

1\*  
2  
1  
2  
" " 30, 1373  
" 10, 1756

\*E-mail: petkova17@yahoo.com

## Influence of organic liquid fertilizer from composted plant residues with manure in a pot experiments

Zdravka Petkova<sup>1\*</sup>, Vesselin Koutev<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Agricultural academy, 30 Suhodolska Str., 1373 Sofia, Bulgaria

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

### SUMMARY

The effectiveness of an organic liquid fertilizer called "Extra Force" has been determined in a pot experiments with salad rocket and lettuce. The fertilizer has been obtained by water extraction of humic substances from a bio-compost under appropriate conditions (pH, temperature, homogenization) allowing for their better extraction. The compost consists of manure – 63% and plant residues – 37%. It has been found that test fertilizer is a valuable product that has a beneficial effect on plant growth and productivity.

The formulation of the fertilizer allows its direct application as foliar fertilizer. A major component are humates that supply physiologically active substances which involved in plant growth. Supplying plants with them, especially during active vegetative growth, during flowering and fruiting, provides higher yields and high quality production.

7,23%  
(100 ml/da)

19,41% (300 ml/da)

19%

31%

– 100-200 ml/da

5-8-  
– c  
7-14 – 100-150 ml/da.

- The increase in the yield from salad rocket as a result of applied foliar feeding with organic fertilizer is 7.23% in the variants with low norm (100 ml/da) and increases with an increase in the fertilizer rate (300 ml/da) to 19.41% for variants with the highest rate. A similar trend is also found for lettuce yields – about 19% for low-rate variants, and increases sequentially with an increase in the fertilizer rate to 31% for the highest rate variants.

- The fertilizer is applicable to field and vegetable crops, flowers, ornamental plants and lawns. Recommended fertilization standards for field crops – 100-200 ml/da in the braking and spraying phase for maize and sunflower in the 5-8<sup>th</sup> leaf stage, for vegetable crops – treatment throughout the vegetation in 7-14 days – 100-150 days ml/da.

- **Key words:** foliar fertilization, salad rocket and lettuce, effectiveness of an organic liquid fertilizer

## INTRODUCTION

- The importance of organic fertilization is growing nowadays to replenish the soil stock with nutrients and maintain a positive balance of humus. About 91% of the soils in Bulgaria have a relatively low humus content (1-3.5%). One of the best ways to increase it is to import organic matter. (Pachev et al., 2007). They provide not only the essential nutrients for plants but also activate the useful microflora (Petkova, 1991). Soils, well supplied with organic substances, are a prerequisite for the resistance of plants to diseases.

- Together with traditional organic fertilizers, new organic fertilizers in liquid form have become more and more popular. They are mainly used for leaf-feeding plants because, in addition to easily digestible nutrients, they also contain biologically active components. They are important for achieving optimal

(Pachev et al., 2007).

(Petkova, 1991).

(*Eruca vesicari* L.)  
 22.09.2016,  
 (*Lactuca sativa*),  
 20.02.2017.

(Endocalcic  
 Pellic Vertisol) (WRB 2006) (Shishkov,  
 2011)

3

( )

N:P:K=1:0,8:0,8.

1800 g

30

nutrition. They are absorbed directly from the leaves of the plants for their metabolic and energy needs and thus do not burden the soil. With proper and timely use, they reduce the effects of adverse factors: abiotic - drought, cold, over-humidity, etc. and biotic - an attack by diseases and enemies. They help to overcome the stress caused by applied chemical preparations for plant protection.

The purpose of the study is to test the effectiveness of organic liquid fertilizer. It is obtained by aqueous extraction of humic substances from a bio-compost under appropriate conditions (pH, temperature, homogenization) allowing for a more complete extraction. The results of the trials will serve to produce a report on the efficiency and safety of the product and to determine recommended fertilization standards.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The vegetation test with rocket salad (*Eruca vesicaria* L.) was set and sow on 22.09.2016 and with lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), type Batavia, Melvin, on 20.02.2017. Initially, we only reported the influence of the fertilizer on the rocket experience, as this crop has a shorter vegetation period. The starting soil for both cultures is Endocalcic Pellic Vertisol (WRB 2006) (Shishkov, 2011) from the experimental field in Bozhurishte. The treatments are: three-leaf foliar feeding with 3 rising standards of liquid organic fertilizer compared to a control variant (without fertilizing) and a variant with the addition of ammonium nitrate, triple superphosphate and potassium sulphate in N: P: K ratio = 1: 0.8: 0.8. There is also a treatment with the introduction of the average norm fertilizer direct into the soil for optimum homogenization of the fertilizer with the soil. The pots have a capacity of 1,800 grams soil.

The plants were grown for 30 days for the rocket and 90 days for the lettuce,

90 ,  
 .  
 2ml/l.  
 50, 75 100ml  
 - 100, 200 300 ml/da.  
 7  
 2  
 10 .  
 1 2  
 ( )  
 ,  
 ( 3, 4,  
 5 7).  
 45,8 62mg/1000g  
 -  
 33 58 mg/1000g  
 ,  
 0,2%.  
 - (334 mg/1000g)  
 2,  
 ,  
 (268)  
 -  
 4 ,  
 66 mg/1000g.  
 ,  
 mg/1000g ( 2).  
 - 253 63  
 2 L ,

after which the yield of fresh and dry biomass was recorded. The dry content of the leaves is determined by weight. Foliar fertilizer is applied at a concentration of 2 ml/l.

Feeding was performed with 50, 75 and 100 ml solution per a pot, and these amounts were calculated according to 100, 200 and 300 ml/da norms. Spraying solution was done each 7 days during the vegetation and started 2 weeks after sowing rocket and each 10 days after planting the lettuce.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Table 1 and Table 2 give the data on the amount of mineral nitrogen (ammonium and nitrate) and the available forms of phosphorus and potassium at the beginning and end of the rocket salad test. From the data, it can be seen that the Endocalcic Pellic Vertisol slightly affected by the applied foliar fertilization (treatments 3, 4, 5 and 7). The amount of mineral nitrogen varies from 45.8 to 62 mg/1000g with a predominant amount of ammonium form of nitrogen at the start of the experiment and from 33 to 58 mg/1000g at the end of the rocket vegetation. This is logical and expected, because the total amount of nitrogen in the manure is not high - 0.2%. The amount of mineral nitrogen is highest (334 mg/1000g) in variant 2, where mineral fertilization with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium is applied. The proportion of ammonia nitrogen (268) in the total amount of mineral is higher about 4 times, and the amount of nitrate is 66 mg/1000g. This tendency is maintained at the end of the rocket, respectively - 253 and 63mg/1000g (Table 2). The  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  values indicate that there is no change in the different variants, which supports the observed low response from the applied foliar feeding.

1.

(22.09.2016)

**Table 1. Inorganic nitrogen content and available forms of phosphorus and potassium at the beginning (22.09.2016) of the experience with rocket**

Treatments	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>L</sup>	<sup>2 5</sup> mg/100 g	<sup>2</sup> mg/100 g	Ammonium N, mg/1000g	Nitrate N mg/1000g	N ammonium + nitrate mg/1000g
1	7.1	6.3	36,33	45,56	4,5	5	9,5
2	7.1	6.3	36,97	47,50	268	66	334
3	7.1	6.3	37,15	47,89	37	25	62
4	7.1	6.3	37,35	48,95	41	13	54
5	7.1	6.3	37,68	50,15	36,8	9	45,8
6	7.1	6.3	36,03	45,48	10	5	15
7	7.1	6.3	37,26	48,83	38,6	10	48,6

2.

(09.11.2016)

**Table 2. Inorganic nitrogen content and available forms of phosphorus and potassium at the end (09.11.2016) of the experience with rocket salad**

Treatments	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>L</sup>	<sup>2 5</sup> mg/100 g	<sup>2</sup> mg/100 g	Ammonium N, mg/1000g	Nitrate N mg/1000g	N ammonium + nitrate mg/1000g
1	7.1	6.3	35,59	45,36	4	3	7
2	7.1	6.3	35,69	46,7	253	63	316
3	7.1	6.3	36,22	47,57	34	24	58
4	7.1	6.3	36,38	48,77	39	11	50
5	7.1	6.3	36,75	49,03	27	6	33
6	7.1	6.3	37,31	47,03	8	3	11
7	7.1	6.3	35,60	47,83	33	10	43

– 37.15 mg/100g  
37,68 mg/100g  
36,33  
36,03 mg/100g.

- The Endocalcic Pellic Vertisol well stocked with available amounts of phosphorus and potassium. Poor variations are found in accessible forms of phosphorus – from 37.15 mg/100g in the variant with low-norm of fertilizer up to 37.68 mg/100g in those with the highest norm of fertilization. The lowest is the quantity in control variant 36.33 and 36.03 mg/100g. Therefore, leaf feed with the test foliar fertilizer does not significantly affect the soil phosphorus content. Similar is the content of the available forms of potassium in the soil both at the beginning and at the end of the rocket vegetation. A similar trend is also found in lettuce variants.

The resulting amount of fresh rocket leaf is represented by the treatments of Figure 1 and is lowest in the control and highest in the treatment with the maximum rate of foliar fertilizer used.

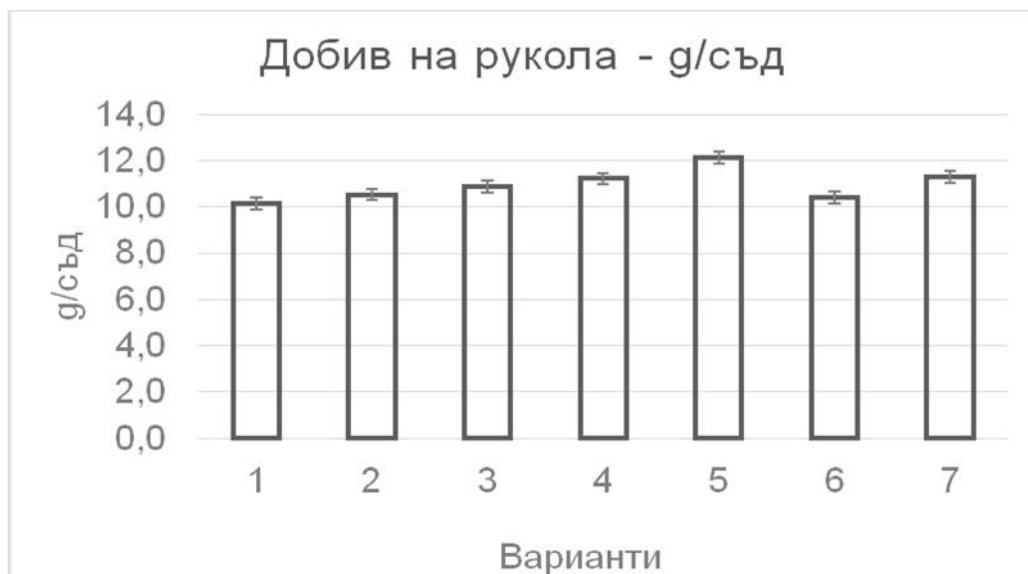


Fig. 1. Yield of rocket salad in a pot experiment, brought out in the autumn of 2016 (fresh mass)

- Treatments:
1. Control
  2. Soil + NPK - (N: P: K = 1: 0.8: 0.8)
  3. Soil + leaf spraying with liquid organic fertilizer - 1 norm
  4. Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 2 norms
  5. Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 3 norms
  6. Soil + leaf spraying with water
  7. Soil + soil intake - organic fertilizer - 2 norms

The increase in rocket salad yield as a result of applied foliar feeding with organic fertilizer is about 7.23% in variants with low norm and increases with an increase in the fertilizer rate to 19.41% for variants with the highest rate. The foliar feeding of the rocket with the average organic fertilizer norm gives almost the same results as those obtained for the variant in which the liquid organic fertilizer was introduced into the soil (Table 3). The rocket salad has a short vegetation period. In connection with the tendency of growing new and

7,23%

19,41%

( 2 3).

(Mitova et al., 2008; Atanasova, 2013; Atanasova et al., 2014).

non-traditional crops and expanding and enriching the species composition of agricultural crops, it might be advisable for the Bulgarian producer to draw attention to such crops – fast-growing, easy to grow, containing very valuable nutrients and diversifying Human nutrition. Similar findings have been found in other studies (Mitova. et al., 2008; Atanasova, 2013; Atanasova, et al., 2014).

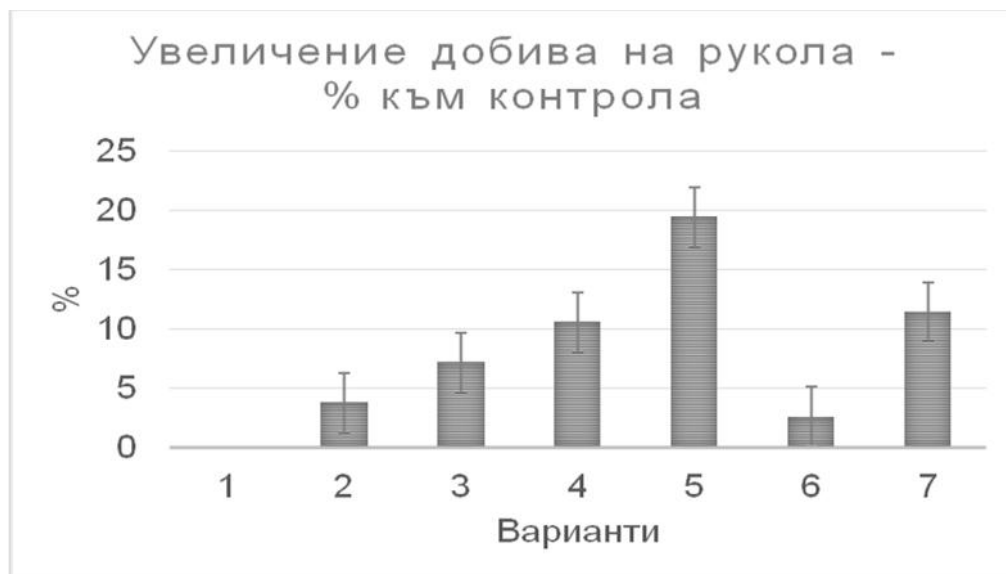


Fig. 2. Increase of the rocket salad yield in the vegetation experiment with the Lemon Recipient, released in the autumn of 2016 in% to the control

