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Evaluation of plum elites under agroclimatic conditions of South Bulgaria

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SUMMARY

The study was carried out in the experimental plantation of the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv in the period 2014-2016 with seven plum elites, compared to 'Stanley' as a standard. The tree volume, trunk diameter, angle of the skeletal branches, annual shoot length growth, average number of flower buds on spurs and shoots, some phenological characteristics, fruit biometrical and chemical analyses, were studied. The biggest tree volume and trunk diameter were calculated for the elites E1-2, E1-53, E3-12 and 'Stanley'. The largest angle of skeletal branches was measured on E1-2 and E2-9. The biggest shoot length was recorded in E1-2 and E3-12. The latest flowering time was observed on E 1-13 and E1-99. The ripening period of the investigated elites was in July for E1-13 and E 3-12, in August for E1-2, E2-9 and E1-53 and in September for 'Stanley' and E2-12 and E1-99. According to the biometric data E1-53 was with the largest fruits in size. The obtained data showed that the elite E1-53 and E2-12 had the

1-53 -

1-53 2-12.
1-53 3-12

:

(2017) 25.1%

(Djuvinov and Vitanova, 2002).

(Jacob, 2002; Blažek and Pišt ková, 2009.).

(Neumeller et al., 2010).

(Neumüller and Mühlenz, 2014).

2014-2016 .

best chemical composition. Among the investigated elites E1-53 and E3-12 demonstrated the complex of valuable characteristics and they are under registration for new plum cultivars.

Keywords: plum elites., vegetative growth, phenological characteristics, fruit characteristics

INTRODUCTION

Plum is a traditional fruit crop in Bulgaria. According to data of the Agrostistics (2017) the South Central Region represents 25.6 % of the total area occupied with plum trees, which is the first place among the six regions of the country. The main grown cultivar is still 'Stanley', because of its good adaptability (Djuvinov and Vitanova, 2002). A lot of new cultivars were registered in Europe as tolerant to Plum pox virus (Sharka disease), but few of them were accepted by the producers and spread in the orchards (Jacob, 2002; Blažek and Pišt ková, 2009.). Till now only the plum cultivar 'Jojo' is known as resistant to Plum pox virus and in the past ten years was widespread in the orchards (Neumeller et al., 2010). Unfortunately, it turned out that this cultivar is susceptible to spring frosts, which force Bulgarian producers to look for other cultivars. Lately one new plum cultivar 'Jofela' also is recommended as hypersensitive like 'Jojo', but still not enough data from production tests to confirm this (Neumüller and Mühlenz, 2014). That's why for the new plum orchards in Bulgaria are necessary cultivars resistant or tolerant to Plum pox virus and set of valuable qualities desirable from practice.

The aim of this study is to present the results of a study of plum elites bred at Fruit Growing Institute - Plovdiv.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the period 2014-2016 at the Fruit Growing

2012

4 4 m,

1 m

°Brix,
Schoorl-Regenbogen,
pH

1.

E1-2, E1-53 E3-12.

E2-9,

Institute, Plovdiv. The trees of the seven studied elites were planted in a experimental plantation in 2012 on alluvial-meadow soil at a distance of 4x4 m and grown under non-irrigated conditions and only sanitary pruning. The standard cultivar 'Stanley' is planted two years earlier. Dimensions of minimum five trees were determined to be calculated the tree volume and trunk diameter. The angle between the skeletal branches and the central leader was measured in four trees of each elite in three consecutive years, to trace if the angle will be changed during the period of tree growth. One skeletal branch from four trees per cultivar was selected for measuring the average annual shoot length growth and the average number of flower buds in a spur and a shoot. The observed phenological characteristics included flowering and fruit ripening. Biometrical and chemical analyses of the fruits were performed. Total soluble solid (TSS) content was determined by °Brix, sugars were determined according to the method of Schoorl-Regenbogen, the acid contents were defined titrimetrically, active acidity (pH) was measured potentiometrically. Data were statistically processed by Duncan's test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data concerning the tree volume and trunk diameter are presented in Table 1. The biggest tree volume and trunk diameter were calculated for the elites E1-2, E1-53 and E3-12. Their growth dynamic is faster. The dimenciens concerning tree volume of the standard cultivar 'Stanley' vary greatly due to the fact that the trees are older (the trees are planted three years earlier)

The smallest tree volume was registered on E2-9 but statistically it is not proven. Data concerning average trunk diameter shows there are no statistically proven differences between elites and standard.

