szemplinski et al., 2012, Racz et al., 2013; Tuulos et al., 2015; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017; Abraha et al., 2019). At the same time, its complexity (Miralles and Slafer, 1999; Foulkes et al., 2011) requires detailed investigations on the specificity of each element (Tsenov et al., 2013).

On the other hand, the structure of yield should be considered together with its size as a whole (Sinclair and Jamieson, 2006). The dynamic breeding of cereals in particular, requires such studies since it is especially important for the breeding programs to quickly, clearly and precisely define the parameters of the cultural plants that need improvement (Reynolds et al., 2009).

There are a great number of studies on the yield structure of the cereals, especially in common winter wheat (i.e. Duggan and Fowler, 2006; Reynolds et al., 2014; Slafer et al., 1996; Sadeghzadeh et al., 2017; Rakascan et al., 2019; Bhaskar et al., 2013; Firdous et al., 2018; Tsenov et al., 2013; Tsenov et al., 2014; Slafer, 2007; Tsenov et al., 2017; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2015; Mladenov et al., 2018). According to triticale such studies

(Tsenov et al., 2014),

(Fox et al., 1990, Alaru et al., 2004, Santiveri et al., 2004; Schwarte et al., 2006; Gibson et al., 2008; Szemplinski et al., 2012, Racz et al., 2013; Tuulos et al., 2015; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017; Abraha et al., 2019).

(Miralles and Slafer, 1999; Foulkes et al., 2011)

(Tsenov et al., 2013).

(Sinclair and Jamieson, 2006).

(Reynolds et al., 2009).

(i.e. Duggan and Fowler, 2006; Reynolds et al., 2014; Slafer et al., 1996; Sadeghzadeh et al., 2017; Rakascan et al., 2019; Bhaskar et al., 2013; Firdous et al., 2018; Tsenov et al., 2013; Tsenov et al., 2014; Slafer, 2007; Tsenov et al., 2017; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2015; Mladenov et al., 2018).

(i.e. Baychev, 2013; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016; Kirchev, 2016; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017; Kirchev et al., 2017; Cheshkova et al., 2018),

Baychev (1990),

1000

Sechnyak and Sulima (1984), Tsvetkov (1989) Kolev (1975).

(Villegas et al., 2010). Schwarte et al. (2006),

()

1000 . Stoyanov and Baychev (2016)

(Simane et al., 1993; Slafer et al., 1996; Garcia del Moral et al., 2003; Gonzales-Navaro et al., 2016; Ferrante et al., 2017),

(Stoyanov

and Baychev, 2016).

are less numerous (i.e. Baychev, 2013; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016; Kirchev, 2016; Kirchev and Georgieva, 2017; Kirchev et al., 2017; Cheshkova et al., 2018), because of that it is necessary to carry out more thorough investigations on the yield and its components.

In the early investigations on triticale, Baychev (1990) defines number of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight as main elements related to yield. At the same time, this author points out that the number of productive tillers is less important because the tillering in this crop is lower in comparison to other cereals. Similar conclusions have been drawn also by Sechnyak and Sulima (1984), Tsvetkov (1989) and Kolev (1975). Some contemporary investigations on associations of genotypes also come to similar conclusions (Villegas et al., 2010). On the other hand, Schwarte et al. (2006) point out that the number of tillers is more important for the triticale genotypes they investigated under the conditions of USA (Iowa) because this is the element influenced to the highest degree by the conditions of the environment. These authors determine as less susceptible the number of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight. Stoyanov and Baychev (2016) point out that in the greater part of the contemporary Bulgarian triticale cultivars, the number of grains in spike has highest importance for the yield of most genotypes. On the other hand, considerable differences in the stability of a given element of yield are observed in the individual cultivars. Between the separate parameters, however, there are correlations and compensatory mechanisms (Simane et al., 1993; Slafer et al., 1996; Garcia del Moral et al., 2003; Gonzales-Navaro et al., 2016; Ferrante et al., 2017); therefore, their reaction cannot explain the dynamics of the productivity value (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

This is an indication that productivity is

strictly specific depending on the genetic basis, the effect of the environment, their interaction, but also on the correlations between the individual elements of the yield.

There are different methods for determining the correlations between the productivity parameters (Leilah and Al Khateeb, 2005). They involve such techniques as correlation and Path-analysis.

The correlation analysis is applied most often, but it can give only detailed information about multiple correlations between the elements (Ali et al., 2003). In this respect, the Path-analysis, which uses direct and indirect effects between the separate investigated parameters, is far more advantageous.

On the other hand, by using regression analysis, multiple correlations of yield with its components can be determined (Oguntunde et al., 2017). The principal component analysis has a serious advantage in determining relations in the structure of yield (Bhanupriya et al., 2014). It is a multi-variation method used to establish relations between a large number of parameters under the effects of a limited number of factors (Everitt and Dunn, 1992).

This type of analysis allows clarifying in detail the structure of productivity. By applying this method, Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005) found out that among the common winter wheat genotypes they investigated, the component related to the generative development (number of grains in spike) had the highest effect on yield, while the effect of the component related to the vegetative development had a lower effect. Stoyanov (2017) reached similar conclusions investigating an amphidiploid similar to triticale. Furman et al. (1997) came up with rather contradictory results on the effect of the principal components and their correlation with the yield from

(Leilah and Al Khateeb, 2005).

Path-

(Ali et al., 2003).

Path-

(Oguntunde et al., 2017).

(Bhanupriya et al., 2014).

(Everitt and Dunn, 1992).

. Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005)

(Stoyanov (2017)

. Furman et al. (1997)

triticale. This gives grounds for a detailed study on the structure of yield in triticale.

The aim of this investigation was to analyze Bulgarian triticale cultivars by economically important parameters over different years and to determine the principal components for the formation of the yield's structural elements.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To realize the above aim, eleven triticale cultivars developed at Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute – General Toshevo (Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respect, Bumerang, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) were investigated. All cultivars were grown in a uniform crop, in 10 m² - sized experimental plots, in four replications in a standard block design within the framework of a competitive varietal trial. The experiment was carried out for three successive harvest years (2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017). Planting was mechanized, within the standard dates for triticale (10th - 15th October), at crop density 550 seeds per m². Number of productive tillers per m² was determined from each experimental plot using a wooden frame sized 0.25 m². Plant height (cm), grain yield (kg/dca), test weight (kg/100 l), and 1000 kernel weight (g) were also determined. Days to heading (number of days from 01.01), number and weight of grains in spike were also specified for each cultivar.

The results from the field experiment were averaged and summed up by cultivar, year and parameters. Two-way ANOVA was performed to establish the effect of the factors genotype, year and their interaction on the separate parameters. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was carried out to identify the principal components in the formation of the yield's structural elements.