Table 3. Increase of yield of salad rocket in a pot experiment, 2016

/ Treatments	Average weight		Increase	
	g/ g/pot	g/ g/pot	%	
1. / Control	10,147			
2. + NPK - (N:P:K= 1:0,8:0,8) / Soil + NPK - (N: P: K = 1: 0.8: 0.8)	10,534	0,387	3,81	
3. + Soil + leaf spraying with liquid organic fertilizer - 1 norm	10,881	0,734	7,23	
4. + Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 2 norms	11,222	1,075	10,59	
5. + Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 3 norms	12,116	1,969	19,41	
6. + / Soil + leaf spraying with water	10,413	0,266	2,62	
7. + Soil + soil intake - organic fertilizer - 2 norms	11,305	1,158	11,41	

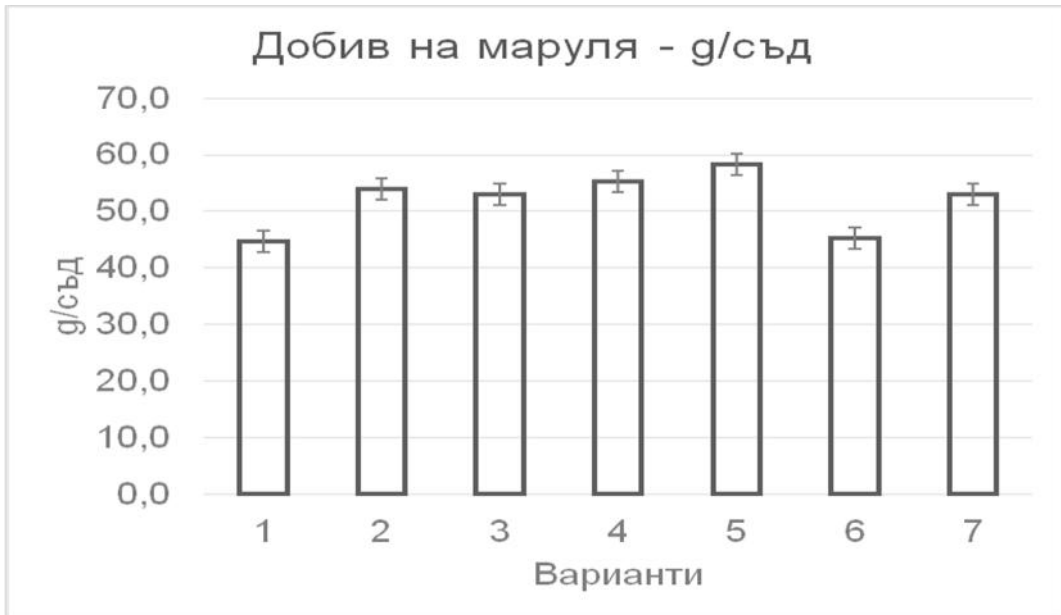
Vegetation experiment with lettuce was carried out by the same scheme.

The established regularity of the increase in lettuce yield as a result of applied foliar feed with organic liquid fertilizer is similar to that which shows the results of rocket yields.

The increase is about 19% for low-rate variants and increases sequentially with an increase in the fertilizer rate to 31% for variants with the highest rate. It should be noted that lettuce has a higher number of leaf feeds than the rocket.

Foliar feeding of lettuce to the average organic fertilizer yield gives almost the same results as those obtained for the variant in which the liquid organic fertilizer was introduced directly into the soil (Figure 3 and Table 4).

19%  
31%  
( 3 4).



. 3.

2017 .

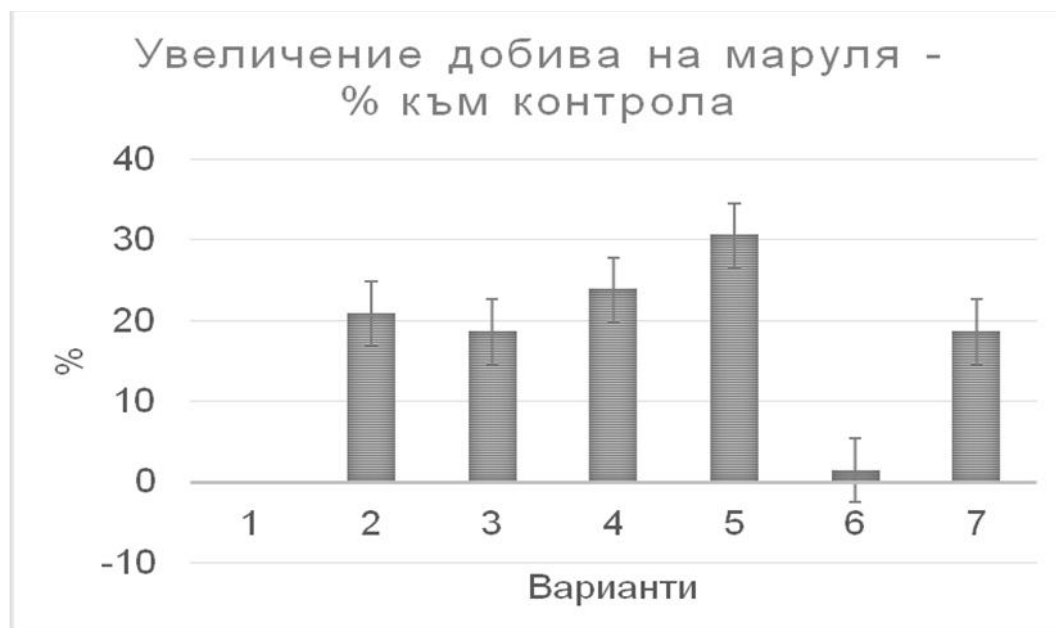
Fig. 3. Yield of lettuce in a pot experiment with Leached smolnitza in the spring of 2017



**Table 4. Increase of lettuce yield in vegetation experiment, 2017**

/ Treatments	Average weight		Increase
	g/ g/pot	g/ g/pot	%
1. / Control	44,67		
2. + NPK - (N:P:K= 1:0,8:0,8) / Soil + NPK - (N: P: K = 1: 0.8: 0.8)	54	9,33	20,89
3. + Soil + leaf spraying with liquid organic fertilizer - 1 norm	53	8,33	18,65
4. + Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 2 norms	55,33	10,66	23,86
5. + Soil + leaf sprayed organic fertilizer - 3 norms	58,33	13,66	30,58
6. + Soil + soil intake - organic fertilizer - 2 norms	45,33	0,66	1,48
7. + Soil + leaf spraying with water	53	8,33	18,65

Consequently, the result of the test of a product obtained by aqueous extraction of humic substances from a biocompost (under appropriate conditions, pH, temperature, homogenization), is favorable its influence on the development of 2 agricultural crops.



. 4.

2016 %

**Fig. 4. Increase in yield of lettuce in a vegetation experiment with a Leached smolnitza, in% to the control**

## CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the researches we can summarize:

The organic fertilizer used as a compost extract (with source materials – 63% manure and 37% plant residues) is a valuable product that has a beneficial effect on plant growth and productivity.

The formulation allows direct application as foliar fertilizer. A major component is humates that contain physiologically active substances involved in plant growth. Supplying plants with them, especially during active vegetative growth, during flowering and fruiting, provides higher yields and high quality production.

Humates improve the condition of the soil by increasing the humus content of the soil. They are also suitable for introduction into the soil through irrigation, drip irrigation and leaf-feeding plants. No phytotoxicity was observed at the study standards.

The increase in yield of rocket salad as a result of applied foliar feeding with organic fertilizer is about 7.23% in the low-rate variants (100 ml/da) and increases with an increase of the fertilizer rate (300 ml/da) to 19.41% for variants with the highest norm. A similar trend is also found for lettuce yields - about 19% for low-norm variants, and increases sequentially with an increase in the fertilizer rate to 31% for variants with the highest rate.

The tested product is applicable to field and vegetable crops, flowers, ornamental plants and lawns. Recommended fertilization norms for field crops – 100-200 ml/da in the braking and spraying phase; for maize and sunflower in the 5-8-leaf stage; for vegetable crops – during the whole vegetation each 7-14 days – 100-150 ml/da.

37%

– 63%

7,23%  
(100 ml/da)

(300 ml/da) 19,41%

– 19%

31%

– 100-200 ml/da

5-8-

7-14 – 100-150 ml/da.

## / REFERENCES

1. **Atanasova, E.**, 2013. The rocket salad – a useful plant, easy to grow. *Zemedelie plus*, 8 (254), 39-40 (Bg).
2. **Atanasova, E., P. Aleksandrova and A. Mikova**, 2014. Growing rucola under different fertilization and soil conditions. In: Proceedings of International Conference. «Theory and Practice in Agriculture», 22-24 XI 2013, Yundola (Bg).
3. **Mitova, I., I. Dimitrov, E. Atanasova and I. Stancheva**, 2008. Effects of Fore-crop Fertilization on the Yield and Quality of Kidney Beans under Vegetable Crop Rotation Conditions. *Acta Agronomica Hungarica*, 56(4), 1-6.
4. **Pachev, I., E. Filcheva and I. Dimitrov**, 2007. Soil Organic Matter composition according to Soil Tillage and Fertilization of Alfalfa growing. In: Proceedings of International Conference “60-years Institute of Soil Science”, 13-17.05. Sofia, pp. 187-192 (Bg).
5. **Petkova, G.**, 1991. Microbiological processes in decomposition of coniferous waste from the wood processing industry. Dissertation, Sofia, Bulgaria.
6. **Shishkov, T.**, 2011. Implication of the World Reference Base and Soil Taxonomy within the Framework of Bulgarian Soil Classification. In: Proceedings of International Conference “100 Years Bulgarian Soil Science”, 16-20 May 2011, Sofia, Part 1, pp. 91 (Bg).

\*

\* -mail: [sh@intersurgicalrus.ru](mailto:sh@intersurgicalrus.ru)

## Study of modification of biochemical properties of amaranth bran

Svetlana Khasanova\*, Zinaida Skobelskaya

Moscow State University of Food Production, Moscow, Russia

### SUMMARY

(*Amaranhtus cruentus*),

In our dynamic time, in market economy and globalization, interest to non-traditional vegetable raw material for food industry remains relevant. One such interesting sources of nutrients is amaranth (*Amaranhtus cruentus*), which is cultivated for a very long time. Amaranth is widely cultivated in India, China, South-East Asia, Africa, Europe and has a very high content of nutrients: protein, rich in essential amino acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids, dietary fibers, vitamins and others. Because of these valuable nutritional qualities, amaranth can be integrated into a number of plants that will form the basis for the satisfying energy nutritional needs of the world human population.

17.8 13.7 %,

Proteins of amaranth deserve a special attention. The total content of protein in seeds of amaranth, depending on the types, ranging from 17.8 to 13.7%. Amaranth's oil is a very popular product, obtained from seeds of amaranth by extraction. It is widely used in medicine and in the production of biologically active additives. After extraction remained the

– fatless residues of cells – amaranth bran.

The search of secondary natural types of raw materials with high nutritional value for the food industry – is really actual and promising. It may allow slowing the depletion of the soil and saving natural resources.

In this study the using of new raw materials for the bakery and confectionary industries – amaranth bran have been scientifically substantiated. The chemical composition of amaranth bran was studied and the researchers proposed a method for thermal treatment of amaranth bran for the modifying biochemical properties and improving microbiological parameters, as bran in the native state is not suitable for using in food industry. The study also assesses the effect of infrared radiation on the water-solubility and bioavailability of proteolysis of brans proteins and on the change in the degree of dextrinogenicity of starch.

**Key words:** amaranth, amaranth bran, protein, proteolytic enzymes, infrared technology, starch dextrinization

## INTRODUCTION

A great contribution to the study of the possibility of using various anatomical parts of plant amaranth in the food industry was made by such researches as: Gins V., Kononkov P., Traore K., Parada D., Kukuzaki H., Amresh, Tewari S., Verma R., e.t.c. However, most studies are devoted to primary types of row material from the anatomical parts of amaranth. In official science there is practically no authoritative researches on the properties of amaranth bran. The use of amaranth bran in the food industry seems very interesting, considering the product's nutritional value and relatively low cost (Khasanova et al., 2005). However, the bran should be prepared to use as a raw material for food because

Gins V., Kononkov P., Traore K., Parada D., Kukuzaki H., Amresh, Tewari S., Verma R.

(Khasanova et al., 2005).

the using of this product in native condition for the food purposes is not reasonable (Grajeta, 1999). After extraction of oil the amaranth bran has a solid structure and specific odor (Kononkova et al., 2005).

The nutritional value of this food product is determined by the chemical composition analyzes and by the accessibility proteins and starch for digestive enzymes (Gins et al., 2004). The process of starch assimilation in digestive tract of the human is complex and remains an issue that requires study. (Nechaev et al., 1999). It is known that starch that escapes fermentation and flows to the small intestine may be more resistance to enzymatic digestion. The value of product containing starch is also determined by the availability it to the amylolytic enzymes not only oral cavity, but also of the pancreas.

The researches have a task on the one hand to propose an optimal method for processing of the amaranth bran and on the other hand to preserve the unique properties of the product.

One of the progressive ways of thermal treatment of raw material, in order to obtain a high-quality product, is infrared radiation (Volonchuk et al., 2015). This method of thermal treatment of grain is widespread in the United States, England, Germany, Japan and other developed countries and is known.

Thus, the researches faced the following tasks: conduct and study chemical composition of amaranth bran, to offer an optimal method of thermal treatment by IR-radiation of amaranth bran, to investigate the impact of IR-radiation on the water-solubility of proteins of amaranth bran, to investigate the effect of IR-radiation on the attack of proteins of amaranth bran by pepsin and trypsin, to investigate the effect of IR-radiation on the dextrinogene activity of starch and availability it to amylases of pancreas.

the using of this product in native condition for the food purposes is not reasonable (Grajeta, 1999). After extraction of oil the amaranth bran has a solid structure and specific odor (Kononkova et al., 2005).

The nutritional value of this food product is determined by the chemical composition analyzes and by the accessibility proteins and starch for digestive enzymes (Gins et al., 2004). The process of starch assimilation in digestive tract of the human is complex and remains an issue that requires study. (Nechaev et al., 1999). It is known that starch that escapes fermentation and flows to the small intestine may be more resistance to enzymatic digestion. The value of product containing starch is also determined by the availability it to the amylolytic enzymes not only oral cavity, but also of the pancreas.

The researches have a task on the one hand to propose an optimal method for processing of the amaranth bran and on the other hand to preserve the unique properties of the product.

One of the progressive ways of thermal treatment of raw material, in order to obtain a high-quality product, is infrared radiation (Volonchuk et al., 2015). This method of thermal treatment of grain is widespread in the United States, England, Germany, Japan and other developed countries and is known.

