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Mead – an ancient drink with a modern image

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SUMMARY

- Mead is one of the oldest alcoholic beverages in the world. Archaeological findings testify that the production of mead dates back more than 7000 years BC.

- Fermentation of honey can be used for producing various kinds of mead, sherry, sparkling wines, and fruit-honey wines. They can have different taste and flavor due to the color source of the honey and the used additives and yeasts for fermentation.

- People are often confused about mead: Whether it is wine or beer. Historical occupies an intermediate position. While the basic ingredients are honey and water, the basic recipe enriched with other various ingredients, many of which are common to wine and beer, such as fruits, hops and barley.

- It is has been developed technology for the preparation of mead with initial extract content of about 20,0% and hopped at a lower level than traditional beer with a bitter and aromatic hop pellets. As the honey is poor in nitrogen in order to avoid problems with fermentation it is necessary to add a nitrogen source and vitamins or adopted

(10-15% 11,00%).
 Saccharomyces oviformis (Champagne Epernay)
 15-20 /ml) 2

by the team technological way to replace them with wort (10-15% with initial extract content of about 11,00%).

The brewery and wine yeast strains for fermentation were tested. The most suitable is champagne wine yeast strain (initial pitching rate – 15-20 million cells/ml) 2^b *Saccharomyces oviformis* (Champagne Epernay) from the collection of NWSRI Sofia. There were attempts to enrich (flavor) mead with fruit.

Key words: honey, mead, wort, hops, yeast

INTRODUCTION

Mead is one of the oldest alcoholic beverages in the world. Archaeological findings indicate that the production of mead dates back more than 7000 years BC. The ancient myths and legends testify for alcoholic beverages, which used by the people and the gods. Mead is part of the rituals of the Celts, Vikings and Anglo-Norman. It was believed that there is a magical, healthy effect and increases the fertility of people.

The term "honeymoon" introduced by tradition the bride and groom during the first month of their joint lives to drink from the honey drink and if it is true after nine months of being born a boy (National Honey Board, 2011). Still Pliny the elder in 77 year in your book *Naturalis historia* describe the empirical use of honey for mead production and give detail in description of the process for traditional beverage prepare.

The mead does not know the limit – it have known for Greek, Roman, Mayan, Hindu, Kelti, Saxons, Germans, Scandinavians (<http://teca.fao.org/discussion/mead-adds-value-honey-moderated-discussion-5-to18-march-2014>).

People are often confused about the mead: whether it is wine or beer. Historical the mead take an intermediate place. While the main ingredients are

(National Honey Board, 2011).
 (Pliny the elder)

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 (*Naturalis historia*)

(<http://teca.fao.org/discussion/mead-adds-value-honey-moderated-discussion-5-to18-march-2014>).

(Teramoto, 2000).

(Koguhietall, 2009).

Sharma, 2009).

Braggot,

Board, 2011).

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(Guptaand

(National Honey

honey and water, basic recipe has enriched with various other ingredients, many of which are common for wine and beer, such as fruit, hops and barley.

Mead, honey wine produced by thousands of years and is an important part of the culture of Europe and Africa (Teramoto, 2000). The mead production is mainly from honey, through the insertion of a number of other raw materials such as herbs, apple juice, grape juice, mulberry fruit, malt, vinegar and spices. On the one hand various additives are used in the production of Mead, but Mead and herb are used for the preparation of medicines or tonic (Koguhi et al., 2009).

The fermentation of honey can be applied to the production of various types of mead, sherry, sparkling wine and fruit-honey wines. They may have a different taste and flavour due to the colour of honey source and used supplements and yeast for fermentation (Gupta and Sharma, 2009).

Traditional Mead is produced only from honey and water. Different meads are obtained when mixing fruit juices and herbs and at different periods of aging. In addition, the honey pot can be a quiet drink or soda. The mead as soda obtained because of a secondary fermentation in the bottle.

From the Mead may be obtained and other alcoholic drinks, such as Braggot produced by malt and honey and honey brandy that produced by the distillation of alcohol from mead (National Honey Board, 2011).

Honey is the main raw material, when talking about Mead. It is monochromatic (monofloral-predominantly one plant) and multicolour (polyfloral-from various plants). The taste and aroma of the mead mainly depend on honey colour and quality. From the bright species gets brighter and mild drink, compared to dark. Its sensorial properties come from the nectar of plants and flowers visited by

(Lengler, 2005).

(Tonietto, 2007).

17-18%.

(Won et al., 2008).

bees. Because of enzymatic reaction and the enzyme invertase, bees turn sucrose from the nectar to glucose and fructose. The enzyme amylase transformed the starch into maltose and glucose into gluconic acid and hydrogen peroxide by the enzyme glucoseoxidase preparation (Lengler, 2005). The production of honey and other apiculture products are associated with the presence of flowers. Whatever the composition of honey, it depends on the variety of flowers and the components of nectar produced by these plants from the region and the season. Physical-chemical characteristics of honey may vary according to the botanical origin, meteorology, humidity, height, and operating as areas of bees. These characteristics defined as "terroir" – i.e. products that meet all the requirements to recognize with geographical indications for qualifying material for origin determining. These products combine the interaction of "time- x -soil- x-variety know-how, etc.", which gives them the origin, differentiation and identity (Tonietto, 2007).

Basic components of honey are carbohydrates – simple sugars fructose, glucose and sucrose, disaccharides, three saccharides and polysaccharides. Humidity is 17-18%, contains more acid-citric, malic, succinic, formic, acetic, lactic, amino acids, etc. The minerals content is low of; higher content of minerals has dark honey.

Proteins are also available in honey and depend on bees and plants, as a small part of them are the enzymes diastase, invertase, glucose-oxidase, catalase, etc. (Won et al., 2008). With him missing phenol structure, which fruit and grapes have so far mead is a lighter drink. Honey is a natural source of antioxidants that help reduce cardiovascular disease, cataracts, inflammation and other pathologies, of the enzyme browning of fruits and vegetables, the oxidation of lipids in meat, inhibit the growth of

(Morales et al., 2013).

(Morales et al., 2013).

(Steinkraus and Morse, 1973),

(Iglesias et al., 2014).

pathogenic microorganisms (Morales et al., 2013).

There are two ways to obtain the mead – with heating and without heating. There are some difficulties in the process of fermentation, because the yeast development hampered by insufficient nitrogen and phosphorus content in musts, oxidative stress and osmotic concentration of ethanol (Morales et al., 2013). Many of the yeast have the capacity to synthesize vitamins, necessary for their metabolism (Steinkraus and Morse, 1973) but the selection of a yeast strain is especially important.

Because of the fact that the production of honey is a significant economic activity in Europe, the development of different products, it is a good alternative for providing innovative alcoholic beverages to consumers with great commercial potential and to increase the profits of the bee-keeping industry. Improvement of empirical technology involves the use of nutrients to initially diluted honey with water, pasteurization, pitching with yeast, removal of impurities, yeast immobilize, etc. (Iglesias et al., 2014).

The purpose of this study is to develop an alcoholic beverage based on honey with high fermentation degree and good taste and aroma qualities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For the development of Mead, the laboratory attempts with polyfloral honey from the region of Debelets, Veliko Tarnovo, vintage 2012, were carried out. From our previous studies, it found that the best taste there is a drink with initial gravity 20-22% and for clear beverage obtained; the honey wort have to heating (1 hour) before pitching with yeast.

It was hopped with hop granules of bitter and aroma variety hops on the base of 55 mg/l alpha-bitter acids.

2012

20-22%

(1)

55 mg/l

Saccharomyces oviformis (Champagne Epernay).

(NH₄)₂HPO₄(0,05%),

Queisser Pharma,

"Bender & Hobein"

10,97%
1058,7 mg/l).

Weyermann (Bavarian pilsner),
1:3 (24,80%
2173,2 mg/l).

18-20

4-5

0-2

48 11.11.2003

Best results are in pitching with wine yeast, submitted by the National Wine and Spirituous Beverages Research Institute, Sofia -2 strain *Saccharomyces oviformis* (Epernay Champagne).

It was examined the impact of supplements – nitrogen source, vitamins, wort and malt extract – over the course of fermentation process and the effect of fermentation conditions on the physical-chemical and flavour parameters of young mead. Nitrogen source is (NH₄)₂HPO₄ (0,05%) and vitamins (A, D, E, C, K, B₁,B₂,B₆,B₁₂, niacin, biotin, folic acid) and minerals (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, zinc, copper, selenium, chromium, molybdenum, iodine), necessary for the yeast growth are tablets of Queisser Pharma, Germany. The wort is obtained on the laboratory automatic mash bath of the German company "Bender & Hobein" by infusionmethod developed in the department "Technology of beer and beverages" in ICFT (with an initial extract 10,97% and water soluble nitrogen 1058,7 mg/l). The malt extract is ofthe German company Weyermann (Bavarian pilsner) diluted 1:3 (with initial extract 24.80% and water- soluble nitrogen 2173,2mg/l) .The fermentation temperature is 18-20°C. h maturation of mead is in two phase, 1 month minimum. The first week temperature is maintained to 4-5°C, providing reduction of vicinal diketones, then the temperature is lowered to 0-2°C. The finished product can drink naturally clarify or after filtration, stabilization and filling in bottles. Mead with brewing wort must was enriched with fruit – strawberries and blueberries and apple and banana (separated at the end of the fermentation process).

Methods for the analysis of honey are in accordance with the Regulation No. 48 of 11.11.2003 on the Ministry of agriculture and foods. Methods for the analysis of honey wort and mead was in accordance with the Analytica EBC (European Brewery Convention – 1998,

Hans Carl Getränke – 1998, Verlag Nürnberg) – Vachverlag, (, ,). DPPH (Marinova and Batchvarov, 2011).

Verlag Hans Carl Getränke – Vachverlag, Nürnberg) and methods for the analysis of the University of Food Technologies (Biochemistry, guide to practical exercises, UFT, Plovdiv). Antioxidant capacity was determined by the DPPH method (Marinova and Batchvarov, 2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis of honey – the polyfloral from Debelets, VelikoTarnovo are presented in Table 1.

1.
Table 1. Honey analysis

Characteristics	Polyfloral
/ Water content, %	16,20
/ Dry mater, %	83,80
	4,17
/ Clarity	5,9
, mm Pfund / Colour, mm Pfund	25
/ Free acidity, meq/kg	34
/ Electrical conduction, mS/cm	0,57
/ Reducing sugars, %	3,85
/ Sucrose, %	-
/ Fructose, %	2,08
/ Glucose, %	1,77
: / Ratio of fructose: glucose	1,2
/ Total sugars, %	3,85
, . / Diastase activity, Shade units	21,57

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Multicolour honey (polyfloral honey bouquet) means honey, which produced by bees from the processing of nectar from many different types of flowering plants. By contrast, monochrome (monoflorals) honeys obtained by

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$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$

14

Weyermann (Bavarian pilsner)

7%

1:3

0,05 %

10

13%

2.

processing the nectar of bees from predominantly one plant species. Whether honey is monofloral or polyfloral can be defined as the percentage of pollen grains in it, found by laboratory analysis (pollen analysis).

This honey is with the complex qualities. It has highlighted curative and preventive action on the respiratory organs, gastrointestinal tract, and gynecological diseases. In chronic rhinitis and sinusitis, improves the immune system.

Polyfloral honey is recommended for fatigue, a general strengthening of the body of a man, and there is an antisclerotic action.

In the composition of the honey does not detect sucrose, which indicates that it is a real natural product and the bees are not fed with sugar.