Varimax rotation was applied for better interpretation of the data (Manly and

(Manly and Alberto, 2017).
 Excel 2003,
 IBM SPSS Statistics 19.

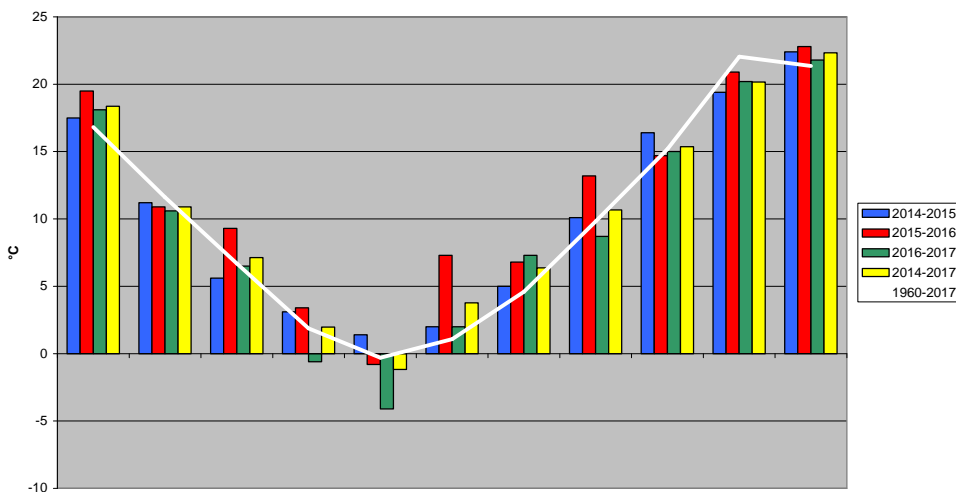
Microsoft
 - Alberto, 2017). The PCA analysis was applied by year and for the entire period of study.
 -
 -
 - Microsoft Excel 2003 was used to summarize the data, and IBM SPSS Statistics 19 – to make dispersion and principal component analyses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Concerning the meteorological conditions, the periods of investigation can be defined as sharply contrasting.

- This is related both to the differing mean daily temperatures and the rainfalls during the specific harvest years. Nevertheless, the dynamics of the two parameters was not identical implying different effects on the growth and development of plants.

- The air temperature during the period of study (Figure 1) was marked by a high-degree dynamics with regard to the three investigated periods related to differences in the conditions for growing of triticale.



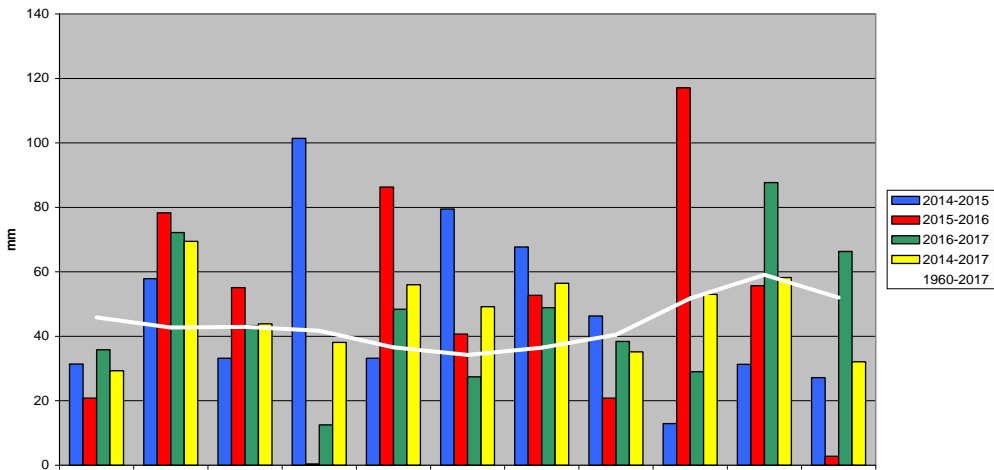
1.
 Fig. 1. Air temperature dynamics during the investigated period

)	-	In the pre-winter period (November-December), small deviations from the long-term tendency in the temperature regime were observed. The period November-December of 2014 was closest to the long-term values. In 2015, the warmer pre-winter period facilitated the tillering process allowing exceptionally good development of the plants.
-	-	
2014	-	
2015	-	
2016	-	The period November-December of 2016 was much cooler creating prerequisites for lower development of plants and their more difficult hardening. During the winter period (January-February), serious differences in the temperature regime between the separate periods of investigation were also observed.
(-	
2015	-	
2016	-	However, the low temperatures were not in practice related to possible damages. During the early spring period (March-April) of 2015, there were differences to the long-term tendency, but they were significantly lower than 2016. The period March-April of 2016 was the warmest, and then the highest differences with the long-term values were observed. Thus prerequisites were created for accelerated development of the plants. The respective periods in 2015 and 2017 were identical and were little different from the long-term tendency.
2015	-	
2016	-	
2017	-	
(-	
2016,	-	
2015,	-	
2016,	-	
2015,	-	During the spring-summer period (May-June), high differences between the years of study were also not observed. May of 2016 was an exception; in this month there was a sharp influx of cold air masses combined with abundant rainfalls and therefore the temperatures were comparatively lower. Such temperature regime can be considered stressful because it occurs suddenly and lasts long. A higher mean monthly temperature was registered in May of 2015 due to the dryer weather at that period and the actual zero precipitation.
,	-	
,	-	
,	-	
,	-	Such conditions were favorable for anthesis,

(2)

- pollination and fertilization of triticale. The month of June in all three years of investigation was with lower temperature values in comparison to the long-term tendency.

- In contrast to air temperatures, the rainfalls during the period of study (Figure 2) were characterized with higher dynamics according to the long-term tendency. This is related to their random rather than cyclical nature. Their distribution was uneven and there was no regularity in their duration and intensity.



2.
Fig. 2. Dynamics of precipitation during the investigated period

(-)

- Concerning the pre-winter period (November-December), rather uneven distribution of rainfalls was observed, most clearly expressed in December.

- The values observed in November were closer to the long-term ones. The amount of rainfalls was lowest in November 2014, and highest – in November 2015. Insignificant were the differences of November 2016 to the long-term values.

2014 ,
2015 .

2016.

- The comparatively normal November

(-)

2016

2016 2017

2015 ,

(-)

)

(1)

- rainfalls were a prerequisite for the good development of the plants and for their growing to an optimal phase. High dynamics was observed also during the winter period (January-February).

- In January, the greatest precipitation was registered in 2016, in the form of intensive snowfalls at the beginning of the month. The highest February precipitation was registered in 2015, and in 2016 and 2017 the precipitation value was closer to the long-term tendency.