Thus, the researches faced the following tasks: conduct and study chemical composition of amaranth bran, to offer an optimal method of thermal treatment by IR-radiation of amaranth bran, to investigate the impact of IR-radiation on the water-solubility of proteins of amaranth bran, to investigate the effect of IR-radiation on the attack of proteins of amaranth bran by pepsin and trypsin, to investigate the effect of IR-radiation on the dextrinogene activity of starch and availability it to amylases of pancreas.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The chemical composition of amaranth bran was determined with ionic chromatography, capillary electrophoresis and so on. The content of selenium was determined by burning the crude product and reducing the selenium from mineral residue. (Guidelines N4.1.033-2005, The Institute of Nutrition, Russia).

The native amaranth bran was processed in the infrared spectrum in the micronizator-machine UTZ-1 (Figure 1).



1. UTZ-1  
Fig. 1. Micronizator UTZ-1

Process regimes were selected which, on the one hand, controllably make it possible to modification the biochemical properties, on the other hand, do not interfere roughly to the structure of the product.

The product was thermally processed in Infrared spectrum, crushed on pin mills and after such processes bran represents a cream color powder with nut pleasanttaste the size of its parts is in a range from 10 to 25 microns makes not 80%. Such product is ready for using in confectionery and bakery industry. After thermal treatment of amaranth bran in the infrared spectrum, microbiological and biochemical parameters of the product were studied.

Thermal denaturation of proteins is one of the main physicochemical transformations underlying the technological processes in food industry. Denaturation accelerate the digestion of proteins in gastrointestinal tract, facilitating access to digestive enzymes. The proteinase activity was studied by

(Anson, 1938).

Lowry (Lowry et al., 1951).

350 nm

N20264.4-74,

72

35%, 4,3  
(1:50).

N7698-93,

Tescan Mira.

Anson | Ansons method (Anson, 1938).. For the more complete understanding of the biochemical changes in amaranth bran during thermal treatment in the infrared spectrum has been studied the water solubility of proteins by the Lowrys method (Lowry, et all., 1951).

Content of dextrans can serve as a key indicator of the depth and strength of impact on native and processed starch of the amaranth bran. Dextrinogenic activity had measured by the photoelectric colorimetry. It is based on the difference in absorption spectra of iodine solution and complexes "dextrans-iodine" and "amylase-iodine. Iodine solution has a maximum absorption at 350 nm and its spectrum is practically not overlap spectra of complexes "dextrans-iodine" and "amylase-iodine. (Guidelines N20264.4-74, The Institute of nutrition). Attack of starch of amaranth bran by pancreas amylase had determined by the method of enzymatic hydrolysis with preparation of starch-water suspension with a solids contents 35%, pH 4.3 and addition of glucoamylase. (1:50). After 72 hours the suspension was separated to filtrate and precipitate and determined the solids contents from the filtrate. (Guidelines N7698-93. The Institute of nutrition). A specially interest is also structure of the starch grains after microinization. The photos of starch grains were obtained by the microscope Tescan Mira.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study of chemical composition of amaranth bran are presented in Tables 1 and 2. As can be seen from the results amaranth bran has a rich chemical composition. For comparison cocoa shell was given, because these two product are similar and subjected to similar mechanical and thermal influences during processing. The undoubted value of amaranth bran is the content of selenium, which it's a very important element for the saving of living



cell and necessary component of metabolism in human physiology.

1. %  
**Table1. Main components in amaranth bran and cocoa shell, %**

Component	Amaranth bran	Cocoa shell
Moisture, %	8.9-12.9	6.0-12.0
Crude Protein, %	15.9-18.5	12.2-15.8
Crude Fiber, %	8.9-12.6	13.0-18.0
Starch	51.0-54.8	3.6-5.4
Sugars, %	8.9-11.0	-
Theobromine	-	0.4-1.0
Pentosans	6.8-7.7	6.0-10.6
Pectin	12.4-15.9	7.5
The gum material	-	8.5
Tannin	3.4	8.5

2.

%

**Table 2. Comparative analysis of mineral composition of amaranth bran and cocoa shell**

	The content of mineral substances, mg /100 g dry matter									
	macronutrients					micronutrients				
	K	Na	Ca	Mg	Fe	Cu	Zn	Mn	Se	
Amaranth bran	525	233	242	344	26	1,6 9	3,5	4,2	0,98	
Cocoa shell	840	34, 7	-	1 260	59	3,4	7,5	11. 9	-	

3,

The results of study of microbiological parameters of amaranth bran after thermal treatment are presented in Table 3, where can be seen that quantity of mesophilic aerobic and

4 , , - facultative microorganisms decreased by  
 - 4 times compared to the control,  
 penicillium decreased by about 4,2 times,  
 yeast decreased by 4,5 times.  
 4,2 - Improvement of biological status of  
 - amaranth bran will allow to increase the  
 shelf life and optimize its use for the  
 bakery and confectionary.

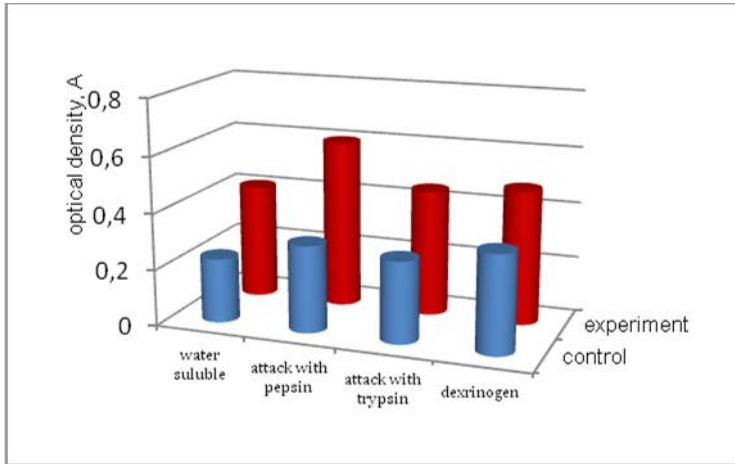
**3. \*  
 Table 3. Microbiological examination of amaranth bran\***

/ Sample	QMAFAnM**	Enterobacteriaceae	Spor-forming fungi and yeast	Bacillus mesentericus
( ) Control (native amaranth bran)	4,1 X10 <sup>3</sup>	Not detected	- 170 Penicillium - 170 - 90 Yeast - 90	100
( ) Experiment (amaranth bran on the day after thermal treatment)	1,1 X10 <sup>3</sup>	Not detected	- 40 Penicillium - 40 - 20 Yeast - 20	30

\* - of microorganisms in 1 gram of sample / \* Unit of measure - the amount  
 \*\*QMAFAnM – / quantity of mesophilic aerobic and facultative microorganisms

2. Data on biochemical changes occurring in the product as a result of heat exposure by IR-radiation are shown in Figure 2. All experiments was carried out in several replicates. All data were statistically processing and presented as arithmetic mean values.

31%.  
 1,92%,  
 The data show that after micronization the water-solubility of proteins increases about 31%. The relative error of method was 1.92%. in comparison with proteins if native bran. This indicates about the presence of heat-stabilized proteins in the amaranth bran, which can be released from insoluble complexes and become soluble. The water-solubility of proteins is one of the indicators of qualitative assimilation it in digestive track.



. 2.

**Fig. 2. The change of biochemical properties of the amarant bran after thermal treatment with IR-radiation. Control – native amarant bran, experiment – amarant bar after micronization**

40%  
(  
1,90%.  
30,3%.  
1,99%.  
37%.  
19,1%.  
(  
4).  
2,02%.  
(  
3).

According to the obtained results the intensity attack of proteins by pepsin is increased after micronization – the optical density of amarant bran is uniformly increased about 40% in compared with control (native amarant bran. The relative error of method was 1.90%. The intensity of attack of proteins of amarant bran was also confirmed on the basis of data of proteolysis with trypsin – duodenal enzyme. The attack of protein fraction by trypsin after micronization in IR-spectrum is increased about 30,3%. The relative error of method was 1.99%. Dextrinogenic activity of starch of amarant bran after micronization increased by 37%. Attachability of starch by pancreas amylase increased about 19,1% (Table 4). The relative error of method was 2.02%. Microscopy-scanning showed that the starch grains of amarant bran after micronization have lesions and pores that why the attackability by amyolytic enzymes was increased. (Figure 3). It is obvious that the radiation allows improving the microbiological indices to increase the

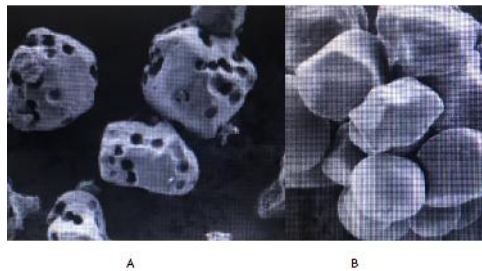
availability of the protein-carbohydrate complex of the amaranth cleansing to digestive enzymes

4.

72

**Table 4. Distribution of dry matters in filtrate when exposure of starch of amaranth bran by glucoamylases within 72h**

/ Sample	Dry matter, gr (average data)
Starch of native amaranth bran	7.82
Starch of amaranth bran after micronization	9.11



. 3.

, B –

: A –

**Fig. 3. Photo of starch grains: A – starch of amaranth bran after thermal treatment, B – starch of native amaranth bran**

1.

2.

a)

b)

3.

4.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Amaranth bran is a promising type of raw material for the food industry for improving of the food nutritional value.

2. Infrared processing of amaranth bran allows:

a) to improve the microbiological indicators of raw material;

b) to modify the biochemical properties of the product.

3. The study also suggests that amaranth bran contains the thermostable proteins that transform into the water-soluble condition after thermal processing in infrared spectrum and the sharp decrease in solubility of protein in further temperature testifies to the start of destruction process.

4. IR-radiation leads to intensification of biochemical processes in the product due to the resonant

5. absorption of radiation energy molecules, proteins and polysaccharides.
5. Thermal treatment of amaranth bran in the infrared spectrum allows for a soft denaturation of proteins, promotes the transition of starch to dextrans and all it increase to digestibility of product.
6. We recommended using of the amaranth bran after a specially preparation for confectionary industry in goal to increase of the nutritional value and to reduce of the sugar consumption.

### / REFERENCES

1. **Anson, M.L.**, 1938. The estimation of pepsin, trypsin, papain and catepsin with hemoglobin I. *Gen. Physiol.*, 22, 79-82.
2. **Gins, V., and M. Gins**, 2004. Amaranth. Biology active substances. Mat. Of the Congr., Moscow, pp. 24-23 (Ru).
3. **Grajeta, H.**, 1999. Effect of amaranth and oat bran on blood serum and liver lipids in rats depending on the kind of dietary fats. *Cereal Foods world J.*, N37 pp. 489.
4. **Guidelines, N.**, 20264.4-74, The Institute of nutrition.
5. **Guidelines, N.**, 7698-93. The Institute of nutrition.
6. **Khasanova, S., Z. Skobelskaya and V. Kirdyashkin**, 2005. IR-radiation and amaranth bran. *Confect. Ind. J. Mos.*, 6: 40-41 (Ru).
7. **Kojima, Y., R. Kawashima and S. Uesaka**, 1971. Studies on the effect of cooking in the nutritive value of feed. *Japanese J. Zootech. Sei*, 42(2), 79-86.
8. **Kononkov, P., and V. Gins**, 2005. Amaranth is culture of 21<sup>th</sup> century. Moscow, pp. 183-190 (Ru).
9. **Lowry, O. H., N. J. Rosebrough, A. L. Farr and R. J. Randall**, 1951. Protein measurement with the Folin phenol reagent. *J. Biol. Chem.*, 193, 265-275.
10. **Volonchuk, S., V. Aksenov and S. Dubkove**, 2015. Preparation of wheat grain by infrared radiation for obtaining feed. *Mod. Sc .tech.*, N10, 12-14 (Ru).

1, 1\*, 2, 1,  
 1, 2  
 1  
 2  
 " 53, 1407  
 " 120, 1330  
 \*E-mail: [ibhi@speedbg.net](mailto:ibhi@speedbg.net)

## Mineral composition of different types flour

Silviya Ivanova<sup>1</sup>, Gabriela Marinova<sup>1\*</sup>, Iliana Borisova<sup>1</sup>,  
 Petya Parvanova<sup>1</sup>, Borislav Blazhev<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technology, Agricultural Academy,  
 53 Cherni vrah Blvd., 1407 Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>Central laboratory for chemical testing and control,  
 120 Nikola Mushanov Blvd., 1330 Sofia, Bulgaria

### SUMMARY

The objective of this study was to investigate the mineral composition of various type flour - wheat type "500", naked oat cultivar "Mina", rye, barley, triticale variety "Vihren" and einkorn.

The content of ash in analysed flour have a highest concentration in oat flour – 5,0%, followed by einkorn – 2.6%, barley – 2.0%, rye – 1.75%, triticale – 1.23% and wheat flour – 0.5%. Calcium in the examined flours has a highest concentration in naked oat variety "Mina" – 652 mg/kg and lowest in barley flour – 140 mg/kg.

The potassium content is most preferably determined in rye flour – 4069.50 mg/kg, as long as white flour is the poor – 1380 mg/kg. White flour has the lowest concentration of magnesium – 294 mg/kg and phosphorus – 1306 mg/kg, while oat

„500”,  
 ,  
 -  
 -  
 - 5,0%,  
 - 2,6%,  
 2,0%, - 1,75%, -1,23%  
 - 0,5%.  
 -  
 „ ” – 652 mg/kg  
 - 140 mg/kg.  
 -  
 4069,50 mg/kg,  
 - 1380 mg/kg.  
 -  
 -294 mg/kg -1306

mg/kg, -  
 Mg – 1337 mg/kg P –  
 5388 mg/kg. -  
 ( ), (1,88 mg/kg),  
 (15,16 mg/kg), (5,72 mg/kg)  
 (13,64 mg/kg), ” -  
 (7,39mg/kg)  
 (51,80 mg/kg), -  
 (4,59 mg/kg), (3,55 mg/kg),  
 (46,58 mg/kg) (41,19 mg/kg). -  
 :  
 , , , , ,  
 , ,

has the highest content of Mg – 1337 mg/kg and P – 5388 mg/kg. White flour has the lowest content of the trace elements boron (trace), copper (1.88 mg/kg), iron (15.16 mg/kg), manganese (5.72 mg/kg) and zinc (13.64 mg/kg) until the flour of naked oat variety "Mina" has a high content of copper (7.39 mg/kg) and manganese (51.80 mg/kg), and einkorn of boron (4.59 mg/kg), barium (3.55 mg/kg), iron (46.58 m /kg) and zinc (41.19 mg/kg).