1.

2014-2016 .

Table 1. Tree volume and trunk diameter during the period 2014-2016

Elite	Tree volume (m ³)				Trunk diameter (cm)			
	/ Year				/ Year			
	2014	2015	2016	Average	2014	2015	2016	Average
E 1-2	0,48	1,76	2,22	1,49 b ¹	15,88	31,13	32,75	26,59 a
E 1-13	0,3	1,49	2,05	1,28 b	13,00	25,88	27,75	22,21 a
E 1-53	0,38	1,61	2,18	1,39 b	14,00	27,50	29,38	23,63 a
E 2-9	0,06	0,27	0,62	0,32 b	9,00	19,50	20,38	16,29 a
E 2-12	0,24	0,96	1,37	0,86 b	12,63	25,88	27,88	22,13 a
E 3-12	0,37	1,61	2,19	1,39 b	13,00	25,88	27,25	22,04 a
E 1-99	0,33	0,91	1,32	0,85 b	13,13	27,25	29,25	23,21 a
Stanley	2,77	3,02	3,82	3,20 a	22,50	28,13	30,00	26,88 a

¹Mean values followed by different letters within a column are significantly different by Duncan's multiple range test at P 0.05

(Vitanov, 1977).

(2).

E3-12,

E1-2, E2-9 E3-12

1-2

2-9 and 1-2

E2-12

1-2.

It is known that on fruit species the larger angle of the skeletal branches is preferred (Vitanov, 1977). Out of the studied elites, the largest angle of the skeletal branches was recorded for the 2-9 and 1-2 (Table 2). Narrow angle of the skeletal branches was measured for the elites E2-12 and E3-12 but it is statistically proven only to E1-2. In E1-2, E2-9 and E3-12 the largest angle was recorded for the secondary branches. The dimensions for E1-2 are favorable and statistically proven.

2.

(°)

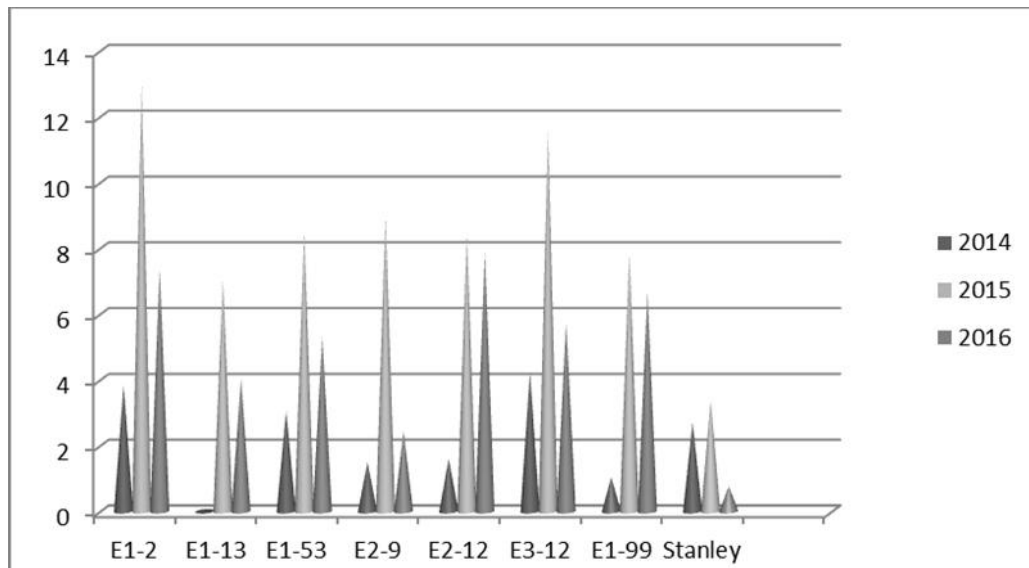
Table 2. Angle of the main and the secondary skeletal branches (°)