As the nitrogen source was incorporated secondary ammonium phosphate $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$ in amount of 0,05% according to literary data. The vitamins provided by Depot-tablet with 14 essential vitamins and minerals/trace elements 10, as well as dietary supplement tablet of calcium, magnesium, zinc, vitamin D₃ and vitamin C. Depend on the content of water-soluble nitrogen, the wort put in quantity by 13% to extract about 11%. Standardized malt extract at the company Weyermann (Bavarian pilsner) depending on the contents of water-soluble nitrogen was incorporated in amount of 7% at a dilution of 1:3. In Table 2, the physical-chemical parameters of the honey wort are presented.

2. - e
Table 2. Physico-chemical characteristics of honey wort

Characteristics	1 (Control (with a nitrogen source	2 (with a nitrogen source and vitamins)	3 (with brewing wort)	4 (with malt extract)
Initial extract, %	21,89	21,89	20,44	22,02
Colour, EBC units	5,25 5,0	4,47 9,5	4,01 6,5	3,91 7,0
Bitterness, BU	21,5		21,2	20,1
Polyphenols, mg/l	86,3		142,9	166,5
Free amino nitrogen, mg/l	1,21		8,46	2,36
Soluble nitrogen, mg/l	209,0		223,0	216,0
Reducing sugars, % inv. sugar	20,90		18,14	19,77
Sucrose, %	0		0,34	0,14
Fructose, %	12,10		9,97	11,04
Glucose, %	8,80		8,17	8,73
Total sugars, %	20,90		18,48	19,91

It is apparent from the table that additives influence on some physical-chemical parameters of the wort - pH, colour, content of polyphenols and free amino nitrogen. Steinkraus and Morse (1966) recommended pH of the wort to be between 4,6 and 3,7. To the fully extent pH is influenced by the malt extract, as is reduced by 1,34. The content of polyphenols is also highest in the sample with malt extract and reached 166,5mg/l with a 48,2% higher than that of the control. The reason for this is the raw material for the production of malt extract - light pilsen malt and Weyermann Carapils

Carapils (http://weyermannmalt.com).

Weyermann (http://weyermannmalt.com).

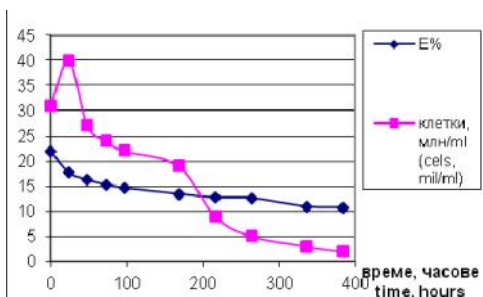
7,0

3,6

The free amino nitrogen of the sample with addition of wort increased by 7,0 times than control and 3,6 times compared to the sample with the addition of malt extract. It is very important for the fermentation process as food for yeast. The brewing wort is very valuable and balanced source that can replace all used additives in technology of the mead.

1-4

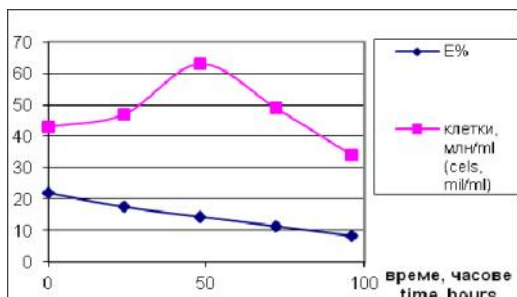
The Figure 1-4 presented the results for the change of the gravity/extract and the number of cells during the fermentation of the experimental variants.



1.

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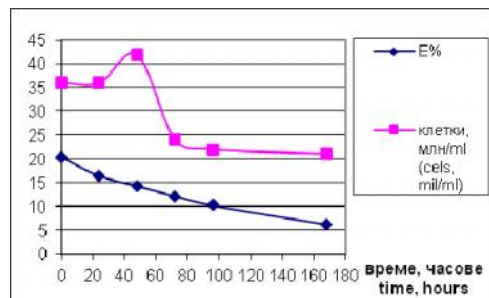
Fig. 1. Change of extract and number of cells during fermentation – control 1



2.

2

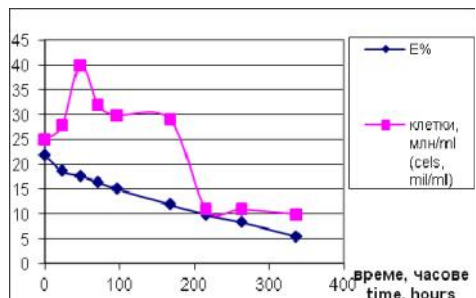
Fig. 2. Change of extract and number of cells during fermentation – sample 2



3.

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Fig. 3. Change of extract and number of cells during fermentation –sample 3



4.

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Fig. 4. Change of extract and number of cells during fermentation –sample 4

(Iglesias et al., 2014).

Ferreira et al., 2010).

(Mendes-

(2)

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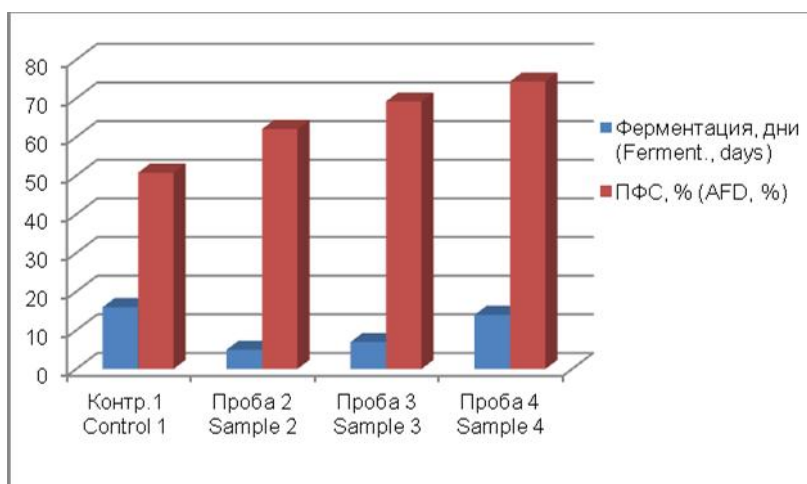
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The different composition of honey must respond differently to the yeast fermentation capability. The selection of yeast strains play a key role, as it affects the efficiency of the conversion of sugars into alcohol and carbon dioxide. Studies indicate that strains suitable for fermentation of wine, beer and champagne (Iglesias et al., 2014) are suitable for mead fermentation. In the past, the duration of the fermentation process was very long, but with the addition of additives such as diammonium phosphate, is reduced. However, it cannot guarantee the completeness of the fermentation process, which suggests that other factors may lead to reduced activity of yeasts during fermentation of honey wort (Mendes-Ferreira et al., 2010).

In our experiments, the addition of vitamins (sample 2) lead to the fermentation process only 5 days. Similar to the beer, the fermentation with wort is the most acceptable, 7 days.

Fig. 5 shows the duration of the fermentation process in days.



. 5.

Fig. 5. Duration of the fermentation process and degree of fermentation of the mead

3
5

Table 3 shows the qualitative characteristics of finished drinks after 5 weeks of aging/maturing.

Table 3. Physico-chemical characteristics of a beverage after aging 5 weeks

Characteristics	1 (Control (with a nitrogen source	2 (with a nitrogen source and vitamins)	3 (with brewing wort)	4 (with malt extract)
Initial extract, %	19,01	19,66	18,56	19,08
Apparent extract, %	8,90	1,22	1,14	2,85
Real extract, %	10,93	4,80	4,52	6,00
Alcohol, weight %	4,34	8,00	7,52	7,03
Alcohol, volume %	5,68	10,16	9,55	8,99
Appar.fermentation degree, %	53,18	93,79	93,86	85,06
Real fermentation degree, %	42,50	75,57	75,65	68,61
Colour, EBC units	3,13 < 2,0	3,95 4,0	3,37 2,5	3,26 5,0
Bitterness, BU	7,85	11,65	9,65	9,55
Polyphenols, mg/l	73,8	203,3	123,1	154,7
Reducing sugars, % inv. sugar	9,4	2,12	2,34	3,05
Sucrose, %	0	0	0,10	0,03
Fructose, %	6,8	1,66	1,40	2,53
Glucose, %	2,62	0,46	0,94	0,52
Total sugars, %	9,42	2,12	2,34	3,05

2 3
4
-
-

94%, . . .
25-30%.
85%,
-
11%.
53%, . . .

Apparent degree of fermentation of samples 2 and 3 reached nearly 94%, i.e. they are fermented additionally 25-30%. The sample 4 with malt extract the apparent degree of fermentation is 85%, which is fermented additionally 11%. The lower the apparent degree of fermentation is a control sample, only

4. -

Table 4. Physico-chemical characteristics of a beverage with fruits

Characteristics	1	2	3
	Control	With strawberries and blueberries	With apple and banana
Initial extract, %	18,69	18,23	18,45
Apparent extract, %	6,64	2,92	1,95
Real extract, %	8,99	5,87	5,14
Alcohol, weight %	5,19	6,60	7,12
Alcohol, volume %	6,73	8,44	9,07
Appar.fermentation degree, %	64,47	83,98	89,43
Real fermentation degree, %	51,90	67,80	72,14
Colour, EBC units	3,50	3,43	3,63
Bitterness, BU	3,5	-	3,5
Polyphenols, mg/l	12,6	10,0	12,4
Reducing sugars, % inv. sugar	134,1	259,9	150,3
Sucrose, %	6,67	3,52	2,62
Fructose, %	-	-	-
Glucose, %	4,65	2,46	1,81
Total sugars, %	2,05	1,06	0,81
Antioxidant activity, eqv. Vit.C,mmol/l	6,67	3,52	2,62
	463,6	1388,5	686,9

CONCLUSIONS

Developed is a technology for obtaining of Mead with initial gravity about 20,0% and hopped in a lower degree of traditional beer with bitter and aromatic hop granules. Since the honey is poor in nitrogen, so there are no problems with fermentation honey must enriched with brewing wort.

The Champagne wine yeast strain (2^b)

<p>(15-20 /ml) 2 <i>Saccharomyces oviformis</i> (<i>Champagne Epernay</i>) - 7 (94%), %, (2,34%) () , - ú 686,9 mmol/l.</p>	<p><i>Saccharomyces oviformis</i> (<i>Champagne Epernay</i>)) from the collection of NWSRI, Sofia as the most suitable is used. Initial pitching dose was 15-20 million cells/ml. After 7 days fermentation process, the received drink was with a high fermentation degree (around 94%), alcoholic content of 9,55 vol.%, low content of total sugars (2,34%) and good organoleptic qualities. Attempts have been made to enrich (flavouring) of the mead with fruits. With a better physical-chemical and organoleptic characteristics the one with the apple and banana. Antioxidant activity is 686,9eqv. Vit C (mmol/l). The products development based on honey are a good alternative for providing innovative alcoholic beverages to consumers and with great commercial potential, to increase the profits of the bee-keeping industry, enrich the product range and enhancing the quality of life.</p>
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Assessment of stockpile of soils with the main nutrients in 'Elena' plum cultivar after organic stockpile fertilization in trenches

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SUMMARY

2016	-	In 2016, a study was carried out in
“	“	the collection plantation of plum cultivar
”	”	'Elena' at the Research Institute of
-	-	Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture -
,	-	Troyan, after a fifteen-year-old stockpile
.	-	organic fertilization in trenches with
-	,	manure. The amount of macroelements
,	,	was determined – nitrogen, phosphorus
pH	,	and potassium, as well as the humus
: 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm, 40-60	,	content and pH of soil profiles in the
cm.	,	following depths: 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm,
,	-	40-60 cm. The analysis of the results of
:	:	the intra row spacing show that the values
cm, 20-40 cm 40-60 cm	:	of nitrogen from soil profiles of 0-20 cm,
28.6 mg/kg, 25.1 mg/kg 17.3 mg/kg.	:	20-40 cm and 40-60 cm respectively
98.5 mg/100 g	:	were: 28.6 mg/kg, 25.1 mg/kg and 17.3
cm.	:	mg/kg. Phosphorus content reached up to
	:	98.5 mg/100 of soil horizon 40-60 cm. The
	:	potassium content was high, as it was
	:	40.4 mg/100 g of a soil profile of 0-20 cm

g 44.3
 0-20 cm 40.4 mg/100
 : 40-60 cm.
 , , pH

and 44.3 of a soil profile of 40-60 cm.