**Key words:** mineral composition, flour, wheat, oats, rye, barley, triticale, einkorn

## INTRODUCTION

Cereal foods are a major source of nutrition for humans and animals on the worldwide and this is the reason for scientific point of view to develop of food from bases of grain-based foods, because they are rich of protein, essential amino acids, carbohydrates, minerals, fatty acids, fiber, phytochemicals (including phenolic compounds) and group of vitamins B. The grain of cereal crops and their derivatives are a valuable source for food processing, brewery and distillery industries.

Izambaeva et al., (2016), establish an ash 23 g/kg in einkorn compared to wheat in which the ash ranges from 15 to 22 g/kg. The einkorn is rich of potassium and phosphorus, while wheat is rich in phosphorus, potassium and magnesium.

Youssef et al., (2013) in their research of barley grown in Egypt, they are obtained concentration of calcium from 120 to 160, phosphorus 300-510, magnesium 130-180, potassium 240-320, sodium 15.17-47.35, iron from 5.75 to 13.85, zinc 3.2 -39.9, copper 0.55-0.98 and manganese – 1.02-2.67 mg/100 g.

Kan (2015), was investigated the mineral composition of different types and varieties of cereals (wheat, barley, rye, triticale and oats) grown in Turkey and

Izambaeva et al., (2016), -  
 e 23 g/kg -  
 , -  
 15 22 g/kg. -  
 ,  
 Youssef et al., (2013) -  
 , -  
 ,  
 120-160, - 300-510,  
 130-180, – 240-320,  
 15,17-47,35, 5,75 13,85,  
 3,27-39,9, 0,55-0,98 -  
 1,02-2,67 mg/100 g.  
 Kan (2015),  
 ( , ,  
 , ) ,

ppm, -6490  
 - 4510 ppm,  
 - 5503ppm  
 2933ppm  
 ( ) 1133 ( ), - 184  
 ( 1011ppm ( ) ) 2766ppm  
 ( ).

- 92 ppm,  
 - 32 ppm,  
 (28ppm)  
 - 20ppm,  
 17 40ppm,  
 13 47 ppm, 2 8ppm.

933 mg/kg, - 220 mg/kg,  
 - 226 mg/kg

K> Mg> Ca> Na,  
 Fe> Zn> Mn> Cu> Cr>  
 Ni (Raquel L. Tejera et al., 2013, Adhikari et. al., 2016).

„500”,  
 ” ” ,  
 “ “ ’

500 – : ” ”  
 , “ ,  
 ” “ ,  
 ” ” “  
 ” ”  
 ,  
 ”  
 , „My Organic market”.

found that common wheat contains potassium at most 6490 ppm and triticale at least 4510 ppm, phosphorus – 5503 ppm in wheat and 2933 ppm in triticale, calcium – from 184 (triticale) to 1133 (wheat), magnesium from 1011 ppm (triticale) to 2766 ppm (wheat). The cereals are poor of sodium macro element. Microelements in different cereal crops are absorbed depending on the species and therefore the iron content is best sown in oats – 92 ppm and the lowest is the rye – 32 ppm, the zinc is highest in the rye (28 ppm) and the lowest in durum wheat – 20 ppm, manganese content ranges from 17 to 40 ppm, boron from 13 to 47 ppm, copper from 2 to 8 ppm. The quantity of elements is influenced by a number of factors such as variety, soil type, time of harvesting, fertilization, irrigation, climatic conditions and others.

The white flour contains potassium – 933 mg/kg, calcium – 220 mg/kg, magnesium – 226 mg/kg, and the sequence found in the concentration of macro elements in white flour is K > Mg > Ca > Na, while the micro elements composition is Fe > Zn > Mn > Cu > Cr > Ni (Raquel L. Tejera et al., 2013, Adhikari et. al., 2016).

The objective of this study was to investigate the mineral composition of various type flour – wheat type "500", naked oat cultivar "Mina", rye, barley, triticale variety "Vihren" and einkorn.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

They are used six types of flours to determine their macro and micro elements composition: wheat flour type “500” – produced by Sofia Mel Ltd, flour of einkorn, produced by ST “Petkom” Petko Angelov, naked oat cultivar "Mina" and flour of triticale variety "Vihren", obtained on a laboratory roller mill with separating of the bran part, whole grain rye flour, produced by company "Techra" and whole grain flour produced by "My Organic market".



2171:1999.

ISO

The ash content of flour was determined according to BSS ISO 2171: 1999.

- AES-ICP "Varian-Liberty II".

Macro and trace elements are assigned to atomic emission photometer – AES-ICP "Varian-Liberty II".

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.

The ash content of the various types of flour is shown in Figure 1. The basic amount of grain minerals is contained in the germ and endosperm and the ash content reflects the amount of mineral residue in the resulting flour after processing.

The production of high quality white flour leads to a reduction of nutritional compounds in it, as compared to whole grains flour where the whole grain is milled.

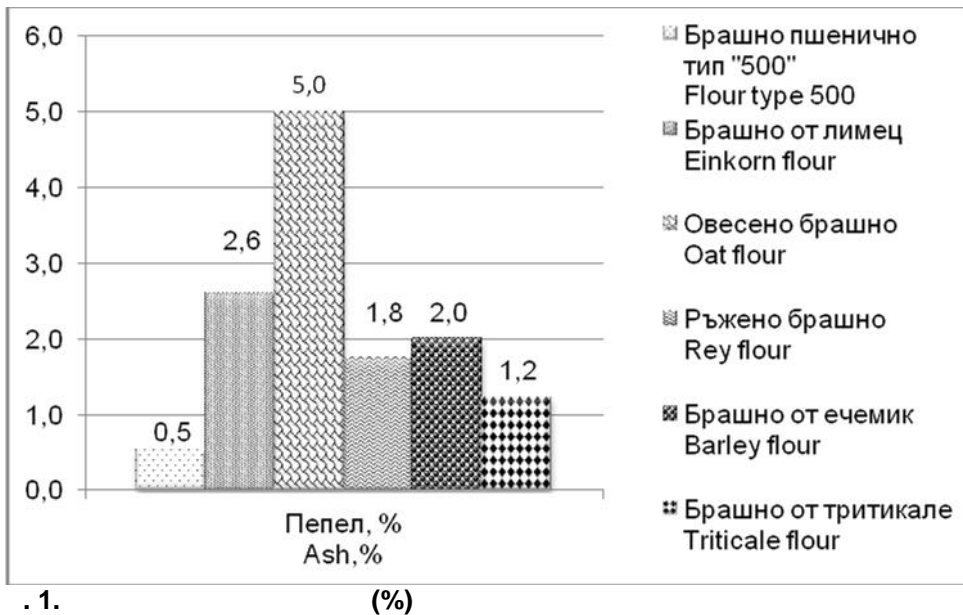


Fig. 1. Ash content (%) in different types of flours

2,0%,

- 2,6%,

- 1,75%,

- 0,5%.

- 5,0%,

- 1,23%

The ash content of the analyzed flours has the highest concentration in oat flour – 5.0%, followed by einkorn – 2.6%, barley – 2.0%, rye – 1.75%, triticale – 1.23% and wheat flour – 0.5%. The obtained results of the ash content in the

different types of flours give us information that the best-provided of mineral compounds is oat flour and the least white wheat flour.

Mineral substances are an important component of human diet. Calcium and phosphorus are the most important macro elements and play an important physiological and biochemical role for humans, especially for newborns (WHO/FAO, 2004). The recommended daily intake of calcium is up to 2.5 g per day (EFSA NDA Panel, 2012) and phosphorus up to 1.0 g per day (NHMRC, 2005).

Calcium in the analyses flour has the highest concentration in flour from naked oat cultivar "Mina" – 652 mg/kg, followed by rye flour – 350 mg/kg and triticale flour – 324.30 mg/kg whereas barley flour has the lowest content and is its 140 mg/kg (Table 1). The oat flour is the best provided with a phosphorus content – 5388 mg/kg, while for the remaining flours it is two to four times smaller, respectively of einkorn flour - 1.86 times, the triticale flour - 2.98 and wheat flour type "500" - 4.12 times.

different types of flours give us information that the best-provided of mineral compounds is oat flour and the least white wheat flour.

Mineral substances are an important component of human diet. Calcium and phosphorus are the most important macro elements and play an important physiological and biochemical role for humans, especially for newborns (WHO/FAO, 2004). The recommended daily intake of calcium is up to 2.5 g per day (EFSA NDA Panel, 2012) and phosphorus up to 1.0 g per day (NHMRC, 2005).

Calcium in the analyses flour has the highest concentration in flour from naked oat cultivar "Mina" – 652 mg/kg, followed by rye flour – 350 mg/kg and triticale flour – 324.30 mg/kg whereas barley flour has the lowest content and is its 140 mg/kg (Table 1). The oat flour is the best provided with a phosphorus content – 5388 mg/kg, while for the remaining flours it is two to four times smaller, respectively of einkorn flour - 1.86 times, the triticale flour - 2.98 and wheat flour type "500" - 4.12 times.

1.

**Table 1. Content of macro elements in different types of flour**

Characteristics	Ca mg/kg	K mg/kg	Mg mg/kg	Na mg/kg	P mg/kg
Flour type 500	233,20	1380	294,30	-	1306
Einkorn flour	295,00	3182	872	30,64	2885
Oat flour	625,00	3309	1337	22,80	5388
Rey flour	350,00	4069,50	-	7,77	-
Barley flour	140,00	2959	-	31,50	-
Triticale flour	324,30	2839	754,40	36,73	1808

Potassium is a vital macro element for the maintenance of body fluids and electrolyte balance in the body. Potassium deficiency leads to fatigue,

2001). (SCF, 2001). The recommended daily intake of potassium is from 3.5 to 3.6 g per day (NHMRC, 2005). The analyses flours contain potassium from 1380 to 4069.50 mg/kg. The rye flour has the highest potassium concentration (4069.50 mg/kg), followed by oat flour (3309 mg/kg), einkorn flour (3182 mg/kg), barley flour (2959 mg/kg), triticale flour (2839 mg/kg) and wheat flour type "500" (1380 mg/kg).

300 400 mg (SCF, 2001). Its deficiency causes hypertension, osteoporosis, tremor, muscle cramps and insomnia. The use of whole grain flour allows obtaining the necessary quantities of magnesium. Oat flour and einkorn flour are richest in magnesium and its content in them is 1337 and 872 mg/kg respectively. Triticale flour has magnesium content 754.40 mg/kg, while white flour has the lowest concentration - 294.30 mg/kg.

2300 mg (NHMRC,2005). The amount of sodium accumulating in the various types of cereal flour ranges from 7.77 to 36.73 mg/kg. The rye flour has the lowest sodium concentration – 7.77 mg/kg., while the remaining flour is 3 to 5 times more

7,77 36,73 mg/kg. The rye flour has the lowest sodium concentration – 7,77 mg/kg., while the remaining flour is 3 to 5 times more

irritability, hypertension and decreased bone density (SCF, 2001). The recommended daily intake of potassium is from 3.5 to 3.6 g per day (NHMRC, 2005). The analyses flours contain potassium from 1380 to 4069.50 mg/kg. The rye flour has the highest potassium concentration (4069.50 mg/kg), followed by oat flour (3309 mg/kg), einkorn flour (3182 mg/kg), barley flour (2959 mg/kg), triticale flour (2839 mg/kg) and wheat flour type "500" (1380 mg/kg).

Magnesium is the fourth most important element in the human body that regulates blood pressure, heart rate, metabolic rate and blood sugar levels. The recommended daily intake of magnesium is 300 to 400 mg per day (SCF, 2001). Its deficiency causes hypertension, osteoporosis, tremor, muscle cramps and insomnia. The use of whole grain flour allows obtaining the necessary quantities of magnesium. Oat flour and einkorn flour are richest in magnesium and its content in them is 1337 and 872 mg/kg respectively. Triticale flour has magnesium content 754.40 mg/kg, while white flour has the lowest concentration - 294.30 mg/kg.

Sodium is an electrolyte ion that plays an important role in maintaining body fluid balance, cardiovascular activity, normal function of the nervous system and glucose absorption. Recommended daily intake is up to 2300 mg per day. Sodium deficiency in the body leads to diarrhea, vomiting, hypotension, lethargy, loss of body weight, confusion, dizziness and muscle cramps (NHMRC, 2005). The amount of sodium accumulating in the various types of cereal flour ranges from 7.77 to 36.73 mg/kg. The rye flour has the lowest sodium concentration – 7.77 mg/kg, while the remaining flour is 3 to 5 times more

Boron is an important trace element that plays a role in preserving the structure of the skeleton, regulating

mg (Murray et al., 2005).  
 (<0,1)  
 „500“ 4,59 mg/kg  
 1,40 mg/kg,  
 – 1,12 mg/kg,  
 – 1,84 mg/kg  
 – 3,55 mg/kg ( 2).

brain function, and incorporating calcium, phosphorus and magnesium into the metabolism of macro elements. The recommended daily intake of boron micro element is from 2 to 3 mg per day (Murray et al., 2005). The investigated flours have a content of boron from trace (<0.1) in wheat flour type "500" to 4.59 mg/kg in einkorn flour. The barium trace element has the lowest concentration of white flour 1.40 mg/kg, followed by oat flour, 1.12 mg/kg, triticale flour 1.84 mg/kg and einkorn flour 3.55 mg/kg (Table 2).

2.

**Table 2. Content of trace elements in different types of flour**

Characteristics	B mg/kg	Ba mg/kg	Cu mg/kg	Fe mg/kg	Mn mg/kg	Zn mg/kg
Flour type 500	<0,10	1,40	1,88	15,16	5,72	13,64
Einkorn flour	4,59	3,55	4,71	46,58	37,39	41,19
Oat flour	3,02	1,12	7,39	39,60	51,80	31,90
Rey flour	-	-	2,71	15,29	-	13,89
Barley flour	-	-	3,13	19,80	-	14,40
Triticale flour	4,38	1,84	1,96	41,24	24,46	15,05

0,9 mg (SCF, 2001) 1,2 mg  
 NHMRC (2005).  
 - 7,39 mg/kg,  
 - 4,71 mg/kg,  
 3,13 mg/kg, - 2,71 mg/kg,  
 - 1,96 mg/kg  
 - 1,88 mg/kg.

Copper is an essential element important for iron uptake and is a co-factor of enzymes in glucose metabolism and synthesis of hemoglobin, connective tissue and phospholipids. Copper deficiency in humans occurs only with long-term hunger. The recommended daily intake of copper is 0.9 mg per day (SCF, 2001) and 1.2 mg per day according to NHMRC (2005). The microelement copper has the highest content of oat flour – 7.39 mg/kg, followed in descending order of einkorn flour – 4.71 mg/kg, barley flour – 3.13 mg/kg, rye flour – 2.71 mg/kg, triticale meal – 1.96 mg/kg and white flour – 1.88 mg/kg.