Elite	/ Branch angle (°)							
	2014		2015		2016		/ Average	
	Main branch	Secondary branch	Main branch	Secondary branch	Main branch	Secondary branch	Main branch	Secondary branch
1-2	50	70	38	53	42	55	43 a	59 a
1-13	45	55	38	42	40	45	41 ab	47 abc
1-53	42	45	32	42	35	45	36 ab	44 bc
2-9	47	50	43	55	45	60	45 a	55 ab
2-12	35	56	28	43	33	45	32 b	48 abc
3-12	42	66	22	46	30	55	31 b	55 ab
1-99	50	53	33	45	38	50	40 ab	49 abc
Stanley	35	42	37	36	40	38	37 ab	39 c

Costes et al. (2004)

According to Costes et al. (2004) the final size of trees is a cumulative variable resulting from the annual shoot length developed each year. In the studied elites, the largest annual shoot length was established in E1-2 and E3-12 (Figure 1). The average values of the studied trait showed that E1-13, E2-9 and 'Stanley' had the smallest total annual shoot length.

E1-2 E3-12 (1).
E2-9 E1-13,



1.
Fig. 1. Annual shoot length per skeletal branch

3.50 3.70,
(3).
E2-9, E2-12 E1-99
E2-9,

The mean number of flower buds in the spurs of the studied elites varied from 3.50 to 3.70, but the differences between the elites and the standard are statistically insignificant (Table 3). The most number of flower buds on 1 m annual shoots was reported in the elites E2-9, E2-12, E1-99 and it is statistically proven. This implies a better productive potential for elite E2-9 but for the plum species it is not so significant.

Table 3. Number of flower buds on spurs and on 1 m annual shoots

Elite	1 m							
	On one spur				On 1 m of annual shoot			
	2014	2015	2016	Average	2014	2015	2016	Average
E 1 - 2	3,38	3,28	3,96	3,54 a	16,7	13,33	12,56	14,20 bc
E 1 - 13	3,50	3,3	4,16	3,65 a	12,33	16,94	16,34	15,20 b
E 1 - 53	3,42	3,38	3,92	3,57 a	5,42	13,72	11,32	10,15 cd
E 2 - 9	3,40	3,42	3,68	3,50 a	31,25	32	28,02	30,42 a
E 2 - 12	3,44	3,32	3,74	3,50 a	0	2,75	2,19	1,65 f
E 3 - 12	3,46	3,3	4,34	3,70 a	4,88	4,11	3,69	4,23 ef
E 1 - 99	3,58	3,44	3,78	3,60 a	0,84	4,14	3,37	2,78 f
Stanley	3,48	3,54	3,90	3,64 a	3,86	10,45	9,40	7,90 de

-	(2	3)
	E1-99,	E1-13	
	E1-13	E 3-12,	
E1-53	E1-2,	E2-9	
(E2-12	E1-99	-
4).	E1-53		
	E1-2		
	1.14	1.87	.,
	/		-
	3.22	3.98.	

The plum flowering time in Plovdiv region usually occurs at the end of the March. Among the investigated elites the latest flowering time (2 to 3 days) was observed on E1-99, E 1-13 and the 'Stanley'. The differences between other elites are not significant. The ripening period of the investigated elites was in July for E1-13 and E 3-12, in August for E1-2, E2-9 and E1-53 and in September for 'Stanley' and E2-12 and E1-99 (Table4). According to the data of the biometric and statistical analysis, the fruits of E1-53 were very large. The fruits of the other five elites were large to medium in size and those of the standard 'Stanley' and of the E 1-2 were medium to small. The stone weight of the elites vary from 1.14 to 1.87g, but the differences between them are statistically insignificant. The relative stone to fruit ratio of the elites is lower in comparing to the standard 'Stanley' and vary from 3.22 to 3.98.

4.