Key words: plums, cultivars, agrochemical indicators, humus, pH

INTRODUCTION

Soil fertility is essential in assessing the quality and productivity of fruit trees. It is expressed by providing the basic nutrient macro and microelements essential for the trees. Therefore, genetic properties of soil and fertilization are an important element of soil fertility management.

In recent years, so-called bio-fertilization has become increasingly popular, including green fertilization, the use of certified fertilizers for biological application, and so on. (Yadav et al., 2000; Fliebach et al., 2007).

When organic matters are introduced into the soil, they are subjected to different chemical, biochemical and microbiological processes. Under their influence the matter is degraded to simple forms that can be absorbed by the plants. As a result of these changes, the organic matter (animal manure, biodegradable organic waste, peat, plant residues, etc.) that has entered the soil is converted into a soil organic substance that is a complex system of humus substances, proteins, amino acids, hydrocarbons, fatty acids, biologically active substances, waxes, lignin etc. (Filcheva et al., 2004). The organic materials used as soil improvers are homogeneously applied throughout the area. Those which are also used as fertilizers are introduced homogeneously or differentially. In order to reduce nutrient losses and increase the effect of fertilization, organic fertilizers are dug into soil immediately or covered with soil (Kanazirska, 2012). Organic farming contributes to maintaining and preserving soil fertility, thus preventing its degradation (Arnhold et al., 1914). Dinkova et al (2010) apply stockpile fertilization with manure thus positively

(Yadav et al., 2000; Fliebach et al., 2007).

(Filcheva at al., 2004).

(Kanazirska, 2012).

(Arnhold et al., 1914). Dinkova et al (2010)

(Stockdale et al., 2002).
 pH
 40-60 cm,
 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm,
 ” “
 ” “
 2001 .
 130 kg
 4.0/2.5 m.
 (Penkov, 1988; Mihaylova
 et al., 2005).
 :
 A . 0-26 cm –
 HCL.
 Bt₁g 26-58 cm –
 HCL.
 pH

- influencing the growth and reproduction
- effects of plum trees and establishing a
- lasting effect.

- Maintaining soil fertility is an ongoing process, as it involves not only improving the diet but also the structure and properties of the soil. Preparing soil quality for organic farming is a relatively slow process of many years (Stockdale et al., 2002).

The aim of the present study is to make an assessment of the agrochemical status and analysis of the basic nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, humus content and pH in the soil profiles of 0-20 cm, 20-40cm, 40-60 cm, after a fifteen-year organic fertilization in trenches of plum cultivar 'Elena'.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The plum plantation with the German plum cultivar 'Elena' was established in the spring of 2001 in the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture - Troyan. The trees were planted in trenches with a manure of 130 kg per linear meter. The tree planting scheme is 4.0/2.5 m. The rootstock is Myrobalan.

- The soil is forest gray, gleying, poorly eroded, low in humus (Penkov, 1988; Mihaylova et al., 2005) (Penkov, 1988; Mihaylova et al., 2005)

Characteristics of the studied soil profiles:

- A deep ploughing 0-26 cm - Dark brown, fresh, grainy and crumbly structure, slightly dense, moderately heavy sandy and clay transition, clear and does not ferment from HCL.

- Bt₁g 26-58 cm - Brown-red, fresh, dense, lumpy-prismatic structure, heavy sandy and clayey, it has manganese concretes, gradual transition, slightly noticeable, does not fermented by HCL.

- The amount of macro elements, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, was measured as well as the humus content and pH of soil profiles at

20 cm, 20-40 cm, 40-60 cm.

- —
- .N —
- P₂O₅—
- K₂O —
- —

0- depths of 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm, and 40-60 cm. The samples from the intra row spacing and the inter row spacing of trees were taken, according to the soil analysis methodology.

The agrochemical analyzes were carried out in the Central Laboratory of The Institute of Soil Science "Nikola Pushkarov", Sofia.

The following indicators were analyzed:

- pH - potentiometric;
- minN - methodology of Bremner and Kinay;
- P₂O₅ - methodology of P. Ivanov;
- K₂O - methodology of P. Ivanov;
- Humus - methodology of Turin.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proper course of physiological and biochemical processes in fruit trees is based on the optimal balance of nutrients in the soil. The present study was conducted to establish and quantify the soil agrochemical status. Determination of the optimum ratio of the major biogenic macroelements is an important prerequisite for obtaining a cost-effective and environmentally friendly production.

The composition of the agrochemical parameters from the soil horizons of 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm, and 40-60 cm in the intra row space of 'Elena' cultivar is presented in Table 1.

The soil reaction in a KCl solution within the intra row spacing at soil horizons of 0-20 cm and 20-40 cm ranges from 4.5 to 6.5, at an average of 5.2 at a soil profile of 0-20 cm and 5.8 at a soil profile of 20-40 cm. It is characterized as an average acid reaction of the medium. A slightly acidic to neutral pH reaction is observed at a depth of 40-60 cm, ranging from 6.3 to 7.0, with a mean value of 6.7. The variation coefficient for the first two depths is low and average, and it is very low for 40-60 cm profile.

cm, 20-40 cm, 40-60 cm

0-20

” “ e

1.

KCl

0-20 cm 20-40 cm

4.5 6.5,

5.2 -

0-20 cm 5.8 20-40

cm. -

40-60 cm

6.3 7.0, 6.7.

40-60 cm

1.

Table 1. Composition of agrochemical indicators of soil profiles in the intra row spacing of 'Elena' cultivar

Soil profile cm				N- NH ₄ +NO ₃	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	Humus
		H ₂ O	KCl	mg / kg	mg / 100 g		%
0-20 cm	Minimum	4.8	4.5	22.5	8.7	31.3	2.79
	Maximum	6.6	6.5	34.0	120.2	50.6	3.28
	/Mean	5.83	5.23	28.6	57.8	40.4	4.59
	/StError	0.54	0.63	3.34	32.87	5.60	0.81
	/StDev	0.93	1.1	5.79	56.93	9.70	1.40
	CV	15.95	21.03	20.24	98.49	24.00	30.50
20-40 cm	Minimum	4.9	4.7	14.4	14.8	28.1	3.41
	Maximum	6.6	6.5	37.4	137.3	37.7	6.07
	/Mean	5.97	5.83	25.13	76.83	34.17	4.64
	/StError	0.54	0.57	6.68	35.37	3.05	0.77
	/StDev	0.93	0.99	11.58	61.26	5.28	1.34
	CV	15.57	15.23	46.08	79.73	15.45	28.88
40-60 cm	Minimum	7.2	6.3	11.5	54.5	19.0	2.32
	Maximum	7.8	7.0	38.0	126.6	72.8	5.62
	/Mean	7.41	6.75	17.37	98.46	44.29	3.92
	/StError	0.07	0.07	3.11	8.34	6.83	0.43
	/StDev	0.20	0.21	8.79	23.59	19.31	1.21
	CV	2.70	3.11	50.60	23.95	43.60	30.87

60 cm) 4.0 (20-40 cm) 5.9 (40-0-20 cm, 4.9(pH) 40-60 cm - 20-40 cm - 5.3 (pH).

The inter row spacing of the three soil profiles is determined with an average degree of acidity ranging from 4.0 (20-40 cm) to 5.9 (40-60 cm). On average, pH is 5.3 at a depth of 0-20 cm, at the next depth of 20-40 cm it is 4.9 (pH) and for 40-60 cm it is the highest - 5.3 (pH). The variability of the first profile is low and increases in the next two.

The composition of agrochemical indicators of soil profiles is presented in Table 2.

2.

e

2.

Table 2. Composition of the agrochemical indicators of soil profiles in the inter row spacing of 'Elena' cultivar

Soil profile cm				N- NH ₄ +NO ₃	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	Humus
		H ₂ O	KCl	mg / kg	mg / 100 g	%	
0-20 cm	Minimum	5.2	4.7	11.5	1.6	13.5	1.53
	Maximum	6.2	5.9	25.3	25.4	50.6	2.57
	/Mean	5.71	5.3	15.15	8.25	29.29	2.13
	/StError	0.13	0.14	1.48	2.40	4.61	0.11
	/StDev	0.39	0.42	4.44	7.20	13.83	0.34
	CV	6.83	7.92	29.30	87.27	47.22	15.96
20-40 cm	Minimum	4.5	4.0	15.6	0.1	10.6	0.98
	Maximum	6.3	5.9	20.2	10.7	37.0	0.82
	/Mean	5.55	4.97	18.12	2.92	18.1	1.36
	/StError	0.21	0.23	0.50	1.22	2.78	0.11
	/StDev	0.65	0.71	1.49	3.67	8.33	0.33
	CV	11.71	14.28	8.22	125.68	46.02	24.26
40-60 cm	Minimum	4.7	4.1	11.5	2.0	14.9	1.06
	Maximum	6.7	5.9	24.8	8.4	23.7	1.85
	/Mean	6.07	5.30	17.15	5.05	17.42	1.32
	/StError	0.47	0.41	2.87	1.31	2.10	0.18
	/StDev	0.93	0.82	5.73	2.62	4.22	0.37
	CV	15.32	15.47	33.41	51.88	24.22	28.03

The nitrogen content reported within the intra row spacing, represented in ammonia and nitrate form at a soil profile of 0-20 cm, is in the range of 22.5-34.0 mg/kg. The average value of nitrogen content is 28.6 mg/kg, determining the profile as well-stocked. The 20-40 cm horizon is also characterized as well-stocked, although the nitrogen content is reduced to 25.1 mg / kg. In the 40-60 cm profile, the lowest average amount is reported - 17.4mg/kg, with a high degree of variation.

In the inter row spacing, the nitrogen content of the three depths is within the range of 11.5-25.3mg/kg. The highest mean values are found in the profile of 20-40 cm (18.1 mg/kg). At a

cm - -15.1 mg/kg 17.1 mg/kg
40-60 cm.

20-40 cm

8.7 120.2 mg/100 g, 0-20 cm
14.8 137.3 mg/100 g 20-40 cm
54.5 126.6 mg/100 g. 40-60 cm

: 57.8; 76.8 98.5 mg/100 g

20-40 cm
0.1 mg/100 g,
10.7 mg/100 g.

0-20 cm – 8.25

mg/100 g.

40 cm 20-
125.7%, 0-20 cm - 87.3 cm 40-
60 cm – 51.9 cm.

0-20 cm
31.3 50.6 mg/100 g.
40.4 mg/100 g,

20-40 cm,
34.2 mg/100
40-60

g.
cm,

– 44.3 mg/100 g,

depth of 0-20 cm it is lower-15.1 mg/kg and it is 17.1 mg/kg in the profile of 40-60 cm. The variability in values of this element at a depth of 20-40 cm is low, while for the other two profiles it is high.