- The rainfalls during the early spring (March-April) were characterized with lower dynamics, but were also poorly distributed. The good moisture reserves as a result from the rainfalls during this period in all three years allowed very good development of the plants.

- During the spring-summer period (May-June), the precipitation values were with extremely uneven distribution over months and were also very intensive. With the lowering of temperatures, prerequisites were created for strong effect on the date to and the process of heading, anthesis, pollination and fertilization.

- Such effects are highly negative because of their unfavorable impact on the plants' fertility.

- The ANOVA carried out (Table 1) proved the significant effect of the environmental conditions on the investigated parameters. At the same time, a lower effect on the variance of the factor genotype and the factor genotype x environment interaction was observed. This, on the one hand, showed that the separate varieties within the set of the studied genotypes differed considerably with regard to the yield elements. On the other hand, the effect of the environment on them was related to the different reaction of the individual genotypes.

Table 1. ANOVA (Analysis of variance) and genotype year interaction of parameters of triticale varieties

Factor	DH	PH	NPT	Y	1000 M1000	TW	WGS	NGS
Genotype (G)	38,8***	507,3***	44682***	40105,0***	72,6***	15,9***	0,1***	65,2***
Year (Y)	6510,6***	6502,8***	790244,1***	830601,3***	4447,7***	525,3***	4,6***	457,3***
G x Y	14,3***	84,3***	25918,9***	18755,3***	42,2***	8,3***	0,1***	28,8***

DH – days to heading; PH – plant height; NPT – number of productive tillers; Y – yield; 1000 – 1000 kernel weight; TW – test weight; WGS – weight of grains in spike; NGS – number of grains in spike

(Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Ignazio et al., 2012; Aljarrah et al., 2014; Ferreira et al., 2015),

(Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2013; Banjac et al., 2014; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2015; Montesinos-Lopez et al., 2018).

(Stoyanov, 2018).

Such a thesis has been supported by a large number of studies both on triticale (Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Ignazio et al., 2012; Aljarrah et al., 2014; Ferreira et al., 2015), and on common winter wheat (Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2013; Banjac et al., 2014; Tsenov and Atanasova, 2015; Montesinos-Lopez et al., 2018). However, the different reactions of the cultivars during different growing stages are the reason to look for different structures of yield. This is related to a predominant percent of a certain yield element during a given growing stage and the respective conditions of the environment.

The variation in the values of a given parameter depends on the influence of the environmental conditions (Stoyanov, 2018). The higher a given effect is, the more the variation range of the trait will deviate from the mean value.

On the other hand, however, this regularity is also connected to the adaptability of a certain genotype to a specific impact. In this case, the value of the variance was directly related to the intensity of the unfavorable conditions, to the stability and plasticity of the genotype, but also to the limitations of the genetic

1)

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

2, 3 4

2016/2017

2014/2015

81,6 %

2015/2016

75,6%

- basis. At the same time, the specific investigated parameter is strictly dependant on the rest of the parameters determining the yield structure. Such a cyclic system conditions the significant complexity of the yield as a resultant value. The data from the investigated parameters (Table 1) emphasize the fact that the variance of both the yield and its elements is influenced by the two studied factors and their interaction.

- The effect of the separate elements of the yield's structure, however, cannot be determined. Simultaneously, the interaction between each of the yield's elements under variable conditions of the environment is definitely different, as illustrated by the presence of distinct stability in each of them (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

- The variation of a certain parameter also affects to a certain degree the variation of yield. On the other hand, the change in the values of the studied parameter within a given range is connected to the effect of a certain factor. In this sense, this factor should also be a reason for the variation of the yield's value. The results from the analysis on the principal components allows clarifying to a certain degree the effect of the separate elements from the structure of yield on its size.

- In Tables 2, 3 and 4 certain similarities can be tracked down, but also differences in the principal components, the reason for variation. During economic years 2014/2015 and 2016/2017, similar values with regard to the first three components of the variation were observed; during both periods they determined 81.6 % of the total variation. Economic year 2015/2016 was with lower effect of the first three components, which determined 75.6 % of the variation. This shows that in the above cropping season a larger number of components were observed, which

2015/2016

- 44,5%.

affected to a higher degree the variation of yield.

On the other hand, in 2015/2016 the first component was characterized with the highest value of variation – 44.5 %. Such a value implies that the first component is more susceptible to the changes of the environmental conditions, and more specifically – to the rainfalls during the period, since the temperatures were marked by a lower dynamics.

2.

2014/2015

Table 2. Principal component analysis of the studied triticale cultivars during economic year 2014/2015

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3,143	39,294	39,294	3,143	39,294	39,294	2,467	30,844	30,844
2	2,155	26,943	66,237	2,155	26,943	66,237	1,334	16,677	47,521
3	1,231	15,383	81,620	1,231	15,383	81,620	1,224	15,294	62,815
4	0,662	8,280	89,900	0,662	8,280	89,900	1,057	13,207	76,022
5	0,527	6,585	96,485	0,527	6,585	96,485	1,047	13,083	89,104
6	0,277	3,462	99,947	0,277	3,462	99,947	0,866	10,821	99,926
7	0,003	0,039	99,986	0,003	0,039	99,986	0,005	0,057	99,982
8	0,001	0,014	100,000	0,001	0,014	100,000	0,001	0,018	100,000

3.

2015/2016

Table 3. Principal component analysis of the studied triticale cultivars during economic year 2015/2016

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	3,564	44,554	44,554	3,564	44,554	44,554	2,407	30,093	30,093
2	1,460	18,245	62,799	1,460	18,245	62,799	1,301	16,268	46,361
3	1,024	12,802	75,600	1,024	12,802	75,600	1,201	15,016	61,378
4	0,946	11,825	87,425	0,946	11,825	87,425	1,035	12,941	74,319
5	0,634	7,928	95,354	0,634	7,928	95,354	1,023	12,783	87,102
6	0,358	4,476	99,830	0,358	4,476	99,830	1,014	12,676	99,778
7	0,010	0,131	99,960	0,010	0,131	99,960	0,013	0,168	99,946
8	0,003	0,040	100,000	0,003	0,040	100,000	0,004	0,054	100,000

Eigenvalues

5

Varimax

eigenvalues
(2014/2017) (

2

5.