(2014-2016)

Table 4. Fruit biometry (2014-2016)

Elite	Rippening time	/ Fruit					Stone weight (g)	Relative share (%)
		Lenght (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	1 Fruit weight (g)			
E 1 - 2	22.08	38,27 d	36,94 c	35,81 d	30,79 d	1,14 a	3,70 bc	
E 1 - 13	26.07	38,11 d	41,00 b	39,72 bc	39,62 bc	1,42 a	3,58 bc	
E 1 - 53	22.08.	49,84 a	43,76 a	45,28 a	57,98 a	1,87 a	3,22 c	
E 2 - 9	7.08.	47,04 ab	41,86 ab	40,60 b	48,16 b	1,82 a	3,77cd	
E 2 -12	13.09	43,34 bc	40,03 b	37,94 cd	41,38 bc	1,65 a	3.98b	
E 3 - 12	18.07	45,49 abc	40,16 b	39, 88 bc	43,52 bc	1,42 a	3,26 c	
E 1 - 99	13.09	41,83 cd	42,2 ab	40,74 b	44,40 bc	1,64 a	3,69 bc	
Stanley	02.09	48,93 a	35,77 c	36,17 d	35,88 cd	1,74 a	4,84 ab	

-

-

-

15.4% (E2-9)

21.4% (E1-53)

10.7% (E2-9)

10.9% (E2-12, E1-53)

0.8% (E1-13)

3.1% (E2-12)

3.7% (E1-53)

1-53

2-12.

(Bozhkova, 2014; Bozhkova and Nesheva, 2016).

Determining the total soluble solids of the fruits is the quickest way to get information about the content of the major chemical components. The total soluble solids varied from 15.4% in E2-9 to 21.4% in E1-53 (Table 5). The data showed that the highest sugar content was established in the elites E 2-12, E1-53 and E 2-9 (from 10.7 to 10.9%). The acid content is low – from 0.8 to 1.5%. For all of the studied elites pH varied within a small range – from 3.1 in E1-13 to 3.7 in E1-53 and E2-12. According to the obtained data, the elite E1-53 and E2-12 had the best chemical composition. The fruit quality is a complex of many different characteristics describing both external appearance and taste qualities. That is why the general evaluation of them is not directly related to chemical analysis. Similar conclusions have been made in our previous studies of plum and apricot (Bozhkova, 2014; Bozhkova and Nesheva, 2016).

5.

Table 5. Chemical composition of the fruits

Elite	Total soluble solids (°Brix)	/ Sugar (%)			Acids (%)	pH
		Total	Invert	Sucrose		
E 1 - 2	19,7	10,2	6,1	3,9	0,9	3,6
E 1 - 13	17,2	9,9	6,6	3,1	1,5	3,1
E 1 - 53	21,4	10,7	6,6	3,9	0,8	3,7
E 2 - 9	15,4	10,7	6,1	4,4	0,8	3,3
E 2 - 12	20,0	10,9	7,9	2,7	0,8	3,7
E 3 - 12	18,0	7,5	6,0	1,4	1,1	3,5
E 1 - 99	19,4	10,4	8,3	1,5	1,2	3,3
Stanley	21,5	9,8	6,9	2,7	0,9	3,5

CONCLUSIONS

12. E1-2, E1-53 E3-12
E1-2 E3-
E1-13 E1-99.
1-53.
1-53 2-12.
E1-53 E3-12

The biggest tree volume and trunk diameter were calculated for the elites E1-2, E 1-53 and E3-12 and 'Stanley'. The largest angle of skeletal branches was measured on 2-9 and 1-2. The biggest shoot length was recorded in E1-2 and E3-12. The latest flowering time was observed on E 1-13 and E1-99. Fruits of the studied elites ripen within a period of two month – from the middle of July to the middle of September. According to the biometric data E2-9 and E1-53 were with the largest fruits in size. According to the obtained data, the elite E1-53 and E2-12 had the best chemical composition. Among the investigated elites E1-53 and E3-12 showed the complex of valuable characteristics and they are under registration for new plum cultivars.

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Effect of fertilization with bio-products on the yield of the peach cv. 'Glohaven' under the conditions of integrated plant production

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SUMMARY

2014-2016 .
- .
GF677.
:
;
;
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- .
44kg/ (2900kg/da).
1,8 g/
2600 g/da.
120ml/da
- .