Iron is an important microelement that catalyzes some metabolic reactions,

20-30 mg (WHO/FAO, 2004; NHMRC, 2005).

(15,29 mg/kg) (15,16 mg/kg) (46,58 mg/kg) (41,24 mg/kg).

3 5% 2,0-2,3 mg (SCF,1993; SCF, 2000).

„500“ - 5,72 mg/kg.

5 10

10-15 mg (WHO/FAO, 2004).

- 41,19 mg/kg - 31,90 mg/kg,

15 mg/kg.

a component of hemoglobin, myoglobin, cytochrome and other proteins, plays an important role in the transport, storage and utilization of oxygen and is a co-factor of many enzymes. The recommended daily intake of iron is 20-30 mg per day (WHO/FAO, 2004; NHMRC, 2005). The iron in the studied cereal flour has the lowest concentration in wheat flour (15.16 mg/kg) and rye (15.29 mg/kg) and the highest content of einkorn flour (46.58 mg/kg) and triticale (41.24 mg/kg).

Manganese is involved in the metabolism of carbohydrates, lipids and proteins, a specific co-factor for enzymes involved in the synthesis of mucopolysaccharides, and a non-specific co-factor for many other enzymes. It is found in significant amounts in all foods. Its deficiency has not been reported as a cause of disorder or illness. From 3 to 5% of total manganese dietary intake is successfully absorbed, the remaining amounts are eliminated from the body through the stools. The recommended daily intake of manganese is 2.0-2.3 mg per day (SCF, 1993; SCF, 2000). Manganese in the analyzed flour varies over a very wide range. Wheat flour type "500" has the lowest manganese content – 5.72 mg/kg. For other flours, the amount increases from 5 to 10 times. Oat flour and einkorn flour have the highest concentration of manganese.

Zinc is an important trace element for growth, sexual development, wound healing and the normal functioning of the immune system and other physiological processes. Zinc is a component of the hormone insulin. It is a co-factor of many enzymes that are involved in most metabolic processes. The recommended daily intake of zinc is 10-15 mg per day (WHO/FAO, 2004). The zinc in the tested flour is in the largest quantity in the flour of einkorn – 41.19 mg/kg and the oat flour– 31.90 mg/kg, while in the other types of flour it does not exceed 15 mg/kg.

## CONCLUSIONS

Flour obtained from different types of cereals is characterized by a certain content of macro and trace elements. Wheat flour of the type 500, which is considered to be high quality flour, is poor in mineral matter than other types of flour, including the grain bran.

Of the investigated flours with highest content of calcium, magnesium and phosphorus is oat flour, potassium – rye flour, sodium, copper and manganese – triticale flour, boron, barium, iron and zinc in einkorn flour. The consumption of each type of the analysed flours would have a beneficial effect on the diet of a person according to his needs and health.

## REFERENCES

1. **Adhikari, B. M., A. Bajracharya and A. K. Shrestha**, 2016. Comparison of nutritional properties of Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) flour with wheat and barley flours. *Food Science & Nutrition*, 4(1), 119-124.
2. EFSA NDA Panel (EFSA Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies), 2012. Scientific Opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of calcium. EFSA Journal, 10(7):2814, pp. 44 doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2814.6123.pdf
3. **Izambaeva, A., B. Bozadjiev, Ts. Gogova, A. Durakova, Tz. Dessev, A. Koleva and . Krasteva**, 2016. Chemico-Technological characteristics and antioxidant activity of wholemeal Einkorn flour and bread. *Bulg. J. Agric. Sci.*, 22, 331-338.
4. **Kan, A.**, 2015. Characterization of the Fatty Acid and Mineral Compositions of Selected Cereal Cultivars from Turkey. *Rec. Nat. Prod.*, 9 (1), 124-134.
5. **Murray M.T., J. Pizzorno and L. Pizzorno**, 2005. *Encyclopedia of Healing Foods*, Atria books, New York, USA.
6. **Nakov, G., V. Stamatovska, L. Necinova, N. Ivanova and S. Damyanova**, 2016. Nutritional Properties of Einkorn Wheat (*triticum monococcum* L) – review. 55<sup>th</sup> Science Conference of Ruse University, Bulgaria, 2016, FRI-23-1-BFT(R)-02, pp. 381-384.
7. NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council), 2006. Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand Evidence Appendix. pp. 211.
8. **Rennan, G. O., A. S. M. Macedo, M. das Graças A. Korn, M. F. Pimentel, R. E. Bruns and S. L. C. Ferreira**, 2008. Mineral Composition of Wheat Flour Consumed in Brazilian Cities. *J. Braz. Chem. Soc.*, 19(5), 935-942.
9. SCF (Scientific Committee for Food), 1993. Report on nutrient and energy intakes for the European Community, Thirty-first Series. Food - Science and Technique, European Commission, pp. 255.
10. SCF (Scientific Committee on Food), 2001. Opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of magnesium.
11. SCF (Scientific Committee on Food), 2002. Opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of zinc.

12. SCF (Scientific Committee on Food), 2003. Opinion on the Tolerable Upper Intake Level of copper.
13. **Tejera, R. L., G. Luis, D. González-Weller, J. M. Caballero, Á. J. Gutiérrez, C. Rubio and A. Hardisson**, 2013. Metals in wheat flour; comparative study and safety control. *Nutr Hosp.*, **28(2)**, 506-513.
14. WHO/FAO (World Health Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2004. Vitamin and mineral requirements in human nutrition. Second edition, Sun Fung, China (En)  
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/42716/1/924154>.
15. **Youssef, M. K. E., F. Abd El-Kader El-Fishawy, El-S. Abd El-Naby Ramadan and A. Mohamed Abd El-Rahman**, 2013. Nutritional Assessment of Barley, Talbina and Their Germinated Products. *Frontiers in Science*, 3(2), 56-65.

, 1222  
\*E-mail: [nadejda\\_zaprianova@abv.bg](mailto:nadejda_zaprianova@abv.bg)

## Effects of water deficit on growth, development and physiological indicators of gladiolus

Nadejda Zaprianova\*, Ivanka Ivanova

*Institute of Ornamental Plants, 1222 Negovan, Sofia, Bulgaria*

### SUMMARY

Water deficiency may be constant or intermittent and cause a number of morphological and physiological changes in plants.

In the period 2011 to 2013, a study on the impact of drought on growth, development and physiological condition in two Bulgarian varieties of gladiolus "Iva" and "Ekaterina" – in pots, under greenhouse conditions was conducted. Three irrigation levels were examined - three times (I1), twice (I2) and once per week (I3). The triple watering of gladiolus provides the required optimum moisture threshold (80%). Drought was simulated by reducing the number of times when plants were watered (field capacity 27-53%).

In both varieties of gladiolus, Iva and Ekaterina, the reduction of the watering up to once a week causes them to cease their further development - the plants do not enter into budding and blossoming.

The decrease in watering on two weekly reflects negatively on the individual elements of the cut flower and is more pronounced in the Ekaterina variety.



“ ” “ ” “ ”  
 179,26 μS/g 156,45 μS/g.  
 ” ” ” ”  
 69.25% 68.24%.  
 :

(CC-WARE, 2014; CC\_WaterS, 2012; CECILIA, 2011).  
 CC-WARE  
 2016-2020,  
 (Popova, 2012; Spiridonov et al., 2014; Ilcheva et al., 2015).

The reduction of the watering has a very strong negative effect on the formation of number of corms In both varieties of gladiolus

The relative water content and the level of electrolyte leakage varied depending on the number of times when plants were watered per week.

The highest values of electrolyte leakage were recorded in single watering in both varieties of gladiolus "Iva" and "Ekaterina", respectively 179,26 μS/g 156,45 μS/g.

The relative water content in the plant tissues is reduced depending on the irrigation frequency. The lowest values were recorded for the one-time weekly watering variant as for "Ekaterina" variety - 69.25% and for the "Iva" variety was 68.24%.

**Keywords:** gladiolus, water deficit, growth, blossoming, corms, relative water content

## INTRODUCTION

The recent years have shown seasonal fluctuations in climate changes, expressed in the increase of the frequency and intensity of extreme phenomena like floods and drought. The results of a number of projects in East Europe have shown that this is also true for the Balkan Peninsula (CC-WARE, 2014; CC\_WaterS, 2012; CECILIA, 2011). The established decrease of precipitation and runoff as well as the increase of air temperature range has led to the deterioration of the climatic conditions in Bulgaria. According to the results of CC-WARE and the River Water Management Plan 2016-2020, there is a permanent drought tendency in the area (Popova, 2012; Spiridonov et al., 2014; Ilcheva et al., 2015).

Regardless of the season, a long period without precipitation leads to drought thus ruining the water balance both of soil and plant ecosystems

(Sabeva, 1968).

50%

-

(Slavov

et al., 2004).

(Sabeva, 1968). The decrease of soil moisture to less than 50% in one meter depth creates prerequisites for impeding crop development (Slavov et al., 2004).

The physiological condition of plants deteriorates as a result of the irreversible changes of the biometric indexes as well as the physical and chemical parameters and biochemical processes of the cells, hence the severe decrease of yields.

The following indicators were used to identify the water status of plants and disturbance of the organization and composition of cell membranes: relative water content (RWC) (Lawlor and Cornic, 2002; Georgieva et al., 2004) and increased electrolyte loss, established via conductometry (Dihidsa et al., 1981).

:  
( ) (Lawlor and Cornic,  
2002; Georgieva et al., 2004)

(Dihidsa et al., 1981).

Adaptation measures were developed for minimizing or preventing the losses caused by drought, such as the identification of the susceptibility of farm crops, including ornamental plants, to water deficit and its effect on the quantity and quality of production; use of new drought-tolerant cultivars and modification of the technologies for growing irrigated crops in different agro-climatic zones in the conditions of water deficit.

(Shmatko, 1990).

A number of studies found a species and cultivar specific response to decreased moisture reserves and increased effect of water deficit (Shmatko, 1990). Some crops were characterized with better adaptability due to the increased level of adaptive water exchange and better quality of the produce, while others responded with suppressed development and deteriorated product quantity and quality (Stoyanov, 2005; Valchev et al., 2005; Bojanova et al., 2009; Lozanova et al., 2012; Mohamed et al., 2014; Spiridonov et al., 2014).

(Stoyanov, 2005; Valchev et al., 2005; Bozhanov et al., 2009; Lozanova et al., 2012; Mohamed et al., 2014; Spiridonov et al., 2014).

The aim of the study is to investigate the effect of water deficit on growth, development and physiological characteristics in gladiolus.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the period 2011 – 2013 in a greenhouse at the Institute of ornamental plants-Sofia with two Bulgarian gladiolus cultivars (Iva and Ekaterina), high atmospheric temperature and low air humidity.

The deficit irrigation treatments were applied after a germination of corms in phase second leaf and continued until two weeks before the harvest of corms. The leaf material for physiological research was collected during the budding.

The corms were planted on alluvial-meadow soil ( in KCl - 6.5).with humus content of 1.9-2.1%. in nineteen-size pots. The tests were performed with second grade corms (10/12 cm), planted at a depth of 8 cm in four replications,with 10 pots per a replication.

The experiment was conducted in three levels of irrigation:

I1 - three times a week (control - field capacity FC-80%);

I2 - two times a week twice a week (field capacity FC-50-53%);

I3 - once a week (field capacity FC-27-30%).

The irrigation rate was 200 ml water per pot.

The following activities were carried out during the vegetation period: monitoring of the initial and final manifestations of the phenophases of germination (beginning and end), 7-8 leaves (beginning and end); bud formation (beginning and end) and flowering (beginning and end).

The following indexes were examined: plant height (cm), stem length (cm), number of flower buds per cut flower

(g)

( cm),  
( .),

( .), (cm)

( ) e

:  
% = ( - - ) /  
Turner (Turner, 1981)  
( , %)

:  
% = 1 -

,  
μS/  
.

t-  
GraphPad Prizm.  
<0.01 (\*\*), <0.0001 (\*\*\*), <0.05 (\*), ,

7-8 1

, 12 , 10

( 1).

,

- 7 , -

.( . 1 2)

(pieces), flower diameter (cm), total number of corms (pieces), diameter (cm) and weight of a corm and cormles (g).

The air temperature and humidity were measured on a daily basis with a thermometer and hygrometer.

The relative water content (RWC) was measured simultaneously with the electrolyte leakage and calculated by the following formula:

RWC % = (fresh weight – dry weight) / (turgor weight – dry weight) X 100 – according to Turner's method (Turner, 1981).

Water deficit (WD, %) was expressed with the following formula:

WD % = 1 – RWC

The degree of damage of the membranes was established via the electrolyte leakage of the leaves. The electrolyte leakage was established by measuring conductivity after stress only and expressed as μS/g fresh weight.

The data were analyzed for significance by means of the t-test of the GraphPad Prizm software. The results were statistically significantly different at P<0.05 (\*), P<0.01 (\*\*), P<0.0001 (\*\*\*), respectively, compared to the control.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reduction of the frequency of watering had a significant effect on the growth and development of gladiolus. The negative effect in the variant with a single weekly watering was highly evident at the beginning of 7-8 leaf phenophase in both gladiolus cultivars Iva and Ekaterina, showing a delay of 12 and 10 days, respectively, compared to the variant with triple watering (Table 1). The variant with double watering showed cultivar specificity, the delay in this phase vs. control in cv. Iva being 7 days and no difference in gladiolus cv. Ekaterina.

The reduction of watering (variants 1 and 2) in both gladiolus cultivars resulted in discontinued further

- (1).

development – the plants did not enter the phases of bud formation and flowering (Table 1).

1.

2011-2013 .

**Table 1. Phenological data for *Gladiolus* cv. Iva and cv. Ekaterina (average for the period 2013-2014)**

variants	Planting date	Germination date	7-8 Seventh- eighth leaf	Budding		Flowering	
				initial	end	initial	end
/ cv. Iva							
I1	23.V	07.VI	09.VII	15.VIII	02. IX	07.IX	16. IX
Control							
I2	23.V	07.VI	16. VII	-	-	-	-
I3	23.V	07.VI	21.VII	-	-	-	-
/ cv. Ekaterina							
I1	23.V	29.V	16. VII	01. VIII	19. VIII	21. VIII	26. VIII
Control							
I2	23.V	29.V	16. VII	-	-	-	-
I3	23.V	29.V	26. VII	-	-	-	-

2  
) -  
31.4%,  
35,2% 26,1% (0.01).  
7-8 1  
(3<sup>-</sup>  
48.5%  
,  
20.2 cm (36.1%) 10.9 cm  
(10,9%)  
17.3 cm (35.8%) 10.0 cm(20.6%)  
(2).