Table 5. Principal component analysis of the studied triticale cultivars over three economic years

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	5,247	65,586	65,586	5,247	65,586	65,586	2,327	29,082	29,082
2	1,214	15,180	80,766	1,214	15,180	80,766	1,350	16,871	45,953
3	0,753	9,408	90,174	0,753	9,408	90,174	1,275	15,944	61,897
4	0,401	5,007	95,181	0,401	5,007	95,181	1,217	15,213	77,109
5	0,198	2,478	97,659	0,198	2,478	97,659	0,912	11,404	88,514
6	0,154	1,930	99,590	0,154	1,930	99,590	0,871	10,891	99,404
7	0,027	0,339	99,928	0,027	0,339	99,928	0,034	0,422	99,826
8	0,006	0,072	100,000	0,006	0,072	100,000	0,014	0,174	100,000

(6)

(0,934),

(0,751),

2014/2015 .

81 % of the variation. The Eigenvalues showed that five of the yield's elements had effect on the first component. This was related to the contrasting expressions during the individual periods, which gave advantage to different parameters. The Varimax rotation allows to smooth the influence of the contrasting conditions and to determine the effect of each yield element on the variation. In this case, the eigenvalues for the three years (2014/2017) (Table 5) related the first component to two elements of the yield, and the second, third and fourth components – to one element of the yield. The next two components were partially related to some elements of the yield, while the other two did not in practice have any effect on the variation of the yield from the investigated cultivars.

During the first economic year (Table 6), the yield elements in highest correlation with the first principal component were the generative parameters – weight of grain in spike (0,934) and number of grains in spike (0,936). The first principal component was also in high correlation with yield (0,751) indicating that the variation in WGS and NGS was the main reason for the variation of yield and its values during harvest year 2014/2015. The variation of

(0,928),

1000

(0,992),

1000

2014/2015.

the number of productive tillers was correlated to the second principal component in this cropping season (0,928), while the yield was related to a lower degree to this principal component. This was an indication that the variation in the number of productive tillers had lower effect on the size of yield. Thousand kernel weight was in high correlation with the third principal component (0,992), but yield was only in slight correlation with it. This showed that the variation of the index M1000 did not have a significant effect on the values and variation of yield during 2014/2015. Still lower was the effect of the days to heading, the test weight and the plant height on the variation of yield. They were related to the fourth, fifth and sixth principal component.

6.

2014/2015

Table 6 Rotated Varimax correlation matrix according to the studied parameters in triticale during economic year 2014/2015

Element	/Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
/DH	0,113	0,162	0,016	0,955	0,154	0,160	0,001	0,000
/PH	0,332	0,276	-0,038	0,234	0,266	0,828	0,001	0,000
M1000	0,067	-0,020	0,992	0,014	0,097	-0,022	0,002	0,001
/WGS	0,934	-0,125	0,299	0,061	-0,060	0,118	0,000	0,026
/NGS	0,936	-0,114	-0,271	0,051	-0,129	0,134	-0,022	-0,027
/TW	-0,108	0,232	0,118	0,168	0,925	0,193	0,002	0,000
/NPT	-0,124	0,928	-0,062	0,166	0,238	0,187	-0,005	0,000
/Y	0,751	0,536	0,237	0,168	0,103	0,222	0,063	0,002

DH – days to heading; PH – plant height; NPT – number of productive tillers; Y – yield; 1000 – 1000 kernel weight; TW – test weight; WGS – weight of grains in spike; NGS – number of grains in spike

(2015/2016) (

7).

(0,826)

(0,851).

(0,893),

Similar was the distribution of the principal components and elements during the next cropping season (2015/2016) (Table 7), too. The first principal component was in highest correlation again with the weight of grain in spike (0,826) and with the number of grains in spike (0,851), respectively. The yield was also in high correlation with the first principal component (0,893) indicating that the variation of its values

1000
(0,975),
10%

7.

was related to the variation in the values of number of grains in spike. The second principal component was again in high correlation with the number of productive tillers, but this time the correlation was negative (-0,944). The yield correlated slightly with this principal component, again negatively, which showed that the variation in the number of productive tillers did not have any significant effect on yield in that cropping season. The behavior of 1000 grain weight in that period was almost identical to the previous one and correlated with the third principal component (0,975). The fourth principal component was in high correlation with test weight, the fifth – with days to heading, and the sixth – with plant height. The last three components determined over 10 % of the total variance indicating that although these principal components were not basic for yield, they had effect on its variation.

2015/2016

Table 7. Rotated varimax correlation matrix according to investigated parameters in triticale during economic year 2015/2016

Element	/Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
/DH	-0,157	0,073	-0,131	0,053	0,967	0,125	0,000	0,000
/PH	0,046	-0,035	-0,110	-0,024	0,118	0,985	0,000	-0,001
M1000	0,203	0,093	0,943	0,151	-0,141	-0,135	-0,003	0,002
/WGS	0,826	0,422	0,303	0,163	-0,128	-0,030	0,028	0,058
/NGS	0,851	0,466	-0,166	0,122	-0,081	0,062	0,076	-0,016
/TW	0,223	0,017	0,144	0,962	0,055	-0,027	0,000	0,000
/NPT	-0,295	-0,944	-0,100	0,002	-0,101	0,048	0,003	0,000
/Y	0,893	-0,018	0,365	0,205	-0,134	0,048	-0,083	-0,027

DH – days to heading; PH – plant height; NPT – number of productive tillers; Y – yield; 1000 – 1000 kernel weight; TW – test weight; WGS – weight of grains in spike; NGS – number of grains in spike

(2016/2017) (8)
(0,936)
(0,931),

The behavior of the principal components during the third investigated period (2016/2017) (Table 8) was completely different to the previous two periods. Although the first principal component was again in a high correlation with weight (0,936) and number of grains in spike (0,931), yield correlated to a

(0,311). , -
 , -
 , -
 , -
 (0,583), -
 (0,975). -
 - -
 .
 1000 (0,975).
 , 1000
 .
 ,
 ,

considerably lower degree with this principal component (0,311). This shows that the variation of yield during that period was not predominantly related to the variation of number of grains in spike, but to another yield element. The presented results show that the number of productive tillers was again in correlation with the second principal component (0,583), but this time yield was also in high correlation with it (0,902). During that period, the higher variation of yield was related to higher variation of the number of productive tillers. The third principal component again correlated well with 1000 kernel weight (0,975). This was an indication that 1000 kernel weight is especially important for the formation of yield. The fourth principal component was in good correlation with the days to heading, the fifth – with plant height, and the sixth – with test weight.

8.