Studies were carried out in the period 2014-2016 in a fruit-bearing peach plantation on the site of the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv. 'Glohaven' cv. grafted on the vegetative rootstock GF 677 was investigated. Three variants of fertilization were studied: soil nutrition with biohumus; soil nutrition with water solution of Agrifull; foliar-feeding with Humustim and untreated control.

The average yield per tree in the organically fertilized plants was higher than in the untreated control. The highest yield was obtained after applying Agrifull in both studied variants, about 44 kg/tree in average (2900 kg/da). Fertilization with the bio-product at the rate of 1,8 kg/tree resulted in an average fruit yield of 2600 kg/da. In the variant of Humustim, applied at the rate of 120 ml/da, a high yield was obtained but the fruits were smaller. The average yield in the unfertilized control

1680 g/da.

variant was 1680 kg/da.

Key words: fertilization, biofertilizers, peach, yield

INTRODUCTION

Organic fertilization has become particularly important in recent years. Along with the traditional widely used organic fertilizers (manure, aqueous suspensions, compost, peat, etc.), new sources of organic fertilization are being sought. Biofertilizers, which are of organic origin, play an important and successful role. They are based entirely of natural products and do not pollute the environment and fruit production. There are no residual harmful substances and no harm to human health. The problem is the difficult maintenance of the nutrient balance in soil, especially nitrogen, to ensure sustainable yields of the crops grown.

Currently, manure extracts, bio-fertilizers from California red worms, natural resources rich in biologically active substances, compost derived from wood waste and medicinal fertilizer produced from paper waste, are used for biostimulation (Edwards and Bohlen, 1996; Leroy et al., 2007).

Biofertilizers are microbial substances containing live cells of various microorganisms that have the ability to mobilize nutrients in soil. They help to restore the microflora and improve soil fertility. Combinations studied in Poland showed a yield increase of 20-30% and growth stimulation as compared to the untreated control. The trees fertilized with Vinassa, Humus UP, and manure produced the highest percentage of fruits with a diameter of over 7 cm in 'Ariwa' apple cultivar (Rozpara et al., 2014).

Various studies were carried out on the effect of organic fertilization on the quality of apple fruits grown on rootstocks of different growth vigour. The best result

(Edwards and Bohlen, 1996; Leroy et al., 2007).

20-30%

Vinassa, Humus UP

7 cm
al., 2014).

Ariwa (Rozpara et

(Stefanelli et al., 2009; Sas-Paszt et al., 2014).
Reganold et al. (2001)

(Dintcheva et al., 2008; Vlahova et al., 2010; Boteva et al., 2011).

2014-2016 .
o o

GF677.
pH 7,10
22 mg/100g
mg/100g.
5 m.

:
-
Bio-hummus 0,6 kg
Bio-hummus 1,2 kg
Bio-humus 1,8 kg

- was reported with the use of compost from manure and a mycorrhizal substrate (Stefanelli et al., 2009; Sas-Paszt et al., 2014).

- In studies on conventional, integrated and organic apple production in the United States, Reganold et al., 2001 found out that there were no significant differences in the yields obtained, but the organic production system provided better soil quality and less environmental impact compared to conventional.

- The demand for fruits and vegetables of high ecological value has increased in the recent years. A wide variety of organic products have been successfully used in fertilization experiments in annual crops, the studies showing an increase in yield and production quality (Dintcheva et al., 2008; Vlahova et al., 2010; Boteva et al., 2011).

- The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of different rates of fertilization with Humustim, Agrifull and Biohumus on the yield of 'Glohaven' peach cultivar grown under the conditions of integrated fruit production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study was carried out in 2014-2016 in a fruit-bearing peach plantation on the territory of the Fruit-Growing Institute. 'Glohaven' cultivar grafted on the vegetative rootstock GF 677 was included in the study. The soil was alluvial-meadow (Fluvisol), with neutral pH of 7,10, a good phosphorus content of 22 mg/100 g and potassium of 26 mg/100 g. The planting distance was 3 x 5 m.