In all three soil profiles, the values of phosphorus in the intra row spacing are reported with significant variations. At a depth of 0-20 cm it varies from 8.7 to 120.2 mg/100 g, at 20-40 cm from 14.8 to 137.3 mg/100 g and at 40-60 cm from 54.5 to 126.6 mg/100 g. Mean values for horizons increase with increasing the profile depth, respectively: 57.8; 76.8 and 98.5 mg/100 g determining the profile as highly stockpiled. The high variation in the content of the element and its higher values in some samples can be assumed to be due to the quantities of manure in this sector.

There is a strong variation of phosphorus in the inter-row spacing, indicating significant differences in the phosphorus amount in the individual samples. As for a 20-40 cm soil profile, the minimum value is 0.1 mg/100 g and the maximum is 10.7 mg/100 g. The highest average content of phosphorus is reported at a depth of 0-20 cm – 8.25 mg/100 g. Variability of that indicator is extremely high. At a depth of 20-40cm the variation coefficient is 125.7%, at 0-20cm - 87.3cm, and at 40-60cm - 51.9 cm. On the basis of data obtained, it can be determined that the three soil profiles are from profiles that are from slightly to highly stockpiled with phosphorus.

The values of potassium in the intra row spacing, at the horizon of 0-20 cm range from 31.3 to 50.6 mg/100 g. On average, it is 40.4 mg/100 g, which records a very good stockpile in this soil profile. The amount of this element is high at a depth of 20-40 cm. The average value of potassium is 34.2 mg/100 g. From the analysis of the third horizon 40-60 cm, the reported average values are high - 44.3mg/100g, probably due to the basic amount of manure in this soil layer. The variation coefficient is reported in

0-20 cm – 29.3 mg/100 g,
 20-40 cm 18.1 mg/100 g,
 40-60 cm 17.4 mg/100 g.

0-20 cm 20-40
 – 4.6%.
 40-60 cm
 3.9%.

0-20 cm (– 2.1%),
 1.36% 20-40 cm
 1.32% 40-60 cm.

“ ”
 40 cm 40-60 cm
 0-20 cm; 20-
 pH.
 0-20 cm.

high values for all three soil profiles.

The high values of potassium are reported also in the inter row area. On average, the highest content is 23.93 mg/100 g at a depth of 0-20 cm, which determines the profile as well-stocked. Its content decreases in descending line in depth, as at a depth of 20-40 cm it is 18.1 mg/100 g, and at a depth of 40-60 cm it is 17.4 mg/100 g. The variation in the content of this element in the profiles is high.

The reported results for the humus content indicate that its values from the soil depths are low, which is characteristic of the soil diversity. The humus content is average 4.6% at a depth of 0-20 cm and 20-40 cm in the row. In the following horizon of 40-60 cm, it decreases up to 3.9%. The variation in the organic matter is from medium to high at the three depths.

The humus content in the inter row spacing is the highest in the profile of 0-20 cm (average - 2.1%), which determines the profile as poorly stockpiled. For the other two depths, the humus content is the same, 1.36% for the profile 20-40 cm and 1.32% for the 40-60 cm profile. The variation in organic substance values for the first profile is average and high for the other two depths.

CONCLUSIONS

In plum plant of "Elena" cultivar, an assessment of the soil's stock with the basic nutritional macro elements - nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in soil profiles 0-20 cm; 20-40 cm and 40-60 cm. The humus content and pH content of soil profiles at different depths were taken into account.

The results show a good soil stockpile with phosphorus and potassium from the intra row spacing of the tree area and nitrogen from a soil profile of 0-20 cm.

A low nitrogen content was registered in the inter row spacing. Phosphorus stockpile was registered as

slight to average. It is found that the potassium amount that its decreases with the depth of the soil profile. The soil stockpile with macroelements varies from well-stockpiled at soil profile of 0-20 cm to averagely at 20-40 cm and 40-60 cm.

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Economic efficiency of apple fertilization

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SUMMARY

The investigation was carried during the period 2014-2016 at the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil, Bulgaria with apple Florina cultivar grafted on clonal rootstock MM 106. The trees grown in Chromic Luvisols and planted at 4,5x3 m.

Fertilization treatments were V1 – non fertilized (control), V2 - 3,7 kg/da N, V3 - 3,7 kg/da N + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V4 – chicken manure - 370 kg/da, V5 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V6 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron, V7 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da, V8 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V9 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron, V10 - foliar fertilizer Leli 2000, V11 - foliar fertilizer AmiCa, V12 - foliar fertilizer ProBoron.

Average for the period chicken manure 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ application increased significantly yield with 112,61% and chicken manure 185 kg/da + CaBoron foliar fertilizer with 199,35%. AmiCa foliar fertilizer increase yield with 137,49%.

Fertilizer treatments insignificant increased average fruit weight. In comparative economic analysis of the variants was established that fertilization

2014-2016 .
-
,
106.
(Chromic Luvisols).
4,5 3m.
- V1 - (), V2 -
3,7 kg/da N, V3 - 3,7 kg/da N +
++, V4 - - 370
kg/da, V5 - - 370 kg/da +
370 kg/da + ++, V6 - -
185 kg/da, V8 - -
185 kg/da + ++, V9 - -
, V10 - 2000, V11 -
K , V12 - -
- 185 kg/da +
++
112,61%,
185 kg/da +
- 199,35%.
137,49%

(*Malus domestica* Borkh.)

2012 . 52,4 .

, 26%

- 16,7%

- 15,0%.

2007 . -

148,5%.

2012 .

127% 2007 . (xxx, 2013).

GoldRush' (Wargo et al., 2003), Golden Delicious Reinders® (Mili et al., 2012) Charavnitza (Ryabtseva et al., 2005).

Golden Red Delicious (Jafarpour and Poursakhi, 2011), Galarina (Palt) (Azad, 2009), GoldRush (Wargo et al., 2003), Generos Florina (Sinziana, 2016), Anna (Mosa et al., 2015), COOP 10 (Radomirska and Sotirov, 2009) Granny Smith (Radomirska, 2011; Sotirov et al., 2012).

Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014).

Golden Delicious (Amiri et al., 2008) Starkrimson Golden Delicious (Hangan and Fit, 2010).

- has a positive and higher efficiency in apple production.

Key words: apple, fertilization, yield, average fruit weight, economic analysis

INTRODUCTION

The apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) is one of the main fruit crops growing in Bulgaria. In 2012 the apple plantations were 52,4 thousand dca, 26% of the permanent crops. The most common variety was Golden Delicious – 16,7% of the area, followed by Florina – 15,0%. The comparison of the data on the variety structure with the data of 2007 reveals that the greatest increase was observed for the area of the Florina variety – by 148,5%. The most common variety in Kyustendil region was Florina, which in 2012 increases its area by 127% compared to 2007 (xxx, 2013).

Nitrogen fertilization increased the yield of 'GoldRush' apple in USA (Wargo et al., 2003), of Golden Delicious Reinders® apple in Serbia, but not significant (Mili et al., 2012) and decreased the yield of Charavnitza in Belarus (Ryabtseva et al., 2005).

Foliar fertilizer application increased the yield of Golden and Red Delicious apple in Iran (Jafarpour and Poursakhi, 2011) of Galarina (Palt) in Iraq (Azad, 2009), of GoldRush (Wargo et al., 2003) of Generos and Florina in Romania (Sinziana, 2016) of Anna (Mosa et al., 2015) and of Granny Smith in Bulgaria (Radomirska, 2011; Sotirov et al., 2012).

Bio-fertilizers produced a positive effect on the productivity of Ariwa apple trees in Poland (Rozpara et al., 2014).

Combination of soil and foliar treatment increased the yield of Golden Delicious in Iran (Amiri et al., 2008) and of Starkrimson and Golden Delicious in Romania (Hangan and Fit, 2010).

(Mili et al., 2012),
 (Ryabtseva et al., 2005)
 (Wargo et al., 2003).
 (Azad, 2009;
 Jafarpour and Poursakhi, 2011; Mosa et al., 2015).
 (Amiri et al., 2008; Blagov et al., 2012).
 (Jivan and Sala, 2014), $R^2=0,43^{**}$
 (Bochi , 2012),
 (Jivan and Sala, 2014).
 ($R^2=0,79^{**}$)
 ($R^2=0,02$ n.s.)
 ($R^2=0,018$ n.s.) (Bochi , 2012).
 U.S.\$ 5,688 \$10,954/ha
 (Wargo et al., 2003).
 (Radomirska, 2011).

The research results showed, that N-fertilization had a great effect on fruit quality (Mili et al., 2012), decreased mean fruit weight (Ryabtseva et al., 2005) and had no effect (Wargo et al., 2003). Foliar spray significantly increased fruit fresh weight (Azad, 2009; Jafarpour and Poursakhi, 2011; Mosa et al., 2015). The application of complex fertilization of the soil and foliar fertilization improved apple fruit quality (Amiri et al., 2008; Blagov et al., 2012).

Correlation between sugars and acids in fruits was positive (Jivan and Sala, 2014), $R^2=0,43^{**}$ (Bochi , 2012), negative or had not correlation (Jivan and Sala, 2014). Under foliar fertilization conditions were found positive correlations between average fruit yield and fruit mass ($R^2=0,79^{**}$), correlation between average fruit yield and sugar was ($R^2=0,02$ n.s.) and average fruit yield – acids was ($R^2=0,018$ n.s.) (Bochi , 2012).

The N treatments increased net returns by U.S. \$5,688 to \$10,954 per ha compared with unfertilized controls and foliar applications produced the greatest net crop market value (Wargo et al., 2003). The additional costs for the foliar fertilization were minimal and had not affected economic efficiency (Radomirska, 2011).

The aim of the experiment is to determine the effect of mineral, organic and leaf fertilization on the production and economic efficiency of Florina apple trees.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The investigation was carried during the period 2014-2016 at the Institute of Agriculture — Kyustendil, Bulgaria with apple Florina cultivar grafted on clonal rootstock MM 106. The trees grown in Chromic Luvisols and planted at 4,5x3 m. Fertilization treatments were: V1 - non fertilized (control); V2 - 3,7 kg/da N -

2014-2016
 106.
 (Chromic Luvisols).
 4,5 3m.

: V1 - (); V2 - 3,7 kg/da N - ; V3 - 3,7 kg/da N + ++ - 120 ml/da; V4 - - 370 kg/da; V5 - - 370 kg/da + ++ - 120 ml/da; V6 - - 370 kg/da + - 60 ml/da; V7 - - 185 kg/da; V8 - - 185 kg/da + ++ - 120 ml/da; V9 - - 185 kg/da + - 60 ml/da; V10 - 2000 - 100 ml/da; V11 - - 150 ml/da; V12 - - 50 ml/da.

: - 33%; („ - ”) - N > 3%, P₂O₅ > 2%, K₂O > 1,5%, > 60%, Fe 1000 mg/kg, Zn 250 mg/kg, Mg 5000-6000 mg/kg, Cu 50mg/kg, B 7 mg/kg, Mo 8 mg/kg, Co 2 mg/kg, Ca 15000-20000 mg/kg, Mn 200-300 mg/kg; ++ - N > 5%, P₂O₅ > 4%, K₂O > 3%, Cu > 0,02%, Zn > 0,01%, > 2,6% > 14%; - K₂O 12%, CaO 6%, 1,5%; 2000 - N 9%, P₂O₅ 3%, K₂O 65, Fe 1,6%, Cu 0,8%, Zn 1,2%, Mn 0,4%, > 1,4%, > 18%; K - N 5%, CaO 14%, 7%, 10%; - N 5%, 14%, 15%.