The reduction of plant height in 7-8 leaf phase with single and double weekly watering vs. control (triple watering) was expressed stronger in cv. Ekaterina – 48.5% and 31.4%, respectively, while in cv. Iva it was 35.2% and 26.1%, respectively (0.01). Compared to the control, the decrease of this parameter in the bud formation phase in case of single and double weekly watering in cv. Ekaterina was 20.2 cm (36.1%) and 10.9 cm (10.9%), respectively and in cv. Iva – 17.3 cm (35.8%) and 10.0 cm (20.6%), respectively (Table 2).

2.

2011-2013 .

**Table 2. Influence of the number of irrigations on elements in gladiolus cv. Iva and cv. Ekaterina (average 2011-2013)**

variants	7-8 Plant height/7-8 leaf, cm	Plant height / Budding cm	/ Flowering			
			Plant height m	Length of stem m	Number of flower / stem no.	Flower diameter cm
/ cv. Iva						
I1	39.4	58.5	78.3	59.1	14.7	7,8
Control						
I2	29.1***	38.5***	47.4***	0	0	0
I3	15.6***	21.2***	29.6***	0	0	0
/ cv. Ekaterina						
I1	49.7	65.9	84.6	62.0	15.5	11.5
Control						
I2	34.1***	45.0***	57.1***	0	0	0
I3	25.6***	35.7***	41.5***	-	-	0

Evidence - at P 0.01 / \* - weak; \*\* - good; \*\*\* - very good; O-missing /

16.3 g (73.1%)  
17.9 g (82.3%)  
( 0.01).

1 2

3 .  
- 12 . ( 0.01).

The adverse effect of drought was also evident in the yield of seedlings in both gladiolus cultivars (Table 3).

Compared to the control, the average bulb weight with single and double weekly watering decreased with 16.3 g (73.1%) in cv. Iva and 17.9 g (82.3%) in cv. Ekaterina ( 0.01).

The reduction of watering had a negative effect on the formation of daughter bulbs in both cultivars. The variants with single and double weekly watering did not stimulate the production of daughter bulbs in cv. Ekaterina. The single weekly watering regime did not lead to daughter bulb formation in cv. Iva, while double watering resulted in three daughter bulbs per plant, compared to twelve in the control ( 0.01).

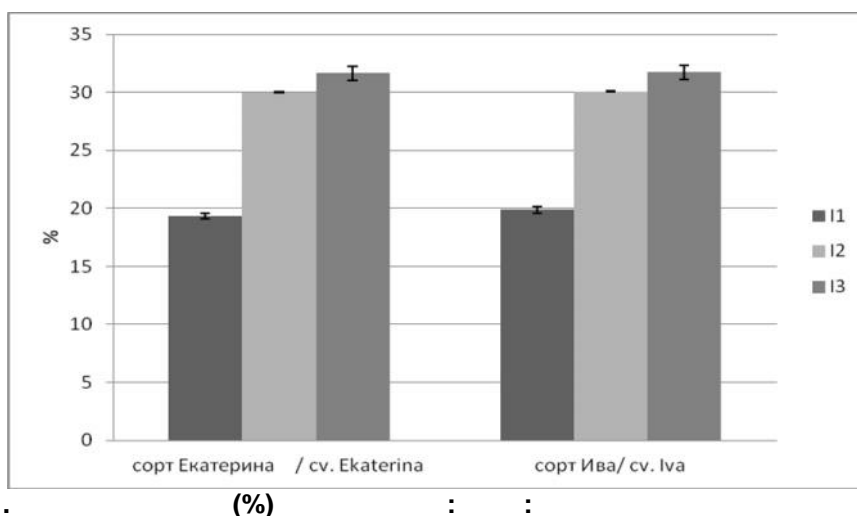
**Table 3. Yield of corms and cormles depending on the number of irrigations in gladiolus cv. Iva and cv. Ekaterina (average 2012-2013)**

Variants	Corm diameter cm	Corm weight g	Number of cormles of one corm g	Cormles weight g
/ cv. Iva				
I1	3.5	22.3	12.0	3.6
Control				
I2	2.3*	13.1**	3.0**	0.65***
I3	1.6**	6.0***	0.0	0.0
/ cv. Ekaterina				
I1	3.3	21.8	5.5	1,8
Control				
I2	2.5*	14.1**	0.0	0.0
I3	1.5**	3.85***	0.0	0.0

31.66±0.8%.  
31.73±0.8%  
19%.  
\*\*\* (P<0.0001)  
(P<0.01) (1).

The water deficit reported following the reduced watering regime in gladiolus cv. Ekaterina was 30±0.6% for variant 2 and 31.66±0.8% for variant 3. The values for cv. Iva were 30.07±0.7% (variant 2) and 31.73±0.8% (variant 3).

The values of the control plants in both cultivars were 19%. The differences were statistically significant for cv. Ekaterina \*\*\* (P<0.0001) and cv. Iva \*\* (P<0.01) (Figure 1).

**Fig. 1. Water deficit (%) in gladiolus cv. Ekaterina and cv. Iva**

1994).

(% )

80%.

(Hassan et al.,2013).

( 2).

(Cornic and Fresneau, 2002)

(Kolev, 1993; Valchev et al.,

The leaf water content is a criterion for drought resistance (Kolev, 1993; Valchev et al., 1994).

During the whole period of monitoring, the relative water content (%RWC) of the control plants was within about 80%.

Analogous results with the highest RWC in the control plants were also obtained for rosemary under reduced watering conditions (Hassan et al., 2013).

The simulated drought resulted in reduced RWC in gladiolus plant cells. The lowest values were reported in variant 3, where the average RWC values decreased with 14% for cv. Ekaterina and 14.6% in cv. Iva, compared to the control (Figure 2).

The recorded difference was not big due to the fact that plant water deficit of up to 30% is considered light or moderate stress (Cornic and Fresneau, 2002).

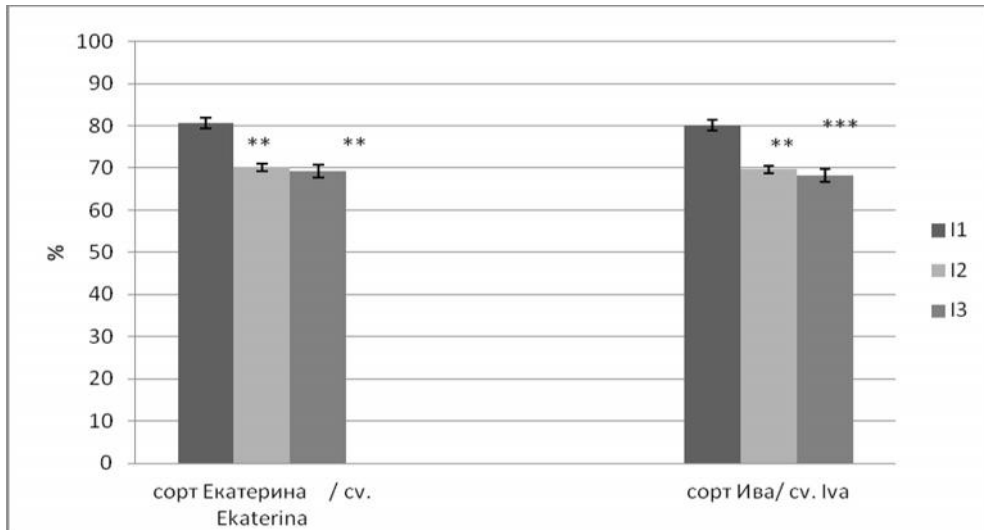


Fig. 2. Relative water content (RWC%) of Gladiolus cv. Ekaterina and cv. Iva



(Phaseolus vulgaris L)  
10, cv.

RWC  
29% 37%,  
(37%).

(Stoyanov, 2005).

96,7 $\mu$ S/g,  
- 101.11  $\mu$ S/g (3).

: cv.  
cv.

The study of the effect of water stress on water exchange in the leaves of young bean plants (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L) of the following three cultivars: cv. Plovdiv 10, cv. Dobrudjanski and cv. Prelom found a decrease of RWC values in the primary leaf within 29%-37%, being most significant in cv. Dobrudjanski (37%).

- The major difference of the response of the three bean cultivars to the induced drought was in the plants' ability to maintain the turgor, which is indicative of the functional condition of leaves and plants as a whole (Stoyanov, 2005).

Our results on the changes in the relative water content in both gladiolus cultivars showed statistically insignificant differences.

- Electrolyte loss was observed to a lower degree in control plants as well, the values for cv. Ekaterina being 96,7  $\mu$ S/g and for cv. Iva – 101.11  $\mu$ S/g (Figure 3).

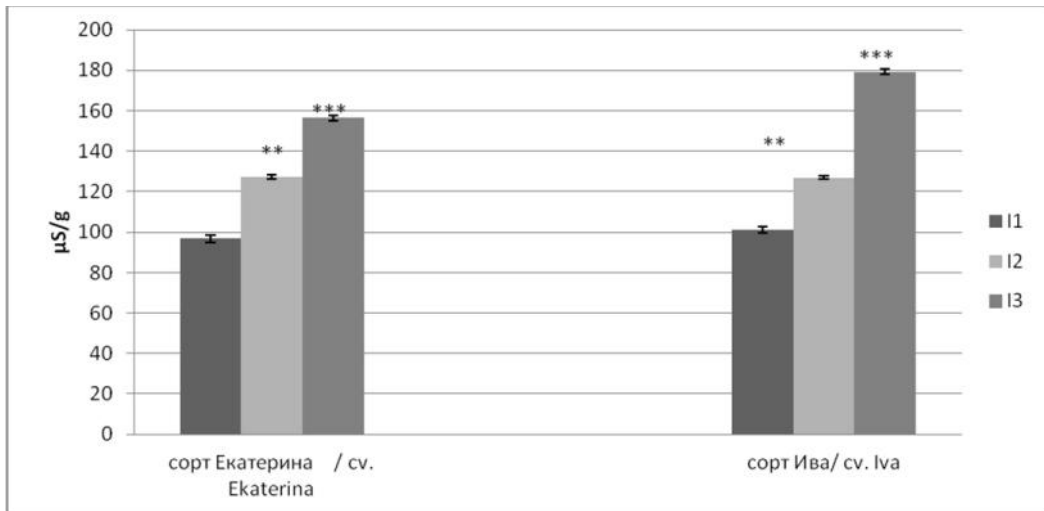


Fig. 3. Electrolyte leakage of *Gladiolus* cv. Ekaterina and cv. Iva

- 156.46  $\mu\text{S/g}$ , 61%  
 179.26  $\mu\text{S/g}$ ,  
 77% (3).  
 -  
 -  
 -  
 -  
 -  
 3  
 - 188.12  $\mu\text{S/g}$ ,  
 - 140.22  $\mu\text{S/g}$ .  
 -  
 (3)  
 - 4.5%,  
 11.3%.  
 21 % 37%  
 (Ivanova and  
 Zapryanova, 2015).

- 156.46  $\mu\text{S/g}$ , 61%  
 179.26  $\mu\text{S/g}$ ,  
 77% (3).  
 - The negative effect of drought,  
 caused by watering reduction of gladiolus  
 cultivars Iva and Ekaterina, grown in  
 rows, to once or twice a week was  
 reflected in the parameters that indicated  
 the plant water status.  
 - The reduction of watering led to  
 electrolyte loss. The highest values for  
 both cultivars were reported in variant 3 –  
 188.12  $\mu\text{S/g}$  for cv. Ekaterina and 140.22  
 $\mu\text{S/g}$  for cv. Iva.  
 The relative water content of plant tissues  
 decreased according to the watering  
 regime. The lower values for both  
 gladiolus cultivars were found in the  
 single watering variant (variant 3): the  
 difference with the control for cv.  
 Ekaterina was 4.5% and cv. Iva - 11.3%.  
 The recorded water deficit of gladiolus  
 plant tissues varied from 21% for controls  
 to 37% in the single watering variant.  
 Those values defined it as light to  
 moderate for the plants (Ivanova and  
 Zapryanova, 2015).

## CONCLUSIONS

1. In both varieties, the reduction of 1 and 2 irrigations per week results in their development being stopped after 7-8 leaves and in the plants there is no budding and flowering.
2. The negative impact of drought is the strongest with regard to weight of corms and the number and weight of cormles formed by one corm in both cultivars of gladiolus. Under the I2 and I3 regime the weight of the formed corms in var. Iva and Ekaterina decreases compared to the control by 41.3% and

35.3%	82.3%.	41.3%	73.1%	73.1% and 35.3% and 82.3%, respectively.
3.				3. The recorded water deficit varied at about 30% for both gladiolus cultivars, which indicates moderate stress.
	30%			
4.				4. The simulated drought via watering reduction caused changes in the cell membranes. The highest values were recorded in the single watering variant for cv. Ekaterina – 156.46 $\mu$ S/g and for cv. Iva – 179.269 $\mu$ S/g.
	– 156.46 $\mu$ S/g			
179.269 $\mu$ S/g.				
5.				5. The relative water content of the plant tissues decreased depending on the watering regime. The lowest values were recorded in the single watering variant (variant 3) for both gladiolus cultivars – 69.26 $\pm$ 0.7 for cv. Ekaterina and 68.23 $\pm$ 0.9% for cv. Iva
	( .3 )			
	–			
	69.26 $\pm$ 0.7,			
68.23 $\pm$ 0.9 %.				