The following variants of fertilization were studied:

- soil fertilization with biohumus;
Bio-hummus 0,6 kg
Bio-hummus 1,2 kg
Bio-humus 1,8 kg

- ;
Agrifull 0,5 l/da
Agrifull 1,0 l/da
- ;
Humustim 100 ml/da
Humustim 120 ml/da
Humustim 150 ml/da
-
:
(Sengalevich et al.,
2007).
, ,
(*Lumbricus rubellus* *Eisenia foetida*)
(Blagova, 2004).
0,600; 1,200 1,800 kg
.
0,5 1L/da.
2,5 5 L/da.
ml/da 100, 120 150
.
20 .
kg/ .
30 .

- soil fertilization with Agrifull as an aqueous solution;
Agrifull 0,5 l/da
Agrifull 1,0 l/da
- foliar feeding with Humustim;
Humustim 100 ml/da
Humustim 120 ml/da
Humustim 150 ml/da
- control, without soil or foliar feeding.

Characteristics of the bio-products used:

Humustim is a water-soluble potassium humate with a high content of humic acids (Sengalevich et al., 2007).

Agrifull is a fast acting organic liquid fertilizer of plant origin. It contains plant extracts of barley, wheat, maize and cane molasses.

Biohumus is an organic material obtained as a result of the feeding of red California worms (*Lumbricus rubellus* and *Eisenia foetida*) with organic residues (Blagova, 2004).

Biohumus was introduced in the soil around the stems of the experimental trees in three rates: 0,600; 1,200 and 1,800 kg per tree. Each of the variants was in three replications.

Agrifull was introduced in the soil as an aqueous solution. Two rates of 0.5 and 1 L/da were tested. Each variant was in four replications. The total rate for the whole period of vegetation was 2,5 and 5 L/da.

Humustim was applied as a leaf fertilizer at three rates of 100, 120 and 150 ml/da per treatment. Each variant was in three replications.

All the variants of fertilization were carried out at the same time, five times during the vegetation period, every 15-20 days from April till July, inclusive.

The yield was reported at the fruit ripening stage in kg/tree by variants. The average peach fruit weight of 30 fruits from each variant was measured.

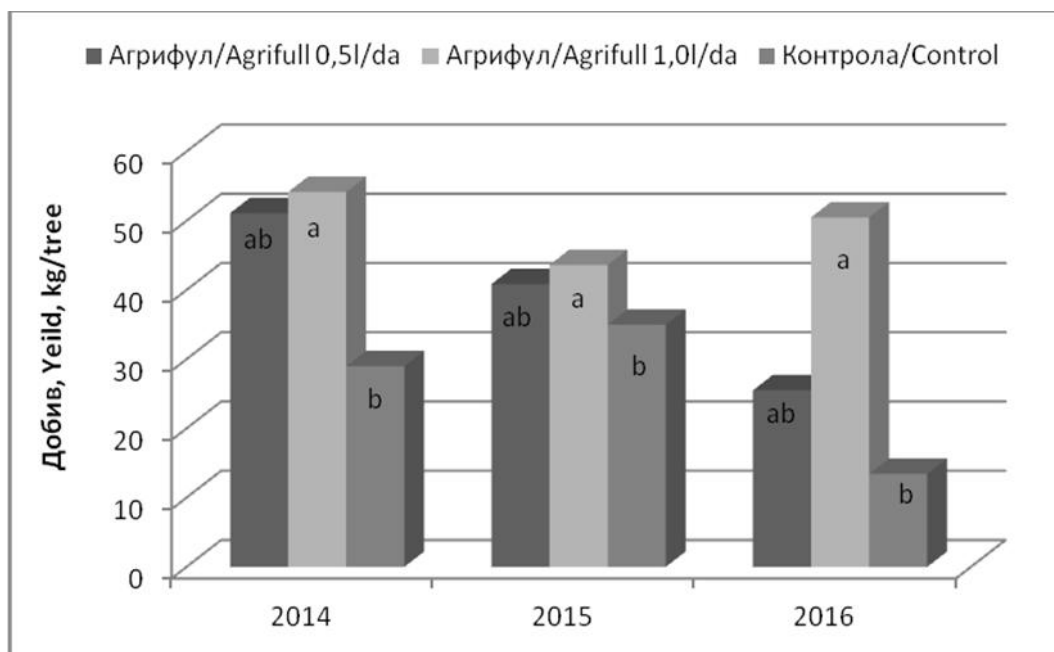
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data about the average yield per tree in the different variants of fertilization of the peach cv. 'Glohaven' are presented in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The effect of fertilization with bio-products was observed in all the variants. The average yield per tree during the study period in the variants fertilized with organic products was higher than the unfertilized control. The comparatively lower yields reported in all the variants in 2016 were due to the partial frost damages of the flower buds.