, kg/ ; = - / + .100, %, , 0-40% , 40-75% , 75-100% ; , g; - ” ”, I - II, %; - ; - (Stanchev et al., 1968); : , kg/da; lv/da; , lv/da ; , %;

ammonium nitrate; V3 - 3,7 kg/da N + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++; V4 – chicken manure - 370 kg/da; V5 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++; V6 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron; V7 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da; V8 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++; V9 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron; V10 - foliar fertilizer Leili 2000; V11 - foliar fertilizer AmiCa; V12 - foliar fertilizer ProBoron.

Chemical composition of fertilizers: Ammonium nitrate - N 33%; Chicken manure (“Valentin Georgiev – Valdis ET”) - N > 3%, P₂O₅ > 2%, K₂O > 1,5%, organic matter > 60%, Fe 1000 mg/kg, Zn 250 mg/kg, Mg 5000-6000 mg/kg, Cu 50mg/kg, B 7 mg/kg, Mo 8 mg/kg, Co 2 mg/kg, Ca 15000-20000 mg/kg, Mn 200-300 mg/kg; SoftGuard++ - N > 5%, P₂O₅ > 4%, K₂O > 3%, Cu > 0,02%, Zn > 0,01%, chitosan > 2,6% organic matter > 14%; CaBoron - K₂O 12%, CaO 6%, 1,5%; Leili 2000 - N 9%, P₂O₅ 3%, K₂O 65, Fe 1,6%, Cu 0,8%, Zn 1,2%, Mn 0,4%, alginic acid > 1,4%, seaweed extract > 18%; AmiCa - N 5%, CaO 14%, organic matter 7%, amino acids 10%; ProBoron - N 5%, 14%, organic matter 15%.

The following parameters were investigated: Yield, kg/tree; Alternate bearing index - ABI = - / + .100, %, when and are the yield in two consecutive years, 0-40% - no alternate bearing, 40-75% moderate alternate bearing, 75-100% - alternate bearing; Average fruit weight, g; Fruit quality - “Extra” Class, Class I and Class II, %; Chemical composition of fruits - dry matter - refractometric determination; total sugars - Schoorl method; acids - determination by titration, sugar:acid ratio (Stanchev et al., 1968); For the comparative economic analysis of the treatments a system of indicators was used: average yield, kg/da; gross production, BGN/da; production costs, BGN/da; net income, BGN/da and rate of

(r) - Pearson (Daniel and Kostic, 2015);
LSD (Maneva, 2007).

return; Pearson correlation coefficient (r) (Daniel and Kostic, 2015); Statistics analysis LSD (Maneva, 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Both variants of ammonium nitrate increased the yield significant only in the first year of the study (Table 1).

(1).

1. , kg/ ;
() , %

Table 1. Yield, kg/tree; alternate bearing index (ABI) in Florina apple, %

Variant	/Year			kg/ kg/tree	/Average		/ABI
	2014	2015	2016		%	2014-2015	
V1 st	8,17	27,60	6,09	13,95	100,00	54,32	63,85
V2	23,8*	39,90	5,09	22,93	164,37	25,27	77,37
V3	24,2*	37,58	14,37	25,38	181,93	21,66	44,68
LSD 0,05	12,04	ns	ns	ns			
sd/f	4,91/6,94						
V1 st	8,17	27,60	6,09	13,95	100,00	54,32	63,85
V4	19,60	37,18	11,97	22,92	164,30	30,96	51,29
V5	33,5**	25,08	25,14*	27,91	200,07	14,37	0,12
V6	26,8*	28,98	24,44*	26,74	191,68	3,91	8,50
V7	19,10	38,25	17,88	25,08	179,78	33,39	36,29
V8	25,5*	37,37	26,12*	29,66*	212,61	18,88	17,72
V9	34,3**	45,72	45,26***	41,76***	299,35	14,27	0,51
LSD 0,05	14,87	ns	14,66	14,36			
sd/f	7,08/3,33		6,98/6,45	6,84/2,97			
V1 st	8,17	27,60	6,09	13,95	100,00	54,32	63,85
V10	29,3*	36,51	25,26*	30,36	217,63	10,96	18,21
V11	41,7**	25,11	32,59**	33,13*	237,49	24,83	12,96
V12	20,0	37,56	5,65	21,07	151,04	30,51	73,84
LSD 0,05	20,52	ns	14,37	18,4			
sd/f	9,08/4,89		6,36/9,2	8,15/2,33			

* - P<0,05, ** - P<0,01, *** - P<0,001, ns -

/non significant

„ ”

In the "off" years chicken manure application in combination with foliar fertilizers statistically increased the magnitude of the this parameter, as in Amiri et al. (2008) and Hangan and Fit (2010).

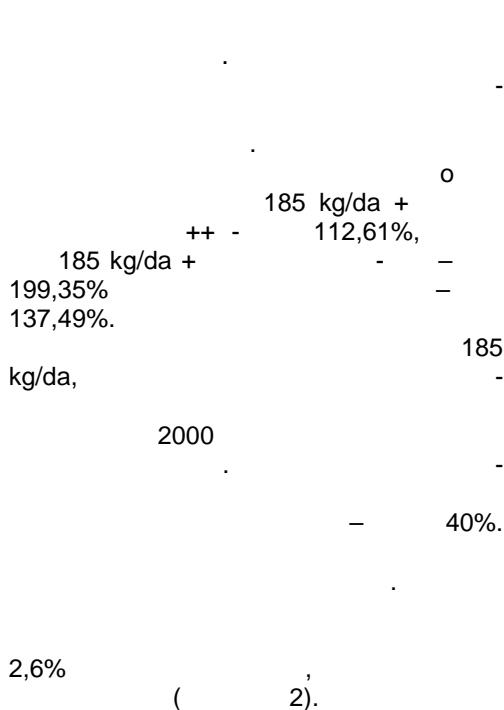
Amiri et al. (2008)
Hangan and Fit (2010).

2000

Leili 2000 and AmiCa fertilizers application increased the yield of Florina apple.

„ ” 2015 .

During the "on" 2015, the impact of



fertilization on yield was dissimilar.

Average for the period, all tested fertilization variants increased the yield. The increase over the control was significant in fertilization with chicken manure 185 kg/da + SoftGuard++ - by 112,61%, chicken manure 185 kg/da + CaBoron - by 199,35% and for leaf fertilizer AmiCa - with 137,49%.

The application of chicken manure 185 kg/da, the four combinations with chicken and leaf fertilizers application and Leili 2000 and AmiCa reduced the alternate bearing. The ABI was in the group of no alternate bearing - up to 40%. Trees of the unfertilized variant were in the group of moderate alternate bearing.

Ammonium nitrate fertilizing reduced insignificant the average fruit weight by 2,6% on average for the period (Table 2).

2. Average fruit weight in Florina apple, g

Variant	/Year						/Average	
	2014		2015		2016		g	%
	g	%	g	%	g	%	g	%
V1 st	154	100,0	158	100,0	149	100,0	154	100,0
V2	162	105,2	133	84,20	154	103,4	150	97,40
V3	174	113,0	163	103,2	152	102,0	163	105,8
LSD 0,05	ns		ns		ns		ns	
V1 st	154	100,0	158	100,0	149	100,0	154	100,0
V4	168	109,1	152	96,20	154	103,4	158	102,6
V5	169	109,7	173	109,5	165	110,7	169	109,7
V6	180*	116,9	143	90,50	159	106,7	161	104,5
V7	170	110,4	173	109,5	154	103,4	166	107,8
V8	175	113,6	165	104,4	166	111,4	169	109,7
V9	177	114,9	176	111,4	148	99,30	167	108,4
LSD 0,05	24,04		ns		ns		ns	
sd/f	11,45/1,12							
V1 st	154	100,0	158	100,0	149	100,0	154	100,0
V10	174	113,0	172	108,9	162	108,7	169	109,7
V11	176	114,3	174	110,1	161	108,1	170	110,4
V12	177	114,9	157	99,40	159	106,7	164	106,5
LSD 0,05	ns		ns		ns		ns	

* - P<0,05, ns -

/non significant

	2016		
kg/da	185 kg/da	7,8%	370
	2,6%		
+			4,5
			9,7%
		6,5%	
			10,4%
			3,12%
			5,62%
	3,7%	185 kg/da	
4,37%	370 kg/da		
	++ -	5,62	2,5%
-	9,37	5%	
			2000
	3,7%		
			8,89%
			20%
2000,			
2,22%			

The increase in the chicken manure rate decreased insignificant the average fruit weight during two years and average for the experiment, and in 2016 had not affect the parameter. Chicken manure 185 kg/da application increased the parameter by 7,8% and the rate of 370 kg/da - by 2,6% above the control, the differences were insignificant.

Combined application of chicken manure + foliar fertilizer increased insignificant the average fruit weight from 4,5 to 9,7%. The foliar fertilizers application increased insignificant the quality parameter from 6,5% in ProBoron to 10,4% in AmiCa.

Average for the period, the ammonium nitrate treatment reduced the dry matter content by 3,12%, and the ammonium nitrate + leaf application was 5,62% compared with the control.

The increase in chicken manure rate reduced the fruit dry matter content by 3,7% at 185 kg/da and by 4,37% at 370 kg/da compared to the unfertilized standart. In the combined application a higher decrease was recorded for the lower rate - for SoftGuard++ - by 5,62 and 2,5% and for CaBoron - by 9,37 and 5% respectively.

Leili 2000 application had no effect on dry matter, and for other leaf fertilizers it decreased to 3,7% for AmiCa.

Both variants of ammonium nitrate reduced the acid content to the same extent.

Chicken manure treatments reduced acidity, with a larger decrease was at a lower rate of 8,89% compared to the control, and combined application decreased the value of the parameter to a greater extent.

Foliar fertilizers decreased acids content to 20% in Leili 2000 and in ProBoron acids increased with 2,22%.

2,24%
185 kg/da +
" "
0,26 0,99 (

Pearson (r)
3).

Bochi (2012)

All fertilizer treatments reduced the sugar content from 2,24% in the AmiCa to 7,79% in chicken manure 185 kg/da + CaBoron foliar fertilizer.

The correlation between "Extra" yield and the average fruit weight was positive for all treatments. The Pearson coefficient (r) ranged from 0,26 to 0,99 (Table 3). No definite relationship was found between the yield and the average fruit weight, and in a Bochi study (2012) the correlation was positive.

3.

Pearson (r)

Table 3. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between some reproductive and fruit quality parameters of Florina apple

Variant	r/Correlation coefficient r											
	Y _n	Y-AFW	Y-AFW	Y-DM	Y-S	Y-A	AFW-DM	AFW-S	AFW-A	DM-S	DM-A	S-A
V1	0,88	0,88	-0,12	-0,57	-0,31	-0,58	-0,90	-0,73	0,88	0,98	0,96	
V2	0,99	-0,67	-0,93	0,89	-0,66	0,36	-0,25	-0,11	-0,99	0,89	-0,93	
V3	0,99	0,42	0,72	0,99	-0,59	-0,33	0,28	-0,98	0,82	0,14	-0,45	
V4	0,97	-0,33	0,93	0,99	-0,22	-0,66	-0,41	-0,85	0,96	0,16	-0,13	
V5	0,85	-0,01	-0,99	-0,81	-0,82	-0,09	0,60	-0,55	0,75	0,88	0,34	
V6	0,26	-0,41	0,70	0,68	0,88	-0,94	-0,95	0,08	0,99	0,28	0,25	
V7	0,99	0,66	-0,05	0,83	0,84	-0,78	0,97	0,15	-0,60	0,50	0,40	
V8	0,91	-0,61	-0,02	-0,02	0,83	-0,78	-0,78	-0,95	0,99	0,54	0,54	
V9	0,99	-0,50	0,98	0,99	0,47	-0,65	-0,57	-0,99	0,99	0,63	0,55	
V10	0,95	0,67	-0,63	-0,40	-0,43	-0,99	-0,95	-0,96	0,96	0,97	0,99	
V11	0,88	0,18	-0,45	0,06	-0,55	0,80	0,99	-0,92	0,87	-0,50	-0,87	
V12	0,52	-0,15	-0,66	-0,53	-0,78	-0,65	-0,76	-0,50	0,99	0,98	0,95	

" " -
- /Y- yield
- /AFW – average fruit weight
- /DM – dry matter
- /S - sugars
- /A – acids

The relationship between yield and dry matter was moderate negative in the foliar application treatments and strongly positive for both chicken manure rates + CaBoron.