2016/2017

Table 8. Rotated varimax correlation matrix according to investigated parameters in triticale during economic year 2016/2017

Element	/Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
/DH	0,014	-0,113	-0,005	0,975	0,074	0,176	-0,002	0,000
/PH	0,023	0,120	0,169	0,082	0,962	0,153	0,001	0,000
M1000	-0,160	0,147	0,938	-0,003	0,186	0,197	0,001	0,001
/WGS	0,936	0,284	0,095	0,011	0,081	0,161	0,010	0,028
/NGS	0,931	0,211	-0,287	-0,030	-0,004	0,051	0,036	-0,028
/TW	0,179	0,212	0,321	0,356	0,266	0,789	0,001	0,000
/NPT	-0,788	0,583	0,096	-0,127	0,043	0,031	0,107	0,000
/Y	0,311	0,902	0,157	-0,110	0,157	0,169	-0,015	0,000

1000 – 1000 ; - ; - ; - ; - ; - ; - ;

DH – days to heading; PH – plant height; NPT – number of productive tillers; Y – yield; 1000 – 1000 kernel weight; TW – test weight; WGS – weight of grains in spike; NGS – number of grains in spike

(9)
 , -
 (0,720)
 (0,916).

Averaged for the three periods of investigation (Table 9), the first principal component was in highest correlation with weight of grains in spike (0,720) and number of grains in spike (0,916). This shows that the variation of yield was related mostly to the variation of the number of grains in spike. The second

(9)

- for the variation in the size of yield, its significance decreased in the long term period (Table 9). This is due to the fact that this parameter is genetically stable and a very specific tendency is observed
- the differences between certain genotypes to remain at a certain level regardless of the conditions of the environment.

9.

Table 9. Rotated varimax correlation matrix according to investigated parameters in triticale for the three economic years

Element	/Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
/DH	0,158	0,410	-0,327	0,304	0,743	0,238	0,003	0,005
/PH	-0,084	-0,159	0,932	-0,218	-0,181	-0,138	0,001	-0,005
M1000	0,221	0,461	-0,329	0,256	0,334	0,673	-0,004	0,006
/WGS	0,720	0,325	-0,228	0,371	0,251	0,326	-0,066	0,113
/NGS	0,916	0,080	-0,052	0,369	0,042	-0,092	-0,074	-0,016
/TW	0,331	0,830	-0,194	0,174	0,284	0,230	0,004	0,005
/NPT	-0,312	-0,176	0,308	-0,838	-0,234	-0,143	0,006	-0,004
/Y	0,826	0,334	-0,068	-0,080	0,128	0,392	0,154	-0,027

1000 – 1000 ; ; - ; - ; - ; - ;

DH – days to heading; PH – plant height; NPT – number of productive tillers; Y – yield; 1000 – 1000 kernel weight; TW – test weight; WGS – weight of grains in spike; NGS – number of grains in spike

Stoyanov (2018)

1000

- The results from the principal components analysis showed that the mean productivity of the investigated genotypes was based on different principal components depending on the conditions of the environment. This relates to the effect of the meteorological conditions (air temperature, precipitation)
- on the specific element of yield. According to data provided by Stoyanov (2018), under different conditions of the environment, parameters such as number of grains in spike, weight of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight respond differently during the separate periods of the investigation, using the same triticale genotypes. At the same time, the conditions of the environment influence not only the mean values of the above parameters but also their variation; under unfavorable conditions, the variation

Stoyanov and Baychev (2016) pointed out that the more susceptible to the effects of the environment a parameter is, the stronger is its correlation with the size of yield. During all periods of our investigation, the number of grains in spike correlated with the first principal component or with the highest percent of the total variation – between 39 and 45%.

(Milovanovic et al., 2014; Kara, 2016; Kavanagh and Hall, 2015). Our results show that this parameter is related to the first principal component not only for a short term (Table 6, 7, 8), but also for a long-term period (averaged for the three economic years (Table 9)). Since the formation of the number of grains in spike is related primarily to generative processes in the plant organism, this principle component can be conditionally defined as “generative”. Similar conclusions have been drawn by Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005) when investigating a set of wheat genotypes.

The second principal component in the studied cultivars in the short-term period (cropping season) correlated with the number of productive tillers. It should be pointed out, however, that the correlation with the yield and the correlation with the second component over periods was different (Table 6, 7, 8). During the first and third period, the correlation with the second component was positive, and during the second – negative. Such high variation in the correlation matrix and instability of the trait in the short term period indicated lower significance of the parameter in the long-term period, as

coefficients are also significantly higher, and the values of the yield are lower. This indicates that the higher variation in a certain parameter is the reason for the higher variation in the values of the yield.

Stoyanov and Baychev (2016) pointed out that the more susceptible to the effects of the environment a parameter is, the stronger is its correlation with the size of yield. During all periods of our investigation, the number of grains in spike correlated with the first principal component or with the highest percent of the total variation – between 39 and 45%.

A large number of studies emphasize the fact that the number of grains in spike is not only the most important parameter for the formation of productivity, but it is also described as an extremely sensitive one (Milovanovic et al., 2014; Kara, 2016; Kavanagh and Hall, 2015). Our results show that this parameter is related to the first principal component not only for a short term (Table 6, 7, 8), but also for a long-term period (averaged for the three economic years (Table 9)). Since the formation of the number of grains in spike is related primarily to generative processes in the plant organism, this principle component can be conditionally defined as “generative”. Similar conclusions have been drawn by Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005) when investigating a set of wheat genotypes.

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and Al Khateeb (2005) supported by the obtained results. In the investigation of Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005), the number of productive tillers was related primarily with the first component.

Bhanupriya et al (2014) gave different results, relating the number of productive tillers to the third principal component. In triticale, however, the number of productive tillers is less important (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

1000 Bhanupriya et al. (2014) The parameter 1000 kernel weight had a peculiar behavior. For common wheat, Bhanupriya et al. (2014) reported that this parameter correlated with the third and fourth principal component, and Leilah and Al Khateeb (2005) – that it correlated with the first and second principal component. The results we obtained showed that regardless of the conditions of the environment, 1000 kernel weight definitely correlated with the third component in the short-term period, with very low differences (13-17%). This emphasized the significance of the parameter for the formation of yield in a particular cropping season. In the long-term period (Table 9), however, 1000 kernel weight was not so important for the total variation and correlated with the sixth principal component, which determined only 2 % of it. This showed that for the formation of the mean yield important were those yield elements, which were significantly more influenced by the environmental conditions during the particular cropping season, but in all genotypes of the investigated set. Such parameters are days to heading and plant height. They are related to the vegetative development of plants and therefore their effect on the variation of yield as a basis for the occurrence of the generative process will be higher in the long-term.

1000 (9) 2% (Stoyanov, 2018), Their variation over the periods of the study was comparatively low (Stoyanov, 2018), but the variation between the mean values over years was significantly higher.

(6, 7, 8).

1000

1000

(Stoyanov, 2018).

1000

- Therefore, the days to heading correlated with the fifth principal component, and plant height – with the third principal component, averaged for the three periods of study.