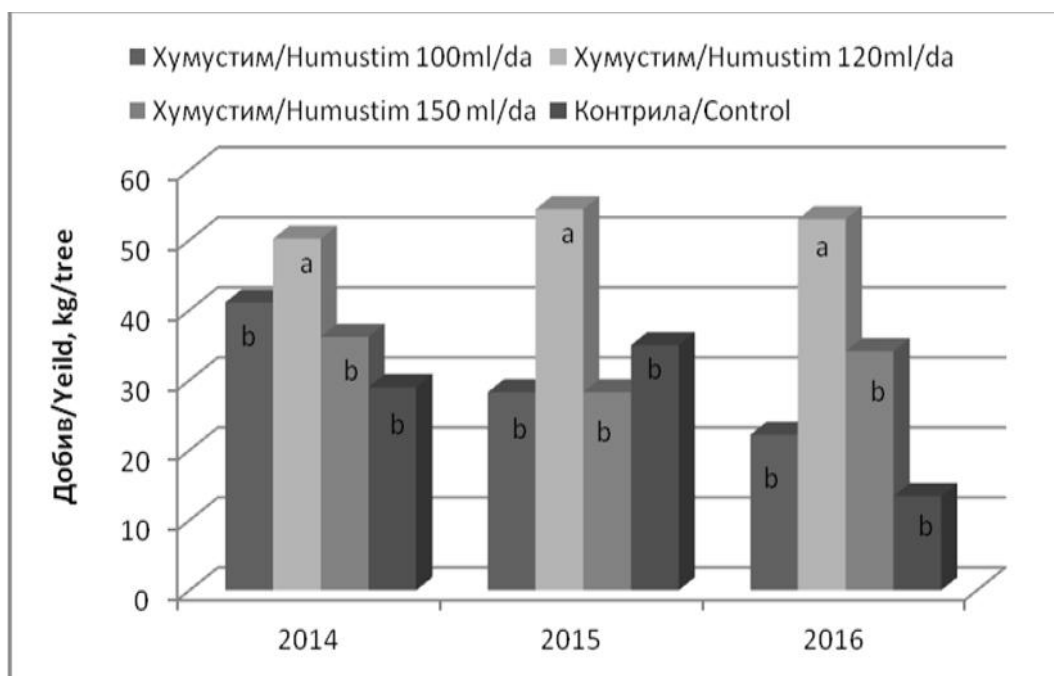
The results obtained for the yield in the variant with application of the biofertilizer from California worms are presented in Figure 1. The use of the lowest fertilizer rate of 0,6 kg per tree resulted in a yield close to that of the untreated control – an average of about 26 kg of fruit per tree (1700 kg/da). The higher rates of fertilization (1,2 kg and 1,8 kg per tree) resulted in a significant increase in yields compared to the unfertilized control. The obtained average yield was 43-45 kg per tree (2900-3000 kg/da). There was no statistically significant difference between the two variants with fertilization. The results followed the same tendency during the years of the study. Perhaps the application of the higher fertilizer rates led to the improvement of the soil structure and an increase in nitrate nitrogen uptake by the plants, and hence to higher yields.