There was a strong positive correlation between yield and sugars in both ammonium nitrate treatments, at both chicken manure rates and in both combinations with CaBoron.

-
 -
 + - .
 -
 2000
 .
 2000 + -
 .
 ++
 .
 ()
 (r) 0,82
 .
 185 kg/da +
 .
 -
 .
 2000
 .
 (1). -
 185 kg/da +
 ml/da) - 498 lv/da,
 - 354 lv/da.
 V9 (- - 60
 .
 46-144 lv/da,
 .

- The relationship between yield and acids was moderate negative of the three foliar fertilizers and of the ammonium nitrate variants and medium to strong positive for both chicken manure rates + CaBoron.

- An inverse relationship between the average fruit weight and the dry matter was found under conditions of the six chicken manure variants and of the Leili 2000 and ProBoron.

- The relationship between the average weight of the fruit and the sugars was negative in both the chicken manure rates + CaBoron and in Leili 2000 and ProBoron foliar fertilizers.

- The average to strong negative was the correlation between the average fruit weight and the acids in the three treatments with SoftGaurd++ and for the three foliar fertilizers.

- In all foliar fertilizer treatments (combined and separately), the relationship between dry matter and sugars was strongly positive - (r) ranging from 0,82 in combinations with ammonium nitrate to 0,99 for ProBoron, the two variants with CaBoron and chicken manure 185 kg/da + SoftGurad++.

- The acids - dry matter and acids - sugars relationships were positive, for the four combinations with chicken manure and foliar fertilizers and for Leili 2000 and ProBoron.

- During and an average for the period, the production costs of the fertilization variants were higher than the control (Figure 1). The highest production cost was the V9 variant (chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron - 60 ml/da) - 498 BGN/da and the lowest at control - 354 BGN/da. The additional production costs for the fertilizer variants were within the range of 46-144 BGN/da, which were the result of the costs incurred for fertilization and the resulting additional fruit production.

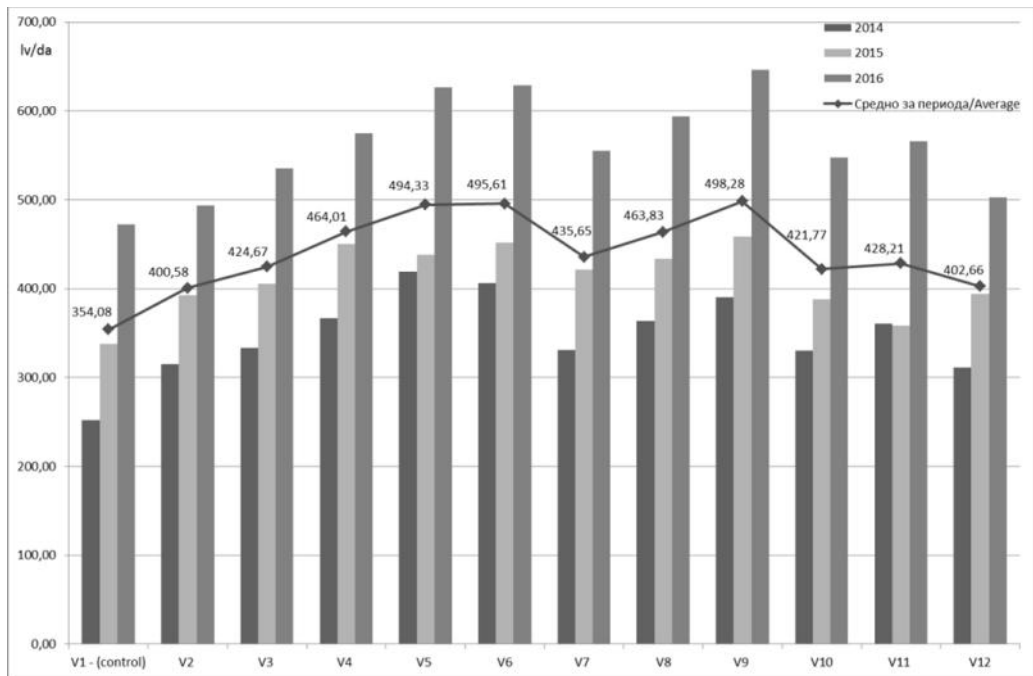


Fig. 1. Production costs, BGN/da

The value of gross production in the studied variants, had a significant impact on the amount of the average yield. On average for the survey period it was found that the gross production of all fertilization variants was higher than the control. When comparing variants fertilized with nitrogen fertilizer and two doses and chicken manure, the addition of leaf fertilizer results in higher gross production. The highest value was V9 - 2883 lv/da, which exceeds the control by 1914 lv/da (Figure 2). Of the variants fertilized only with leaf fertilizer AmiCa has the highest value - 2292 BGN/da. The difference in this indicator with the other two foliar fertilizers is 8.6 and 36% respectively for Leili 2000 and ProBoron. In the case of the higher doses of soil fertilizer and ammonium nitrate introduced, the addition of foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ results in a higher effect, whereas the lower rate of the chicken manure advantage was the variant of CaBoron foliar fertilizer.

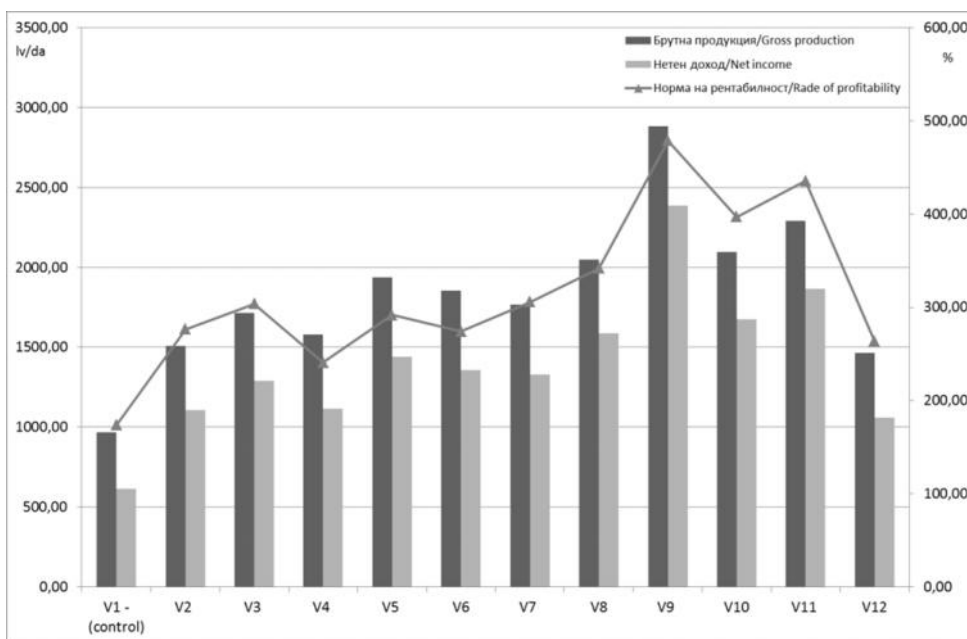


Fig. 2. Gross production and net income, BGN/da, Rate of profitability, %

614.5 – 2385.1 lv/da.

lv/da V12 1771 lv/da V9. 446

lv/kg

- 185 kg/da +
60 ml/da.

- 0.36 lv/kg.

479%.

V9, 174%
V11 – 435%, V10 – 397%, V8 – 342%,
V7 – 306%, V3 – 304%, V5 – 292%, V2 –
276%, V6 – 274%, V12 – 263%, V4 –
240% V1 –

Net income was in the range of 614.5 - 2385.1 BGN/da. The resulting additional net income was 446 BGN/da at V12 to 1771 BGN/da at V9.

An important criterion for the economic assessment of production was also the prime cost, which is determined by the level of average yields and the amount of production costs. Of the studied variants with low prime cost of production 0.17 BGN/kg was characterized chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron - 60 ml/da. The highest average prime cost of production for the studied period was obtained in the non-fertilized (control) - 0.36 BGN/kg.

The rate of profitability for Florina apples ranged from 174% to 479%. The most effective was V9, followed by V11 - 435%, V10 - 397%, V8 - 342%, V7 - 306%, V3 - 304%, V5 - 292%, V2 - 276%, V6 - 274%, V12 - 263%, V4 - 240% and V1 - non-fertilized.

CONCLUSIONS

kg/da + 112,61%,
 - 185 kg/da + 199,35%
 - 137,49%.

kg/da, 185 kg/da 370 kg/da
 2000
 9,7%,
 10,4%.

2000
 0,95 0,99.

- 2,5 kg/ () + V9 ()
) - 2883 lv/da, 1914 lv/da.

- Average for the period, chicken manure 185 kg/da + SoftGuard++ application increased Florina apple yield by 112,61%, chicken manure 185 kg/da + CaBoron - by 199,35% and foliar fertilizer AmiCa - by 137,49%.

- Alternate bearing in Florina trees wasn't established under chicken manure 185 kg/da, under the four combinations - chicken manure 185 kg/da and 370 kg/da with foliar application with SoftGuard++ and CaBoron foliar fertilizers and with Leili 2000 and AmiCa separately.

- It was found that the combined application of chicken manure + foliar fertilizer insignificant increased the average fruit weight in Florina apple to 9,7% and the foliar fertilizers application to 10,4%.

- Fertilizing treatments reduced the content of dry matter, sugars and acids in the Florina apple.

- The correlation between "Extra" yield and the average fruit weight at Florina was positive for all fertilization treatments. They found positive relationships of yield with dry matter, sugars and acids at the both chicken manure treatments + CaBoron. For Leili 2000 and ProBoron, these relationships were negative as well as those of the average fruit weight with the three indicators of the fruit chemical composition. In these two fertilizers, the dry matter connections with sugars and acids and sugars with acids were strongly positive - (r) ranging from 0,95 to 0,99.

- The value of gross production of fertilization variants was higher than the unfertilized control. The highest value was V9 (chicken manure - 185 kg/da + Ka-Boron) - 2883 BGN/da, which exceeds the control by 1914 BGN/da.

- The most effective was the cultivation of Florina apples with combined fertilization - soil with chicken

lv/kg,
479%.

- . | manure and foliar fertilizer CaBoron. Cost
0.17 | of production was 0.17 BGN/kg and the
- | rate of profitability was 479%.

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The influence of fertilization on vegetative parameters of Florina apple

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SUMMARY

The investigation was carried during the period 2014-2016 at the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil, Bulgaria with apple Florina cultivar grafted on clonal rootstock MM 106. The trees grown in *Chromic Luvisols* and planted at 4,5x3 m.