- Test weigh had a peculiar behavior. This parameter is extremely conservative and varies only slightly between genotypes. Most of the cultivars had similar values and in the short term its significance for the total variation was negligible (Table 6, 7, 8). In the long-term, however, the conditions of the environment had significant effect on its values, with some of the genotypes demonstrating considerably greater stability according to this parameter in comparison to the parameter 1000 kernel weight. Although this tendency between the genotypes concerning the parameter 1000 kernel weight remained unchanged, such a tendency was not observed in test weight (Stoyanov, 2018). Due to the variable stability of the investigated genotypes, the significance of test weight for the total variation in the long-term period (Table 9) was considerably higher and was the reason to relate this parameter to the second principal component.

The variable effects of the environment in the short- and long term periods allowed pointing out certain parameters as the cause for variation in the values of the yield. Each of the elements of the yield in the studied cultivars can explain the specific values depending on the conditions of the environment.

- The main elements number of grain in spike and 1000 kernel weight were definitely significant for the formation of productivity, while the rest of the investigated parameters complemented and influenced the variation depending on the conditions of the environment. This allows giving a direction to the breeding of triticale based on the obtained results according to the specific period and

combinations of soil and climatic characteristics.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Based on the analysis carried out, it was established that more than 80 % of the total variation was due to three principal components. Six principal components determined 99 % of the variation.
2. The first three principal components were basic for the formation of the productivity of the tested triticale genotypes; the rest can be considered complementary.
3. The correlation varimax matrix showed that the generative (first) component had the most significant part in the formation of productivity; it was related to the effect of the weight and number of grains in spike.
4. The vegetative (second) component, related to the number of productive tillers, varied by its interaction with the yield depending on the investigated period.
5. During all periods of investigation, 1000 kernel weight ranked third with regard to its effect on the total variation, but in the long term period it determined less than 2 % of the total variation, revealing its high stability and a tendency between the studied genotypes.
6. Thus grouped, the investigated parameters allowed aiming the triticale breeding to a certain direction depending on the specific breeding task.

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300-400

400-500

*

, 5835

Influence of Crop Density on the Yield of Maize Hybrids from Maturity Groups FAO 300-400 and FAO 400-500

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

2016-2018 .
 -307 -310 300-400
 /da; 6500 /da; 7000 /da 7500
 /da; -435 -442 400-500
 6000 /da, 6500 /da
 7000 /da.
 23-25 cm.
 10-12 6-8 cm.
 N₁₅P₁₅K₁₅ – 25
 kg/da .
 - 30 kg/da
 2016-2018
 : -307, -310,
 -435 -442 -
 2017 . -307 -310 -
 7500 /da, 957,60
 kg/da 988,60 kg/da.
 812,97 kg/da

The study was conducted in the experimental field of the Institute of maize - Knezha for period 2016-2018. The object of study are the following hybrids: Kn-307 and Kn-310 from group 300-400 respectively to FAO and densities: 6500 n/da; 7000 n/da and 7500n/da; Kn-435 and Kn-442 from group 400-500 respectively to FAO and densities: 6000 n/da; 6500 n/da and 7000 n/da. Basic tillage has been carried out-deep plowing at 23-25cm. In the spring double cultivation with harrowing of 10-12 cm and 6-8cm. Fertilization with combined fertilizer N₁₅P₁₅K₁₅ – 25 kg/da in the autumn. In the spring fertilization with ammonium nitrate – 30 kg/da after the first cultivation. During the vegetation double hoeing. It was found that in the years 2016-2018 of the experiment for the development of maize hybrids Kn-307; Kn-310; Kn-435 and Kn-442 the most favorable is 2017. For hybrid Kn-307 and Kn-310 the highest results were obtained at a density of 7500n/da respectively 957,60 kg/da and 988,60kg/da. The maximum productivity on average from the three years of experience is 812,97 kg/da for the first

931,53 kg/da .
 7000 /da -435
 968,20 kg/da,
 -442 972,60 kg/da.
 -
 -
 : 888,77 kg/da
 -435 831,07 kg/da -442.
 :
 ,
 ,
 ,

and 931,53 kg/da for the second hybrid. When growing maize with a density of 7000 n/da from a hybrid Kn-435 a maximum yield of 968,20kg/da was obtained and from Kn-442 it was 972,60 kg/da. At the same density on average for the study period the realized productive opportunities are the highest: 888,77 kg/da for Kn-435 and 831,07 kg/da for Kn-442.

Key words: maize, hybrids, densities yield, groups of maturity

(Tomov, 1997; Popov, 2000).

(Kiryakov and Gyurova, 1969; Zarkov, 2001).

(Bunting, 1973; Stanev, 1980; Asafu, 1990; Abuzar et al, 2011; Pencheva, 2018).

(Angelov and Glogova, 2010).

INTRODUCTION

The biological features of maize allow it to be grown in almost all regions of the world (Tomov, 1997; Popov, 2000). In our country for a large part of the country the temperature condition are favorable for its cultivation, but the limiting factor is usually the precipitation , wich is why they are crucial (Kiryakov and Gyurova, 1969; Zarkov, 2001).

The interest maize is based on its wide variety of uses not only as fodder for farm animals but also in a number of industries of the food and chemical industries.

Compared to other cultural species, it has one of the richest reserves of genetic resources, represented by a variety of native species adapted to specific environmental conditions and used by humans (Bunting, 1973; Stanev, 1980; Asafu, 1990; Abuzar et al, 2011; Pencheva, 2018).

The presence of a large set of hybrids that science offers in practice with different vegetation periods allows for them in a varietal structure depending on soil climatic and agronomic factors for different regions of the country (Angelov and Glogova, 2010).

Varietal characteristics technology and growing conditions are essential for the development of the productive capabilities of plants and product quality (Stoyanov

(Stoyanov and Tonev, 2001; Delibaltova et al, 2009; Shafi et al, 2012; Mandi and Ismail, 2015; Mandie et al, 2016).

(Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova, 2001).

400 400-500.

- and Tonev, 2001; Delibaltova et al, 2009; Shafi et al, 2012; Mandi and Ismail, 2015; Mandie et al, 2016).

Periodic studies on the productivity of newly created recognized and zoned maize hybrids of their yield over the years and the specific growing conditions (Vulchinkov and Vulchinkova, 2001).

The aim of the study was to determine the effect of crop density on the yield of maize hybrids from the FAO 300-400 and FAO 400-500 maturity groups.