## / REFERENCES

1. **Bozhanova, V., D. Dechev and E. Todorovska**, 2009. Utilization of genotype variation in osmotic adjustment in drought resistance breeding. *Field Crops Studies*, 5(1), 21-33 (Bg).
2. **Cornic, G., and C Fresneau**, 2002. Photosynthetic carbon reduction and oxidation cycles are the main electron sinks for photosystem II activity during a mild drought. *Ann. Bot.*, 89, 887-894.
3. **Dhindsa, R., P Plumb-Dhindsa and T. Thorpe**, 1981. Leaf senescence: correlated with increased levels of membrane permeability and lipid peroxidation, and decreased levels of superoxide dismutase and catalase. *J Exp Bot*, 32: 93-101.
4. **Georgieva, M., D. Djilianov, T. Konstantinova and D.Parvanova**, 2004. Screening of Bulgarian raspberry cultivars and elites for osmotic tolerance in vitro. *Biotechnol. & Biotechnol. Eq.*, 19(2), 95-98.
5. **Hassan, F., S. Bazaidand, E. Ali**, 2013. Effect of deficit irrigation on growth, yield and volatile oil content on *Rosmarinus officinalis*. *L. plant. J. Med. Plant. Stud*, 1(3), 12-21.
6. **Ilcheva, I., D. Georgieva and A.Yordanova**, 2015. New methodology for joint assessment of drought- risk of water supply under climate change, water stress areas identification and ecological flow provision for water framework directive. *Journal of International Scientific Publications, Ecology & Safety*, ISSN1314-7234, 9: 413-433.
7. **Ivanova, I. and N. Zapryanova**, 2015. Effects of water deficit on growth and development of gladiolus. *Subtropical and ornamental horticulture*, 55, 121-130 (Ru).
8. **Kolev, V.**, 1993. Water Transition in Plants, Plant Physiology, Sofia, 45-72 (Bg).
9. **Lawlor and Cornic**, 2002 Photosynthetic carbon assimilation and associated metabolism in relation to water deficits in higher plants. *Plant Cell Environ* 25(2), 275-294.
10. **Lozanova, N., K. Kocheva, P. Petrov and G Georgiev**, 2012. Proline and pigment content in leaves of fescue (*Festuca rubral.*) and ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*)

under different soil and irrigation conditions. *Management and sustainable development*, 3, 34 (Bg).

11. **Lozanova, N., R. Petrova, Z. Zhivkov and A. Matev**, 2013. Influence of the irrigation regime on the yield of dry biomass in grass mixtures of English ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra* L.), grown for the purposes of landscaping. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 16(3), 683-698.

12. **Mohamed, M., H. Wahba, M. Ibrahim, and A. Yousef**, 2014. Effect of irrigation intervals on growth and chemical composition of some *Curcuma* spp. plants. *Bioscience*, 6(2), 140-145.

13. **Popova, Z.**, 2012. Drought risk assessment and irrigation management through simulation models. IP N. Pushkarov, Publisher IPAZR N. Pushkarov, pp. 244 (Bg).

14. **Sabeva, M.**, 1968. Climatic characterization of droughts in Bulgaria. Sat. Nature of drought. and mod. Irrigation regime of village. Cultures in Bulgaria. pp. 13-50 (Bg).

15. **Slavov, N., E. Koleva and V. Alexandrov**, 2004. The climate of drought in Bulgaria. Drought in Bulgaria: a contemporary analog for climate change. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 39-52 (Bg).

16. **Spiridonov, V., I. Ilcheva, Kr. Nikolova, Sn. Balabanova and I. Niagolov**, 2014. Mitigating Vulnerability of Water Resources under Climate Change, 2014, CC-WARE project, brochure prepared by Project Partner 08, Executive Forest Agency and associated organizations, Forest University, Forest research Institute, NIMH - BAS (Bg).

17. **Stoyanov, Z.**, 2005. Effects of water stress on leaf water relations of young bean plants. *Journal of Central European Agriculture*, 6(1).

18. **Turner, N.**, 1981. Techniques and experimental approaches for the measurement of plant water stress. *Plant Soil*, 58, 339-366.

19. **Valchev, Dr. D. Valcheva and G. Georgiev**, 2006. Combining ability of malting barley varieties for water content in leaves. *Field Crops Studies*, III (1), 31-35 (Bg).

## (*Angelonia ngustifolia*)

1\* , 1 , 2  
1 , 1222 , ,  
2 , 1164 , ,

\*E-mail: nadejda\_zaprianova@abv.bg

### Study of fertilizers on the development and flowering of angelonia (*Angelonia angustifolia*)

Nadejda Zapryanova<sup>1\*</sup>, Denichka Manolova<sup>1</sup>, Nabil AbuMahadi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Ornamental Plants, 1222 Negovan, Sofia, Bulgaria

<sup>2</sup>Agrobioinstitute, 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### SUMMARY

Fertilization is an important factor in obtaining high quality flower production.

The smart introduction of fertilizers regulates vegetative and generative development, depending on the purpose of growing the ornamental plants.

The application of organic harmless products in flower production is very important as well. Not only because of the requirements of environmental protection but also because people are in contact with flowers every day.

The study of the effect of universal fertilizers MASTERBLEND and KRISTALON and organic fertilizers KOMPOVET and KOKOVET on the growth and development of seedlings of angelonia (*Angelonia ngustifolia*).

The use of the KOKOVET - organic fertilizer found a stimulating effect on the vegetative mass, the formation of the flower and of the flower stalk size

(*Angelonia ngustifolia*).

18,1%,

35,4%

*ngustifolia*,

: *Angelonia*

(Baas et al., 1993; Broschat, 1995; Ter Hell and Hendriks, 1995; Awang and Ismai, 1996; Lloyd et al., 2006; Chavez et al., 2008; El-Naggar, et al., 2016; Bashir et al., 2016; Merida et al., 2017).

(Midan and Sorial, 2011).

Flowering occurs at the earliest when using the KOKOVET-organic fertilizer – the second half of June, compared to the controls and other variants of the study.

A proven positive effect on the height and diameter of the plants is also the universal Masterbrand fertilizer, with the total height increase exceeding the control by 18.1% and the plant diameter values by 35.4% above the control one.

The use of the organic fertilizers KOMPOVET and KOKOVET was not phytotoxic for the *ngelonia*

**Key words:** *Angelonia ngustifolia*, MASTERBLEND, KRISTALON, KOMPOVET, KOKOVET, growth, development, flowering

## INTRODUCTION

Fertilization is an important factor in obtaining a high-quality color output, but may find it difficult to determine the optimal system of introduction of fertilizers due to the extremely diverse employment mechanism and absorption of nutrients in the decorative plants.

The skillful introduction of fertilizers regulates vegetative and generative development, depending on the purpose of the cultivation of flowering plants. A number of researchers working on these problems as with plants grown under field conditions, and as potted crops (Baas et al., 1993; Broschat, 1995; Ter Hell and Hendriks, 1995; Awang and Ismai, 1996; Lloyd et al., 2006; Chavez et al., 2008; El-Naggar, et al., 2016; Bashir et al., 2016; Merida et al., 2017).

In recent years, increasingly using Biofertilizers because they ensure both excellent production qualities and ensure the protection of soil from pollution (Midan and Sorial, 2011).

This makes it necessary to develop new systems for fertilizing the plants; including optimizing the types used fertilizers, rules, terms and methods of

(Slavov, 2000; Shober et al., 2010).

(Ivanova et al., 2005; Sengalevich, 2007).

(Sapundjieva et al., 2001; Atanassova et al., 2007; Malinova, 2007; Zapryanova, 2011; Zapryanova, 2013).

(*Angelonia ngustifolia*)  
Plantaginaceae,

30cm.

insertion. A balanced diet of plants must be connected with the separation of minimum quantities of residues in the environment and are eligible under the international standards (Slavov, 2000; Shober et al., 2010).

The achievements of agrochemical Science contributed to the development of biofertilizers with different backgrounds, which are absorbed by plants, as a result of which occur significant positive results in terms of quantity and quality of the resulting output. The market is offering a large number of organic products (Bactofil A and B BioHumaX® etc.), that are already used with success in a number of serials, technical, vegetable and other crops. (Ivanova et al., 2005; Sengalevich, 2007).

Application of environmentally friendly Eco products in ornamental species is very important as well. Not only because of the requirements of environmental protection, but also because people are in contact with flowers every day.

In the field of flower production are carried out studies in an organic fertilizer and stimulators – Humustim, Biostim, Agrosteim, Megagreen, Imunocitofit, Tera-Sorb-Foliar, Lumbricol (Sapundjieva et al., 2001; Atanassova et al., 2007; Malinova, 2007; Zapryanova, 2011; Zapryanova, 2013).

*Angelonia (Angelonia ngustifolia) (Plantaginaceae)*, it is unpopular species for decorative gardening in Bulgaria. Originates from South America. It is a herbaceous plant with a height of 30 cm. The flowers are small, dyed in pink, purple and white, collected in inflorescence class. The plant has no scent and is not toxic. It is used for both gardening and the arrangement of the individual containers, baskets and pots.

The aim of this study was to test the effect of different fertilizers on the growth and flowering of *Angelonia*.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research was conducted in the period 2014-2015 at the Institute of Ornamental Plants - Sofia. A pots experience was made in greenhouse conditions to study the influence of various fertilizers: Compove, Kokott, Masterblend and Crystalon on the growth and development of angelonia.

### Characteristics of the Fertilizers:

COMPOVET (Agrobiomet Ltd) is a concentrated extract of bio-fertilizer from Californian red worm with a characteristic smell of organic matter. It is defined as an efficient organic humic fertilizer, stimulating growth and development of plants. The technological process for the preparation of the liquid fertilizer allows the preservation and integrity of all properties inherent to the fertilizer which it is derived with macroelements composition: Nitrate nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) –110mg/l; Ammonium nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) –250 mg/l; Diphosphorus Trioxide (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) – 1100 mg/l; Potassium oxide (K<sub>2</sub>O) – 4200 mg/l; Magnesium oxide (MgO) – 20 mg/l; Calcium oxide (CaO) – 70 mg/l; Iron (Fe)– 10 mg/l and heavy metals under the acceptable norm, with pH 8.5-9.5, 1020 m EU/μS and organic substance – 40% .

COCOVET: (Agrobiomet Ltd) liquid fertilizer produced on the basis of chicken manure. It is characterized by increased content of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Well-balanced macro- and micronutrients contributing to the faster development of the root system and abundant blooms – Nitrate nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) – 250mg/l; Ammonium nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) – 335 mg/l; Diphosphorus Trioxide (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) – 2580 mg/l; Potassium oxide (K<sub>2</sub>O) – 7580 mg/l; Magnesium oxide (MgO) – 11 mg/l; Calcium oxide (CaO) – 50 mg/l; Iron (Fe) – 10 mg/l and heavy metals under the acceptable norm, with pH 8.5-9.5, 1020 m EU/μS and organic substance – 45% .

MASTERBLEND 20-20-20 (Masterblend®) 100% water-soluble all-purpose fertilizer – the most widely used in practice, due to the optimal ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (20%-20%-20%). Contains essential

2014-2015 . - - -  
:  
:  
- -  
:  
- -  
,  
:  
- -  
:  
- 110mg/l; - 250  
mg/l; P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> – 1100 mg/l; K<sub>2</sub>O – 4200 mg/l;  
MgO – 20 mg/l; CaO – 70 mg/l; Fe – 10  
mg/l  
, - 8.5-9.5, 1020 μS/m  
- 40%  
-  
:  
:  
,  
:  
:  
:  
:  
-  
-250mg/l; - 335 mg/l;  
P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> – 2580 mg/l; K<sub>2</sub>O – 7580 mg/l; MgO –  
11 mg/l; CaO – 50 mg/l; Fe – 10 mg/l  
-8.5 - 9.5, 1000 μS/m  
- 45%.  
20-20-20+  
100%  
- -  
,  
:  
(20%-20%-20%).  
:  
(N) – 20%,



- 6.22%,  
 - 9.90%,  
 (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) - 20%,  
 20%

-3.88%,  
 (K<sub>2</sub>O) -

6:12:36:3 -  
 (N) - 6 %, - 4.5 %, :  
 - 1.5 %, (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) -  
 12 %, (K<sub>2</sub>O) - 36 %, (SO<sub>3</sub>) - 20 %  
 (MgO) - 3%, : 0.025 %, and  
 0.070 %, 0.040 %, 0.010 %, microelements:  
 0.0004%, 0.025 %

5  
 10 :  
 ( ) - ;  
 ( ) - 3g/l;  
 ( ) - 3g/l;  
 V ( ) 5ml/l;  
 V ( ) 20ml/l

15

100 ml

9 m,  
 - 1: 1:0.5.

30

macroelements: nitrogen (N) - 20%, Nitrate - 6.22%, Ammoniacal - 3.88%, Ureen-9.90%, soluble phosphorus (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) - 20%, soluble potassium (K<sub>2</sub>O) 20%, and microelements, which provides a high yield and quality production in all cultural and decorative plants.

KRISTALON - Orange-6:12:36:3 KRISTALON™-complex fertilizer containing nitrogen (N) - 6%, Ammonium nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N) - 4.5%, Nitrate nitrogen (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) - 1.5%, phosphorus (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) - 12%, Potassium (K<sub>2</sub>O) - 36%, Magnesium (MgO) - 3%, Sulfur (SO<sub>3</sub>) - 20%, and microelements: Boron - 0.025%, Iron - 0.070 %, manganese - 0.040%, Copper - 0.010%, molybdenum - 0.0004%, zinc - 0.025%

The trial was conducted in five variants, 10 replications each under greenhouse conditions.

Variant (untreated plants) - C (control);  
 Variant II (MASTERBLEND) 3g/l;  
 Variant III (KRISTALON) 3g/l;  
 Variant V (COCOVEL) 5ml/l;  
 Variant V (COMPOVET) 20ml/l.

The fertilizers treatments took place in the period May-July. The fertilizers solutions were 100 mL per pot, applied every two weeks. The concentrations of the fertilizers used in the work were according to product specifications.

The trials were carried out on plants derived from seed, sown February. Seedlings were planted singly in pots with a diameter of 9 cm high, in a mixture of soil, peat moss and perlite in the ratio 1:1:0.5.

Plants biometric data were gathered - plant height, number of branches and blooms and bloom length were measured at 30 days' intervals.

Phenological observations of the initial and massive manifestations of phenophase, budding and flowering were performed.

It was tracked and the health status of plants to attack by pathogens and pests.

GraphPad Prism. t-  
 <0.01 (\*\*), <0.0001 (\*\*\*)  
 <0.05 (\*), (ns),

Data were processed statistically and presented as an average value. They were analyzed for significance by means of t-test of GraphPad Prism software. The significant differences between the control and variants were presented as \*(P<0.05), \*\* (P<0.01), \*\*\* (P<0.0001) and the non-significant – ns.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tables 1 and 2 give the results of testing the influence of fertilizers on the plants growth of angelonia (height and diameter). The best results are obtained under Variant II (MASTERBLEND), total height growth exceeds the control values, and 18.1% of the diameter of the plants is 35.4% over the control (Table 1 and 2).