Fertilization treatments were V1 – non fertilized (control), V2 - 3,7 kg/da N, V3 - 3,7 kg/da N + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V4 – chicken manure - 370 kg/da, V5 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V6 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron, V7 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da, V8 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++, V9 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron, V10 - foliar fertilizer Leili 2000, V11 - foliar fertilizer AmiCa, V12 - foliar fertilizer ProBoron.

Chicken manure application 185 kg/da increased significantly trunk cross-sectional area of Florina apple trees in eight vegetation with 47,11% and combined fertilization of chicken manure 185 kg/da + SoftGuard++ foliar fertilizer increased with 42,18%.

Average for the period chicken

2014-2016 .
-
, 106. -
(*Chromic Luvisols*).
4,5 3m.
- V1 - (), V2 -
3,7 kg/daN, V3 - 3,7 kg/da N +
++, V4 - - 370
kg/da, V5 - - 370 kg/da +
++, V6 - -
370 kg/da + - , V7 -
- 185 kg/da, V8 - -
185 kg/da + ++, V9 -
- 185 kg/da + 2000, V11 -
, V10 - K , V12 -
kg/da 185
47,11%,
185 kg/da
++ - 42,18%. -

46,82%.

185 kg/da +
-

manure application 185 kg/da + CaBoron
foliar fertilizer increased significantly
crown volume with 46,82%.

In Florina apple trees significant
correlation was found between trunk
cross-sectional area and crown volume in
all treatments.

Key words: apple, fertilization,
trunk cross-sectional area, crown volume

(*Malus domestica* Borkh.)

(Wargo et al.,
2003; Wrona, 2004; Ryabtseva et al.,
2005; Wrona, 2011; Bochi, 2012; Tojnko
et al., 2012; Sugareva, 2013; Kakehzadeh
et al., 2014; Rozpara et al., 2014; Mosa et
al., 2015; Dimitrova, 2016).

(Wargo et al., 2003; Wrona, 2004; Racskó
et al., 2005; Ryabtseva et al., 2005; Amiri
et al., 2008; Azad, 2009; Radomirska and
Sotirov, 2009; Hangan and Fit, 2010;
Gerasimova and Rankova, 2011; Jafarpour
and Poursakhi, 2011; Radomirska, 2011;
Blagov et al., 2012; Bochi, 2012; Jivan
and Sala, 2012; Mili et al., 2012; Radomirska
and Sotirov, 2012; Sotirov et al., 2012;
Tojnko et al., 2012; Lu et al., 2013; Jivan
and Sala, 2014; Rozpara et al., 2014; Mosa
et al., 2015; Von Bennewitz et al., 2015;
Sinziiana, 2016.).

Wrona, 2011).
al., (2012)

(Wrona, 2004;
Tojnko et

Gala.

INTRODUCTION

The prolonged cultivation of the
apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) in one
place leads to extraction of large
quantities of nutrients. Fertilization is
important agrotechnical measure for
maintaining soil fertility and growth
(Wargo et al., 2003; Wrona, 2004;
Ryabtseva et al., 2005; Wrona, 2011;
Bochi, 2012; Tojnko et al., 2012;
Sugareva, 2013; Kakehzadeh et al., 2014;
Rozpara et al., 2014; Mosa et al., 2015;
Dimitrova, 2016). Fertilization increased
fruiting and quality of apple (Wargo et al.,
2003; Wrona, 2004; Racskó et al., 2005;
Ryabtseva et al., 2005; Amiri et al., 2008;
Azad, 2009; Radomirska and Sotirov,
2009; Hangan and Fit, 2010; Gerasimova
and Rankova, 2011; Jafarpour and
Poursakhi, 2011; Radomirska, 2011;
Blagov et al., 2012; Bochi, 2012; Jivan
and Sala, 2012; Mili et al., 2012;
Radomirska and Sotirov, 2012; Sotirov et
al., 2012; Tojnko et al., 2012; Lu et al.,
2013; Jivan and Sala, 2014; Rozpara et
al., 2014; Mosa et al., 2015; Von
Bennewitz et al., 2015; Sinziiana, 2016.).

In experiments N fertilization did not
significance effect on growth of the trees
as compared with not fertilized control
(Wrona, 2004; Wrona, 2011). The results
of Tojnko et al., (2012) showed no
significant effect of different rates of
nitrogen on Gala tree vegetative
performance.

With the highest values of the trunk
cross sectional area and crown volume of

kg/ (Sugareva, 2013), Golden Delicious – 1,0 kg/ (Kakehzadeh et al., 2014), 2,5 150 kg/da Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014).

Charavnitsa (Ryabtseva et al., 2005) Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014).

Granny Smith, Pinova, Topaz Jonica (Bochi , 2012) Anna (Mosa et al., 2015).

(kg/cm²) Šampion (Wrona, 2004), Jonagored (Wrona, 2011), Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014)

GoldRush, (Wargo et al., 2003).

e Tojnko et al.,(2012).

Dimitrova (2016).

Florina apple were trees, fertilizing with chicken manure 2,5 kg/tree (Sugareva, 2013), of Golden Delicious - 1,0 kg/tree (Kakehzadeh et al., 2014), rate of 150 kg/da significant increased Ariwa apple trunks (Rozpara et al., 2014). Application of biological fertilizers caused an increase of trunk cross-sectional area in the Charavnitsa (Ryabtseva et al., 2005) and Ariwa apple trees (Rozpara et al., 2014).

The foliar application had a positive effect to improve the vegetative growth of Granny Smith, Pinova, Topaz and Jonica (Bochi , 2012) and Anna apple trees (Mosa et al., 2015).

The productivity coefficient (kg/cm²) was not affected by the nitrogen fertilization treatments in trials with Šampion (Wrona, 2004), Jonagored (Wrona, 2011), Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014) and in the first year's in experiment with GoldRush and in the second year an increase was found (Wargo et al., 2003).

A positive relationship was found between the rates of applied N and yield efficiency in experiment of Tojnko et al. (2012). Significant positive correlation dependence of yield on trunk cross-sectional area in apple varieties was found, and was slightly negative in apple hybrids in the study of Dimitrova (2016).

The aim of this experiment is to determine the effect of mineral and organic fertilizers and foliar application on the growth of Florina apple trees.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The investigation was carried during the period 2014-2016 at the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil, Bulgaria with apple Florina cultivar grafted on clonal rootstock MM 106. The trees grown in *Chromic Luvisols* and planted at 4,5x3 m. Fertilization treatments were:

2014-2016 .
-
,
106.
(*Chromic Luvisols*).
4,5 3m.
:
V1 - ()

V1 - non fertilized (control)

V2 - 3,7 kg/daN -
 V3 - 3,7 kg/daN +
 ++ - 120 ml/da
 V4 - - 370 kg/da
 V5 - - 370 kg/da +
 ++ - 120 ml/da
 V6 - - 370 kg/da +
 - - 60 ml/da
 V7 - - 185 kg/da
 V8 - - 185 kg/da +
 ++ - 120 ml/da
 V9 - - 185 kg/da +
 - - 60 ml/da
 V10 - 2000 - 100 ml/da
 V11 - - 150 ml/da
 V12 - - 50 ml/da

:
 - 33%.

(„) - N > 3%, P₂O₅ > 2%, K₂O > 1,5%,
 > 60%, Fe 1000 mg/kg, Zn 250 mg/kg, Mg 5000-6000 mg/kg, Cu 50mg/kg, B 7 mg/kg, Mo 8 mg/kg, Co 2 mg/kg, Ca 15000-20000 mg/kg, Mn 200-300 mg/kg.

++ (-) - N > 5%, P₂O₅ > 4%, K₂O > 3%, Cu > 0,02%, Zn > 0,01%, > 2,6% > 14%.

- (-) -K₂O 12%, CaO 6%, 1,5%.

2000 (-) - N 9%, P₂O₅ 3%, K₂O 65, Fe 1,6%, Cu 0,8%, Zn 1,2%, Mn 0,4%, > 1,4%, > 18%.

K - (-) - N 5%, CaO 14%, 7%, 10%.

(-) - N 5%, 14%, 15%.

:

S = .r², cm².

/12, m³.

/

V2 - 3,7 kg/da N - ammonium nitrate
 V3 - 3,7 kg/da N + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++
 V4 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da
 V5 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++
 V6 - chicken manure - 370 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron
 V7 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da
 V8 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++
 V9 - chicken manure - 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron
 V10 - foliar fertilizer Leili 2000
 V11 - foliar fertilizer AmiCa
 V12 - foliar fertilizer ProBoron

Chemical composition of fertilizers:
 Ammonium nitrate – N 33%.

Chicken manure (“Valentin Georgiev – Valdis ET”) - N > 3%, P₂O₅ > 2%, K₂O > 1,5%, organic matter > 60%, Fe 1000 mg/kg, Zn 250 mg/kg, Mg 5000-6000 mg/kg, Cu 50mg/kg, B 7 mg/kg, Mo 8 mg/kg, Co 2 mg/kg, Ca 15000-20000 mg/kg, Mn 200-300 mg/kg.

SoftGuard++ (Agro-Bio Trading Ltd) - N > 5%, P₂O₅ > 4%, K₂O > 3%, Cu > 0,02%, Zn > 0,01%, chitosan > 2,6% organic matter > 14%.

CaBoron (Agro-Bio Trading Ltd) - K₂O 12%, CaO 6%, 1,5%.

Leili 2000 (Agro-Bio Trading Ltd) - N 9%, P₂O₅ 3%, K₂O 65, Fe 1,6%, Cu 0,8%, Zn 1,2%, Mn 0,4%, alginic acid > 1,4%, seaweed extract > 18%.

AmiCa (Agro-Bio Trading Ltd) - N 5%, CaO 14%, organic matter 7%, amino acids 10%.

ProBoron - (Agro-Bio Trading Ltd) - N 5%, 14%, organic matter 15%.

The following parameters were investigated:

Trunk cross-sectional area - S = .r², cm².

Crown volume - V = d² . h . /12, m³.

Productivity coefficients - yield/trunk cross-sectional area, kg/cm²; yield/crown

kg/cm²; / , kg/m³.
 (r) - Pearson correlation coefficient (r)
 Pearson (Daniel and Kostic, (Daniel and Kostic, 2015).
 2015).
 - Statistics analysis LSD (Maneva, 2007).
 - LSD (Maneva, 2007).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the first two years of the experiment the increase of trunk cross-sectional area under the fertilization treatments was insignificant (Table 1), similar to other experiments (Wrona, 2004; Wrona, 2011; Tojanko et al., 2012).
 (1),
 (Wrona, 2004; Wrona, 2011; Tojanko et al., 2012).