300-

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the experimental field of the Institute of maize - Knezha for the period 2016-2018. The object of study are following hybrids at the appropriate sowing density:

1. Kn-307 and Kn-310 group 300-400 according to FAO and densities 6500 n/da; 7000 n/da and 7500 n/da.

2. Kn-435 and Kn-442 group 400-500 according to FAO and densities 6000 n/da; 6500 n/da and 7000 n/da.

The main tillage of the soil was deep plowing at 23-25cm. In the spring double cultivation with harrowing of 10-12 and 6-8cm. Fertilization with combined fertilizer $N_{15}P_{15}K_{15}$ – 25kg/da in the autumn. Fertilizations in the spring with ammonium nitrate – 30kg/da after the first cultivation. During the vegetation double hoeing. Spraying herbicides against deciduous wheaten weeds with Gardoprim plus gold – 400ml/da after sowing before germination in phase 5-6 leaves – 110ml/da.

- Use of fungicides and insecticides against economically important diseases and pests if necessary. Yield and crop density indicators were investigated during the study period.

2016-2018 .

1. -307 -310 300-400
7500 p/da. 6500 /da; 7000 p/da
2. -435 -442 400-500
7000 p/da. 6000 p/da; 6500p/da

23-25 cm.

10-12 6-8 cm.
 $N_{15}P_{15}K_{15}$ – 25 kg/da

– 30 kg/da

– 400

ml/da

5-6 – 110 ml/da.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

307	6500 p/da	
	785,60 kg/da	
2017	(1).	
	89,60 kg/da	
2016-2018		
	12,87%.	
	576,40 kg/da	
119,60 kg/da		
		-307
	7000 p/da.	
877,10 kg/da.		135,57
kg/da		
	-307	877,10 kg/da,
		590,50 kg/da
2017	2018	
286,60 kg/da.		
48.5%.		
		7500 p/da
		957,60 kg/da
825,90 kg/da		655,40
kg/da		
	-307	
	812,97 kg/da.	
	144,63 kg/da	
307	302,20 kg/da.	
	7500 p/da	
957,60 kg/da.		
2017		
		-307.

When growing a hybrid Kn-307 with a crop density of 6500n/da the highest yield of 785,60kg/da was obtained in 2017 (Table 1). This result exceeds by 89,60 kg/da the realized average yield for the period of the study 2016-2018. Expressed as a percentage the excess is 12.87%. The lowest result of 576,40 kg/da from the studied hybrid was found in the third experimental year. It is lower by 119,60 kg/da compared to the obtained average yield. The data obtained during the cultivation of a hybrid Kn-307 with a density of 7000 n/da, are similar. And in this variant the most favorable for maize is the second year of the experiment.

The value of the realized yield from the hybrid – object of study is 877,10 kg/da. It is more by 135,57 kg/da than the average obtained for the three years of the experimental work. The maximum productivity of the maize hybrid Kn-307 is 877,10 kg/da and the minimum is 590,50 kg/da respectively for 2017 and 2018. The difference between them is 286,69 kg/da. From the data in the table it is established that even at a density of 7500 n/da again with the highest yield of 957,60 kg/da the second year of the experiment is characterizes. In second place is the first year with 825,90 kg/da and in third place with 655,40 kg/da is the last year of the experiment. On average for the period of the research the productive possibilities of the indicated hybrid Kn-307 are characterized by a, result of 812,97 kg/da. This value is exceeded by 144,63 kg/da of the obtained maximum value. The amplitude of the obtained yield of hybrid Kn-307 is 302,20 kg/da. Of the studied densities at which maize was grown the highest productivity was found at 7500 n/da with a maximum yield of 957,60 kg/da. This result was realized in 2017 which turned out to be the most favorable for the development of the maize hybrid Kn-307.

1. **kg/da** **-307** **-310**
2016-2018

Table 1. Grain yield kg/da from hybrids Kn 307 and Kn 310 by years and average for the period 2016-2018

Years	-307			-310		
	6500 p/da	7000 p/da	7500 p/da	6500 p/da	7000 p/da	7500 p/da
2016	726,00	757,00	825,90	744,00	775,10	825,00
2017	785,60	877,10	957,60	859,80	921,40	988,60
2018	576,40	590,50	655,40	888,30	936,10	981,40
Average	696,00	741,53	812,97	830,70	877,53	931,53

300-400 -310.
 -307.
 1
 6500 p/da -
 .
 -
 888,30 kg/da.
 57,60 kg/da
 6,9%.
 744,00 kg/da.
 144,30
 kg/da.
 6500 p/da 7000 p/da
 .
 -
 -310 2017 .,
 - 936,10 kg/da.
 58,57 kg/da
 .
 6500 p/da 7000 p/da 47,80 kg/da
 .
 7500 p/da
 825,00 kg/da 988,60

The next hybrid from this group of maturity FAO 300-400 is Kn-310. It was grown in the same variant as the hybrid Kn-307. Analyzing the data in Table 1 it was found that at a density of 6500 n/da most favorable for the development of maize is the third year of experience. The yield obtained this year is the highest. Its numerical value is 888,30 kg/da. This result exceeds the obtained average value by 57,60 kg/da. Expressed as a percentage it is 69%. The lowest yield of the studied hybrid was found in the first experimental year, respectively 744,00 kg/da. The amplitude of the productive possibilities of the maize is expressed with a yield of 144.30 kg/da.

The increase of the crop density from 6500 n/da to 7000 n/da has an influence on the potential realization of the studied hybrid. In all three years of experience the yields obtained from maize were higher compared to the lower density. Again, the most favorable for the development of hybrid Kn-310 is 2017 during which the highest yield of 936.10 kg/da was obtained. It exceeds by 58.57 kg/da the one obtained on average from the three years of experience. The difference between the maximum yields of maize grown at 6500 n/da and 7000 n/da and is in favor of higher density.

Analyzing the obtained results it is established that at a sowing density of 7500 n/da the yield of maize varies from 825.00 kg/da to 988.60 kg/da respectively

kg/da, 2016 2017 . - for 2016 and 2017. On average from the
 - three years of experience the productive
 -310 capabilities of hybrid Kn-310 are
 expressed by the numerical value of
 931,67 kg/da. - 931.67 kg/da. This result is lower by
 56,93 kg/da - 56.93kg/da compared to the maximum
 - value. The dynamics of change from the
 - minimum to the maximum productivity of
 -310 the hybrid Kn-310 is 163.60 kg/da. With
 - an increase in the density from 6500 n/da
 6500 p/da 7000 p/da - to 7000 n/da, the obtained average yield
 increases by 46.83 kg/da. With a
 46,83 kg/da. - difference of 1000 n/da, the yield
 1000 p/da - increases by 100.97 kg/da. For the study
 100,97 kg/da. - period, the average productivity of hybrid
 - Kn-310 was higher by 54.00 kg/da at
 54,00 kg/da 7500 p/da, - 7500 n/da, compared to 7000 n/da.
 7000 p/da.