1 2  
 ( )  
 ( )  
 18,1%,  
 ( 1 2). 35,4%

1. (cm)  
**Table 1. Plant height of Angelonia (cm)**

Variant	1 <sup>-</sup> (15.05.2016 ) 1st reporting	2 <sup>-</sup> (15.06.2016 .) 2nd reading		3 <sup>-</sup> (15.07.2016 .) 3rd reading		4 <sup>-</sup> (15.08.2016 .) 4th reporting		Total growth	
	Starting height cm	Height cm	Growth cm	Height cm	Growth cm	Height cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	% Vs. K
- ( ) untreated plants	2,5±0,3	7,2±0,7	4,7	20,9±	18,4	27,3±2,8	24,8	24,8	100,0
- <b>MASTERBLEND</b>	<b>1,9±0,3</b>	<b>6,9±0,5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26,8 ±1.3 *</b>	<b>24,9</b>	<b>31,2 ±1,8</b>	<b>29,3</b>	<b>29,3</b>	<b>118,1</b>
- KRISTALON	2,4±0,2	6,8 ±0,6	4,4	23,5±1.5	21,1	28,4±1,5	26	26	104,8
V – COCOVEL	2,4±0,2	7,7 ±0,6	5,3	24,2±1,1	21,8	27,8±1,1	25,4	25,4	102,4
V – COMPOVET	2,3±0,3	6,2 ±0,7	3,9	22,4±1,3	20,1	27,3±1,6	25	25	100,8

( V).  
 -  
 26,2% (1,7 m), ( 2).  
 1,0%

A positive effect on the diameter of plants was also obtained by applying the CocoVet (Variant IV). The reported results exceeded the indicators of the control plants by 26.2% (1.7 cm), (Table 2). The results obtained are in accordance with the results obtained by the authors using different biofertilizer (Zapryanova and tanassova, 2013). A

MagnumPink 193,5%  
 SunHarmony Violet – 121,4%.  
 Surfinia  
 Giant Purple 117,3%, Surfinia Hot  
 Red - 183,1% (Zapryanova and  
 tanassova, 2013).

positive effect on plant height has been demonstrated using a 1.0% solution of Lumbrickol, whereas in Impatiens the percentage of total growth for MagnumPink is 193.5% and for SunHarmony Violet – 121.4%. For petunia, Surfinia Giant Purple grows at 117.3% and Surfinia Hot Red at 183.1%.

2. (cm)  
**Table 2. Plant diameter of Angelonia(cm)**

Variant	1 <sup>-</sup> (15.05.2016 ) 1st reporting	2 <sup>-</sup> (15.06.2016 .) 2nd reading		3 <sup>-</sup> (15.07.2016 .) 3rd reading		4 <sup>-</sup> (15.08.2016 .) 4th reporting		Total growth	
	Starting diameter cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	Growth cm	% Vs. K
- ( ) untreated plants	6,2±0,5	10,6±0,6	4,4	11,9±0,6	5,7	12,7±0,4	6,5	6,5	100,0
- <b>MASTERBLEND</b>	<b>5,1±0,4</b>	<b>13,0±0,6*</b>	<b>7,5</b>	<b>13,5±0,5</b>	<b>8,4</b>	<b>13,9±0,5</b>	<b>8,8</b>	<b>8,8</b>	<b>135,4</b>
- KRISTALON	5,5±0,5	12,1±0,6	6,6	12,8±0,1	7,3	13,2±0,5	7,7	7,7	118,5
<b>V – COCO VET</b>	<b>5,4±0,5</b>	<b>10,9±0,5</b>	<b>5,5</b>	<b>13,3±0,5</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>13,6±0,9</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>126,2</b>
V – COMPOVET	5,6±0,4	10,3±0,5	4,7	12,3±0,2	6,7	12,8±0,4	7,2	7,2	110,8

3  
 -  
 18,6  
 87,4% –  
 ( 3).  
 ( ) 16,4  
 ( 3). 65,6%

In Table 3 are presented the results of the impact of various fertilizers on the formation of branches at Angelonia. The best results are reported in the biofertilizer Cocovet with average of 18.6 branches of a plant, which is 87.4% higher than the control (Table 3). Followed by option II (MASTERBLEND) with the number exceeding 16.4 control 65.6% (Table 3).

3.

**Table 3. Branches formation of Angelonia**

Variant	1 <sup>-</sup> (15.05.2016 ) 1st reporting	2 <sup>-</sup> (15.06.2016 .) 2nd reading	3 <sup>-</sup> (15.07.2016 .) 3rd reading		Total number		
	Number	Number	Growth	Number	Growth	Number	% Vs. K
– untreated plants ( )	1,6±0,5	3,2±0,5	1,6	5,1±0,8	3,5	9,9	100,0
– <b>MASTERBLEND</b>	<b>2,8±1,1</b>	<b>5,1±0,6*</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>8,5±0,4*</b>	<b>5,7</b>	<b>16,4</b>	<b>165,6</b>
– KRISTALON	3,1±0,1*	4,5±0,1	1,4	6,2±0,1	3,1	13,8	130,6
<b>V – COCOVET</b>	<b>4,5±0,8**</b>	<b>5,7±0,8*</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>8,4±0,8*</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>18,6</b>	<b>187,9</b>
V – COMPOVET	2,4±0,7*	3,9±0,6	1,5	5,3±0,6	2,9	11,6	117,2

– 0,2%

Gain Purple

( . ) P<0,05 \*\*\*,  
Red

(2011).

6,6

( ) ( ),  
5,8 . 5,2 . (

4).

- The formation of more branches is closely associated with the increase in diameter of the plant tuft. Using the preparation Tera – Sorbal Floriar®- 0.2% on two varieties of petunia establishes a clear positive effect on the number of branches.

- While in the Gain Purple variety, statistical evidence of differences in control plants was observed in the initial period of branching (May) with P <0.05 \*\*\*, in the Hot Red variety this difference in evidence was reflected in (June) Zapryanova (2011).

4. The effect of the introduction of fertilizers on the number of blooms of Angelonia is shown in Table 4. The use of the (COCOVET) bio fertilizers gives an average of 6.6 blooms per plant. The result obtained is the best and exceeds that of the control with 2.5 blooms. A good positive effect on the number of blooms was observed in variants - II (MASTERBLEND) and III (KRISTALON), respectively by 5.8 and by 5.2 blooms (Table 4).

4.

**Table 4. Number of blooms of Angelonia**

Variant	1 <sup>-</sup> (15.07.2016 .) 1st reporting	2 <sup>-</sup> (15.08.2016 .) 2nd reading		Total number	
	Number	Number	Growth	Number	% Vs. K
- untreated plants ( )	1,8±0,3	2,3±	0,45	4,1	100,0
- <b>MASTERBLEND</b>	<b>1,8±0,4</b>	<b>4±0,7*</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>143,2</b>
- <b>KRISTALON</b>	<b>1,7±0,4</b>	<b>3,5± 0,5*</b>	<b>1,8</b>	<b>5,2</b>	128,4
<b>V – COCOVELT</b>	<b>2,9±0,4**</b>	<b>3,7± 0,2*</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>6,6</b>	<b>162,9</b>
V – COMPOVET	1,2±0,2	2,9± 0,4	1,7	4,1	101,2

( ) 12,4 cm,  
( ) 10,2 cm  
9,1 cm.  
-  
V ( ) 11,8 cm,  
V ( ) 10,8 cm,  
10,1 cm ( 5).  
10 cm,  
14,4 cm 16,6 cm,  
15,1 cm 16,7 cm.

The effect of fertilizer input on the number and size of the flower stalk of angelonia is affected by the introduction of different fertilizers. The best results are obtained using both bio- fertilizers. For Variant IV (COCOVELT), the average flower stalk length is 12.4 cm, and for Variant V (COMPOVET) it is 10.2 cm during the first period of July (Table 5). For control plants, the flower stalk length is 9.1 cm. In the second reporting period - the beginning of August, the average length of the flower stalk for Variant IV (COCOVELT) is 11.8 cm, for Variant V (COMPOVET) is 10.8 cm and for the controls 10.1 cm (Table 5).

A characteristic of the species is the presence of variation in flower stalk length, due to the flowering of the individual florets. At flower stalk over 10 cm, the highest values are recorded again at bio fertilizers in both reporting periods. For CocoVet they are respectively 14.4 cm and 16.6 cm and for COMPOVET are 15.1 cm and 16.7 cm (Table 5).

## 5.

**Table 5. Length of the flower stalk of Angelonia**

Variant	Length of the flower stalk (cm)					
	1 <sup>-</sup> (15.07.2016 .) 1st reporting			2 <sup>-</sup> (15.08.2016 .) 2nd reading		
	Avg. value cm	< 10 cm	>10 cm	Avg. value cm	< 10 cm	>10 cm
– untreated plants ( )	9,1±0,2	5,2±0,1	11±0,4	10,1±0,2	5,3±0,3	14,1±0,3
– MASTERBLEND	9,8±0,3	7±0,2	10,8±0,2	10,8 ±0,3	6,2±0,1	13.9±0,1
– KRISTALON	9,7±0,5	6,7±0,3	12,7±0,3	11,6±0,1	7,8±0,2	14±1,2
<b>V – COCOVET</b>	<b>12,4±0,2*</b>	<b>2,5±0,1</b>	<b>14,4±0,5*</b>	<b>11,8±0,5</b>	<b>4,7±0,2</b>	<b>16,6±0,9*</b>
<b>V – COMPOVET</b>	<b>10,2±0,6</b>	<b>5,5±0,3</b>	<b>15,1±0,4*</b>	<b>10,8±0,2</b>	<b>2,9±0,2</b>	<b>16,7±0,7*</b>

In angelonia, the first budding of plants is observed at the beginning of June in the control and in all fertilization variants.

Flowering occurs early in variant IV (COCOVET) in the second half of June compared to controls and other variants of the study.

No plant phytotoxicity was observed in all experimental variants. No attacks from diseases and pests have been recorded.

## CONCLUSIONS

In studying the influence of various fertilizers on the development of angelonia, a stimulating effect on the vegetative mass, the blooms formation and the size of the flower stalk were found using the COCOVET biofertilizer.

A proven positive effect on the height and diameter of the plants is also the universal MASTERBLEND fertilizer.

In the study of the influence of the two biofertilizers: COCOVET and COMPOVET, as well as of the two universal complex fertilizers MASTERBLEND and KRISTALON at the proposed concentrations no plant phytotoxicity was observed.

## / REFERENCES

1. **Atanasova, B., Y. Kotopanov, D. Slavov and I. Valchovski**, 2007. Investigation of the influence of universal humus manure humustim in mini carnation. "Humustim. Gift from nature. Fertilizer of the Future", pp. 144-147.
2. **Awang, Y. and M. Ismail**, 1996. The growth and flowering of some annual ornamentals on coconut dust. In: International Symposium Growing Media and Plant Nutrition in Horticulture 450, pp. 31-38.
3. **Baas, R., A.Brandts and N Straver**, 1993. Growth regulation of bedding plants and poinsettia using low phosphorus fertilization and ebb-and flow irrigation. In: Workshop on Environmental Regulation of Plant Morphogenesis 378, pp. 129-138.
4. **Bashir, M., I., R.Khan, Qadri, M. Tanveer, M. Zain, and I Ahmad**, 2016. Growth and Corm Production of *Gladiolus grandiflorus* L.'Essential'Under Different NPK Regimes. *Journal of Ornamental Plants*, 6(1), 11-19.
5. **Broschat, T.** 1995. Nitrate, phosphate, and potassium leaching from container-grown plants fertilized by several methods. *HortScience*, 30(1), 74-77.
6. **Chavez, W., Di Benedetto, A., G. Civeira, and R. Lavado**, 2008. Alternative soilless media for growing *Petunia hybrida* and *Impatiens wallerana*: Physical behavior, effect of fertilization and nitrate losses. *Bioresource Technology*, 99(17), 8082-8087.
7. **El-Naggar, A., N., Esmail, and A. El-Naggar**, 2016. Effect of Mineral and Bio-Fertilization on Vegetative Growth and Flowering of *Anthurium andraeanum* L. Plants under Greenhouse Conditions. *Alexandria science exchange*, 37(1), 2.
8. **Ivanova, V., P. Nikolov and O. Tafrazhiyski**, 2005. Application of biohumus in the production of annual flowers. In: Jubilee Scientific Conference "State and Problems of Agrarian Science and Education" October 19-20, Plovdiv, Scientific Works, 6: 477-482.
9. **Lloyd, J., D. Herms, M. Rose and J.Van Wagoner**, 2006. Fertilization rate and irrigation scheduling in the nursery influence growth, insect performance, and stress tolerance of *Sutyzam'crabapple* in the landscape. *HortScience*, 41(2), 442-445.
10. **Malinova, R.**, 2007. The future of organic farming is the organic fertilization. "Humustim Gift from nature. Fertilizer of the Future", pp. 27-28.
11. **Merida, D., K. Pivetta, R. Mazzini-Guedes, C. Castro and L. Purquerio**, 2017. Effects of Nitrogen Fertilization on Development, Flowering, and Mineral Nutrition of Potted *Costus productus* Gleason ex Maas. *Journal of Plant Nutrition*, 40(7), 1045-1052.
12. **Midan A.and M.Sorial**, 2011. Some biofertilizers Application in Relation to Growth, chemical Constituents and Yield of Snap Bean Plants. *Research Journal of Agriculture and Biological Sciences*, 7(1), 142-149.
13. **Santos, F., L. de Mendonça Costa and M. de Mendonça Costa**, 2017. Sensory analysis and postharvest of potted gerbera based on fertilization. *Ornamental Horticulture*, 23(1), 30-37.
14. **Sapundzhieva, Kr., V. Ivanova, J. Kartalska and K. Kanalieva**, 2001. Influence of the Agrostamine biostimulator and Hortigraw fertilizer on the vegetative and decorative appearances of *Cyclamen persicum*. In: Jubilee Scientific Conference "80 Years of Higher Education", Scientific Works, XLVI(4) 157-162.
15. **Sengalvich, G.**, 2007. The European Community calls for the greening of agro-chemicals. "Humustim. Gift from nature. Fertilizer of the Future", pp. 21-26.
16. **Shober, A., G.Denny and T. Broschat**, 2010. Management of fertilizers and water for ornamental plants in urban landscapes: Current practices and impacts on water resources in Florida. *HortTechnology*, 20 (1), 9.

17. **Ter Hell, B. and L. Hendriks**, 1995. The influence of nitrogen nutrition on keeping quality of pot plants. In *VI International Symposium on Postharvest Physiology of Ornamental Plants* 405, pp. 138-147.
18. **Zapryanova, N. and B. tanassova**, 2013. Study of the effect of the organic product Lumbricol on the growth and development of pot flower seedlings – impatiens /Impatiens New-Guinea/ and petunia (Petunia x hybrid). *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 16, 4: 1035-1048.
19. **Zapryanova, N.**, 2011. Studying the reaction of terra sorb – foliar on petunia (petunia x hybrida) Collection of Reports Part II - Natural and Agrarian Sciences at the Jubilee National Scientific Conference with International Participation "Man and the Universe", 6-8 October 2011, Smolyan.