1. , cm² Florina

Table 1. Trunk cross-sectional area, cm² of Florina apple in different fertilization treatments

Variant	/Year					
	2014	2015	increase 2015/2014,%	2016	increase 2016/2015,%	increase 2016/2014,%
V1 st	49,79	71,66	43,92	85,99	20,00	72,71
V2	54,32 ns	74,86 ns	37,81	94,42 ns	26,13	73,82
V3	62,11 ns	89,85 ns	44,66	112,47 ns	25,18	81,08
V1 st	49,79	71,66	43,92	85,99	20,00	72,71
V4	42,64 ns	58,81 ns	37,92	79,05 ns	34,42	85,39
V5	52,54 ns	78,33 ns	49,08	103,78 ns	32,49	97,53
V6	44,08 ns	68,09 ns	54,47	90,40 ns	32,77	105,08
V7	71,13 ns	96,46 ns	35,61	126,50*	31,14	77,84
V8	65,87 ns	94,50 ns	43,46	122,26*	29,38	85,61
V9	63,23 ns	90,45 ns	43,05	115,11 ns	27,26	82,05
LSD 0,05 sd/f				36,17 17,2/2,35		
V1 st	49,79	71,66	43,92	85,99	20,00	72,71
V10	50,39 ns	74,90 ns	48,64	95,86 ns	27,98	90,24
V11	55,41 ns	82,96 ns	49,72	100,07 ns	20,62	80,60
V12	45,17 ns	62,94 ns	39,34	84,18 ns	33,75	86,36

* - P<0,05, ns - /non significant

- Cumulative effects of fertilization application statistically improved this parameter in variants with chicken manure 185 kg/da and chicken manure 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++.
 - Application of chicken manure 185 kg/da increased the trunk cross-sectional area
 kg/da + 185 kg/da ++. 185 kg/da

47,11%
 Ariwa (Rozpara et al., 2014).
 Sugareva, 2013,
 kg/da + 185 ++
 42,18%
 " 2014 .
 - 35,61
 54,47%
 " 2015 .
 - 20,0 34,42%.
 -
 72,71%
 86,36%
 90,24% 2000,
 Bochi (2012)
 Mosa et al., (2015).
 -
 -
 (2). 46,82%
 185
 kg/da + -
 2014 . 2016 ., . . " "

of Florina trees by 47,11% compared with the control, as with the Ariwa variety experiment (Rozpara et al., 2014). The obtained results confirm the studies of Sugareva, 2013, where the same fertilizer rate showed increases the trunk cross-sectional area of the Florina trees through fourth growing season. Combined fertilizer with chicken manure 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ increased the trunk cross-sectional area of 42,18% over the control.

After the "off" year 2014 the trunks increased more intensive - from 35,61 to 54,47% depending on variants.

The trunks after "on" 2015 increased slower and is about 20,0 - 34,42%. At the end of the study was established the weakest growth rate of trees in unfertilized control – 72,71% compared to the first year of the experiment. The foliar application led to an increase of 86,36% in ProBoron to 90,24% in Leili 2000, as in Bochi (2012) and Mosa et al. (2015) trials.

It was found a stronger growth of the trees in the combined application with foliar fertilizers and ammonium nitrate and foliar fertilizers by both chicken manure rates.

Average for the period all fertilization treatments increased the crown volume (Table 2). The increase of 46,82% was significant in chicken manure 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer CaBoron treatment. Under this treatment, the difference was significant in "off" 2014 and 2016, when the crop load was low.

During these two years the increase over control was significant in other foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ in combination with the same chicken manure rate.

Table 2. Crown volume, m³ of Florina apple in different fertilization treatments

Variant	/Year						/Average	
	2014		2015		2016		2014-2016	
	m ³	%	m ³	%	m ³	%	m ³	%
V1 st	3,50	100,00	5,22	100,00	5,89	100,00	4,87	100,00
V2	4,67 ns	133,43	6,25 ns	119,73	7,50 ns	127,33	6,14 ns	126,08
V3	4,12 ns	117,71	7,10 ns	136,02	7,82 ns	132,76	6,35 ns	130,39
V1 st	3,50	100,00	5,22	100,00	5,89	100,00	4,87	100,00
V4	3,75 ns	107,14	4,75 ns	91,00	6,75 ns	114,60	5,08 ns	104,31
V5	4,98 ns	142,29	5,94 ns	113,79	7,68 ns	130,39	6,20 ns	127,31
V6	4,63 ns	132,29	6,72 ns	128,74	6,96 ns	118,17	6,10 ns	125,26
V7	5,23*	149,43	6,35 ns	121,65	7,63 ns	129,54	6,40 ns	131,42
V8	5,20*	148,57	6,72 ns	128,74	8,83*	149,92	6,92 ns	142,09
V9	5,77*	164,86	6,67 ns	127,78	9,01*	152,97	7,15 *	146,82
LSD 0,05	1,678				2,306		2,104	
sd/f	0,8/2,14				1,1/3,2		1,0/1,45	
V1 st	3,50	100,00	5,22	100,00	5,89	100,00	4,87	100,00
V10	4,21 ns	120,29	6,41 ns	122,80	7,66 ns	130,05	6,09 ns	125,05
V11	4,61 ns	131,71	6,80 ns	130,27	6,39 ns	108,49	5,93 ns	121,77
V12	4,08 ns	116,57	6,35 ns	121,65	6,79 ns	115,28	5,74 ns	117,86

* - P<0,05, ns -

/non significant

17,86%	25,05%
2000.	
+	185 kg/da
49,92%	++
52,97%	-
2014	-
0,13	0,77,
(3).
(Wargo et al., 2003),	
V7,	
185 kg/da.	
-	
,	
-	
2015	..
,	-

Average for the period foliar application increased crown volume insignificant of 17,86% in ProBoron to 25,05% in Leili 2000.

In the eighth vegetation in the chicken manure at a rate 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ increased the crown volume 49,92% more than the control, and in combination with a foliar fertilizer CaBoron – 52,7%, and the differences were significant.

The productivity coefficient, expressed by the ratio of the yield of the trunk cross-sectional area varied the most widely in 2014 - from 0,13 to 0,77, the lowest value was at unfertilized control (Table 3).

The fertilization increased the productivity coefficient, the difference was significant in all the tested variants (Wargo et al., 2003), with the exception of V7, with the in chicken manure 185 kg/da application. In this treatment the increase was least due to the fact that the trunk cross sectional area was greatest. In 2015, when the trees were loaded coefficient values were diversely, as in Wrona

Wrona (2004), Wrona (2011), Rozpara et al., (2014).
 Wrona (2011), Rozpara et al., (2014).
 2000.

(2004), Wrona (2011), Rozpara et al. (2014) investigations. In the next year of the experiment productivity coefficient were higher than control at all treatments, significantly in the four combinations with chicken manure and foliar fertilizers, as well as the application of AmiCa and Leili 2000.

3. Productivity coefficients - kg/cm², kg/m³
Table 3. Productivity coefficients - kg/cm², kg/m³

Variant	/Productivity coefficients					
	/ yield/trunk cross-sectional area, kg/cm ²			/ yield/crown volume, kg/m ³		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
V1 st	0,13	0,40	0,01	1,77	5,61	0,78
V2	0,41**	0,61 ns	0,04 ns	4,67*	7,30 ns	0,52 ns
V3	0,37*	0,47 ns	0,12 ns	5,65**	5,51 ns	1,67 ns
LSD 0,05	0,1873			2,01		
sd/f	0,08/8,20			0,82/12,05		
V1 st	0,13	0,40	0,01	1,77	5,61	0,78
V4	0,43*	0,61*	0,14 ns	4,95*	7,53 ns	1,60 ns
V5	0,66***	0,31 ns	0,25**	6,82**	4,13 ns	3,31**
V6	0,61***	0,43 ns	0,26**	5,78**	4,25 ns	3,39**
V7	0,29 ns	0,42 ns	0,15 ns	3,89 ns	6,33 ns	2,36 ns
V8	0,38*	0,39 ns	0,22*	4,85*	5,59 ns	3,11*
V9	0,54**	0,50 ns	0,39***	5,96**	6,86 ns	4,98***
LSD 0,05	0,2306	0,1885	0,122	2,845		1,708
sd/f	0,11/5,93	8,98/2,18	8,51/6,78	1,36/2,98		0,81/5,63
V1 st	0,13	0,40	0,01	1,77	5,61	0,78
V10	0,59**	0,50 ns	0,27**	7,02**	5,80 ns	3,32**
V11	0,77***	0,31 ns	0,34***	9,18***	3,75 ns	5,22***
V12	0,43*	0,61 ns	0,07 ns	4,76*	6,17 ns	0,83 ns
LSD 0,05	0,2784		0,1215	2,943		1,471
sd/f	0,12/10,0		5,38/14,32	1,30/11,86		0,65/21,76

* - P<0,05, ** - P<0,01, *** - P<0,001, ns -

/non significant

The productivity coefficient, expressed by the ratio of the yield of crown volume was similar to the magnitude of the coefficient of productivity yield/trunk cross-sectional area. In 2014 and 2016 the difference with control was significant in the same treatments as in other coefficient.

In all treatments was found a strong positive correlation between vegetative parameters the trunk growth and the crown volume. The Pearson correlation coefficients (r) ranged from 0,843 to 0,999 (Table 4).

0,843 0,999 (Pearson (r) 4).

4.

Pearson (r)

Table 4. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between some vegetative and reproductive parameters of Florina apple

Variant	r/Correlation coefficient r				
	TCSA-crown volume	TCSA-average fruit weight	TCSA-yield	crown volume - average fruit weight	crown volume - yield
V1	0,991	-0,45	0,03	-0,33	0,16
V2	0,998	-0,28	-0,53	-0,33	-0,48
V3	0,960	-0,998	-0,37	-0,94	-0,10
V4	0,992	0,76	-0,36	-0,67	-0,47
V5	0,985	-0,50	-0,84	-0,64	-0,77
V6	0,917	-0,58	-0,50	-0,86	-0,12
V7	0,999	-0,81	-0,10	-0,81	-0,09
V8	0,994	-0,82	0,06	-0,76	-0,05
V9	0,961	-0,87	0,86	-0,97	0,69
V10	0,993	-0,91	-0,31	-0,87	-0,20
V11	0,843	-0,86	-0,66	-0,45	-0,96
V12	0,911	-0,79	-0,50	-0,97	-0,09

TCSA- trunk cross-sectional area

Pearson (r)
-0,31 -0,86,
Dimitrova (2016) - (r) = -0,16.

370 kg/da

The correlation between the trunk growth and the average fruit weight was negative in all treatments. It was found an inverse correlation between the trunk growth and the yield under ammonium nitrate, chicken manure 370 kg/da and foliar application treatments. The values of the Pearson coefficient (r) were in the range of -0,31 to -0,86, in investigation of Dimitrova (2016) - (r) was -0,16.

The relationship between the crown volume and the average fruit weight was negative at all treatments, the degree varied from moderate to severe. It wasn't found definitive correlation between the crown volume and yield. In most treatments relationship was insignificant negative.

CONCLUSIONS

kg/da

185

Chicken manure application 185 kg/da increased significantly trunk cross-sectional area of Florina apple trees in eight vegetation with 47,11% and combined fertilization of chicken manure

47,11%,

185 kg/da
 ++ - 42,18%.

185 kg/da +
 ++

49,92%

185 kg/da +
 -

370kg/da
 ++

2000

0,843 0,999.

Pearson (r)

185 kg/da + SoftGuard++ foliar fertilizer increased with 42,18%.

In the eighth vegetation in the chicken manure at a rate 185 kg/da + foliar fertilizer SoftGuard++ increased the crown volume 49,92% more than the control, and in combination with a foliar fertilizer CaBoron – 52,7%, and the differences were significant.

Average for the period chicken manure application 185 kg/da + CaBoron foliar fertilizer increased significantly crown volume with 46,82%.

In the "off" years the four combinations - chicken manure 185 kg/da and 370 kg/da with a foliar application with SoftGuard++ and CaBoron and AmiCa and Leili 2000 separately application increased productivity coefficients - yield/trunk cross-sectional area and yield/crown volume of Florina apple.

In all treatments was found a strong positive correlation between vegetative parameters the trunk growth and the crown volume - the Pearson correlation coefficients (r) ranged from 0,843 to 0,999.

Under all treatments the relationships between the average fruit weight with the trunk growth and the crown volume were negative.

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