2. kg/da -435 -442
 2016-2018 .

Table 2. Grain yield kg/da from hybrids Kn 435 and Kn 442 by years and average for the period 2016-2018

Years	-435			-442		
	6000 p/da	6500 p/da	7000 p/da	6000 p/da	6500 p/da	7000 p/da
2016	750,80	777,10	799,50	595,50	653,70	697,80
2017	839,30	924,00	968,20	834,80	906,60	972,60
2018	803,80	847,50	898,60	704,60	767,70	822,80
Average	797,80	849,53	888,77	711,63	776,00	831,07

2
 -435 -442
 400-500.
 6000 p/da -435 -
 .
 839,30 kg/da.
 2018 .
 2016 .
 803,80 kg/da 750,80 kg/da.
 -
 797,80 kg/da.
 41,50
 kg/da .
 88,15
 kg/da ,

Table 2 presents data on the productive potential of hybrid Kn-435 and Kn-442 from the maturity group FAO 400-500. At a seed density of 6000n/da of hybrid Kn-435 the highest yield was obtained in the second experimental year. Its numerical value is 839,30 kg/da. In second place is 2018 and third in 2016.

During these years of the studied hybrid the realized yield is 803,80 kg/da and 750,80 kg/da respectively. On average from the three years of experience, the productive potential of maize is expressed with a result of 797,80 kg/da. This value is exceeded by 41,50 kg/da of the maximum potential of the studied hybrid. The difference of 88,15 kg/da between the maximum and minimum value of yield shows that the conditions for growing

2017	-		
2016			
		6500 p/da.	
	-435		
2017			
		924,00 kg/da.	
		74,47 kg/da	
	8,77%.		
		146,90 kg/da.	
		7000 p/da	
		-435	
		799,50 kg/da	2016
		968,20 kg/da	2017
		168,70 kg/da.	
kg/da.			888,77
		26,30 kg/da	48,70 kg/da
		6500 p/da	7000 p/da.
		6500 p/da	
		84,70 kg/da,	7000 p/da
		128,90 kg/da.	
		6500 p/da	44,20
kg/da,		7000 p/da	95,30 kg/da.
			6000
p/da	-442		
		595,50 kg/da.	
			239,30
kg/da.			
	40.2%.		
		704,60 kg/da,	
		109,10 kg/da	
		-442	
711,63 kg/da.			123,17
kg/da			
17,31%.			

maize in 2017 are more favorable than those of 2016. A similar trend of change in yield is found at a crop density of 6500 n/da. Again the highest productivity of the maize hybrid Kn-435 was obtained in 2017.

The yield realized this year is 924,00 kg/da. It exceeds by 74,47 kg/da the average yield obtained from the three years of experience. Expressed as a percentage it is 8.77%. The amplitude of change in yield is 146,90 kg/da.

At a density of 7000 n/da the realized grain yield from hybrid Kn-435 varies in the range of 799,50 kg/da for 2016 to 968,20 kg/da for 2017. The increase as a result of the conditions of the year is 168,70 kg/da. On average from the three years of the study the productive potential of maize is expressed by the numerical value of 888,77 kg/da. In the first year the increase of the yield as a result of the density of the sowing is 26,30 kg/da and 48,70 kg/da respectively for 6500n/da and 7000 n/da. In the second year the lower density of 6500 n/da increases the yield by 84,70 kg/da and that of 7000n/da by 128,90 kg/da. In the third experimental year the obtained difference in the yield for density 6500 n/da is 44,20 kg/da and at 7000 n/da it is 95,30 kg/da.

In the first year at a density of 6000 n/da of hybrid Kn-442 a yield of 595,50 kg/da was obtained. In the next year which is characterizes as a more favorable yield it increases by 239,30 kg/da.

The percentage increase is 40.2%. In the third year the yield decreased to 704,60 kg/da but was higher by 109,10 kg/da compared to the first experimental year. On average from the three years of experience, the realized productivity of the hybrid Kn-442 is 711,63 kg/da. It is smaller maximum yield. Expressed in percentage it is 17.31%. A similar pattern of change of the obtained results is established at a density of 6500n/da. The

6500 p/da.
 -
 -442
 653,70 kg/da 906,60 kg/da,
 .
 252,90 kg/da.
 ,
 2017 .
 130,60 kg/da
 .
 7000
 p/da
 -
 6000 p/da 6500 p/da.
 697,80 kg/da
 2016 . - 133,27
 kg/da
 .
 2017 .
 -442 -
 .
 972,60 kg/da.
 141,53 kg/da, 17.03%
 .
 6000 p/da 6500 p/da
 7000 p/da -
 ,
 71,80 kg/da
 137,80 kg/da.

realized grain yield from the maize hybrid Kn-442 varies in the range from 653,70 kg/da to 906,60 kg/da, respectively for the first and second year of the experiment.

The difference between the two values is 252,90 kg/da. The data in the table shows that the maximum productivity of maize from 2017 exceeds by 130,60 kg/da the obtained the variation of the yield by years is similar to that obtained from the lower densities of 6000 n/da and 6500 n/da.

The lowest yield of 697,80 kg/da was obtained in 2016. It is smaller by 133,27 kg/da compared to the obtained average value. In the next 2017 the highest productivity was a realized from the hybrid Kn-442.

Its numerical value is 972,60 kg/da. It exceeds by 141,53 kg/da or 17.03% the average yield of the three years of experience. For the same year the increases the yield of the studied hybrid respectively by 71,89 kg/da and 137,80 kg/da.

➤ 2016-2018
 : -307, -310,
 -435 -442 -
 2017 .
 ➤ -307 -310
 -
 7500 p/da, 957,60
 kg/da 988,60 kg/da.
 812,97 kg/da
 931,67 kg/da
 ➤ 7000 p/da -435
 kg/da, -442 968,20
 972,60 kg/da.
 - : 888,77
 kg/da -435 831,07 kg/da -442.

CONCLUSIONS

➤ In the years 2016-2018 of the experiment for the development of maize hybrids: Kn-307; Kn-310; Kn-435 and Kn-442 the most favourable is 2017.

➤ For hybrids Kn-307 and Kn-310 the highest results were obtained at a density of 7500 n/da, respectively 957,60 kg/da and 988,60 kg/da. The maximum productivity on average from the three years of experience is 812,97 kg/da for the first and 931,67 kg/da for the second hybrid.

➤ When growing maize with a density of 7000 n/da from a hybrid Kn-435 a maximum yield of 968,20 kg/da was obtained, and from Kn-442 it was 972,60 kg/da. At the same density for the study period the realized productive possibilities are the highest: 888,77kg/da for Kn-435 and 831,07 kg/da for Kn-442.

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