Year	Variant	Fertilizer Rate (kg/tree)	Yield (kg/tree)	Yield (kg/da)
2016	1.	0,6	-	-
	2.	1,2	-	-
	3.	1,8	-	-
	4.	-	-	-
2017	1.	0,6	43-45	2900-3000
	2.	1,2	43-45	2900-3000
	3.	1,8	43-45	2900-3000
	4.	-	43-45	2900-3000



2. Yield per tree from 'Glohaven' cv. in different variants with application of Agrifull during the period 2014-2016 .

The studied rates of foliar feeding with Humustim had different effects on fruit bearing (Figure 3). The highest average yield in the years of study was obtained after the application of the rate of 120 ml/da, the yield obtained being 49 kg/tree (3200 kg/da). The differences were statistically significant compared to the other two studied fertilizer rates, as well as to the control. The yields in the variants with the rates of 100 ml/da (30 kg/tree) and 150 ml/da (33 kg/tree) tended to be higher without statistically proven differences, i.e. 26 kg/tree (1700 kg/da). Both the low and the high fertilizer rates did not have a significant impact on the fruit yield.



. 3.

2014-2016 .

Fig. 3. Yield per tree from 'Glohaven' cv. in different variants with application of Humustim during the period 2014-2016

2014-2016 ., -

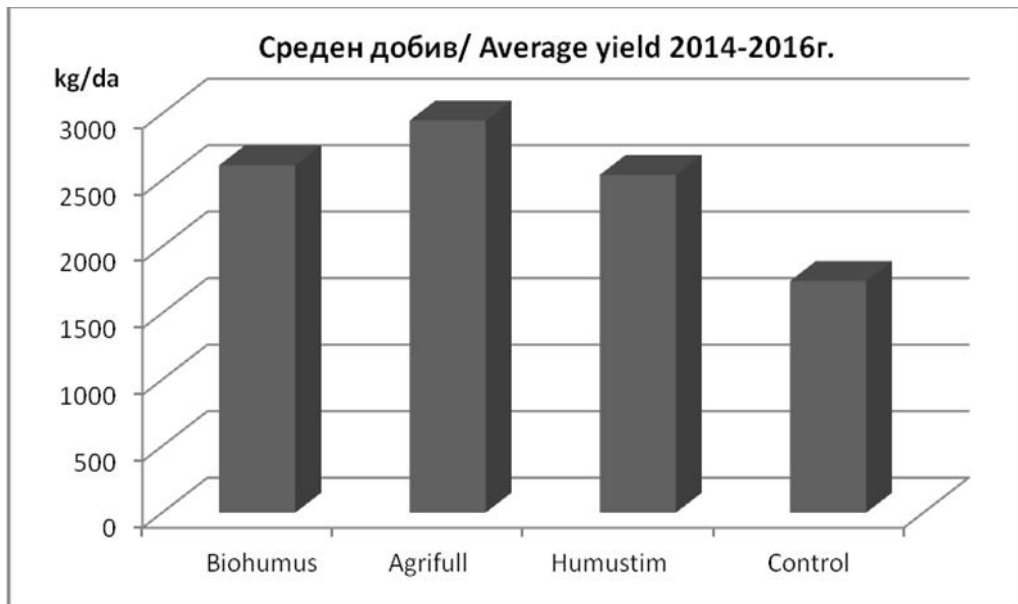
2950 kg/da,
kg/da)
kg/da).

38kg/

(4).

(2600
(2550

Comparing the average yields of the experimental trees fertilized with the bio-products for the three years of the study (2014-2016), the highest yield was obtained after fertilization with Agrifull (2950 kg/da), followed by Biohumus (2600 kg/da) and Humustim 38 kg/tree (2550 kg/da). The increase in yield in the fertilized variants was significant compared to the control (Figure 4).



4.
2014-2016 .

Fig. 4. Average yield from 'Glohaven' cv. in the different variants of fertilization with bio-products in the period 2014-2016

1).

g 0,211 g.

0,190 g

0,213

The results of the biometric measurements of fruits showed that the studied variants with fertilization did not significantly affect the average fruit weight (Table 1). In the separate years of the study and on average over the whole period, the differences between the variants and the control were minimal and statistically insignificant. This is most likely due to the use of nutrients mainly for shoot growth and the increase of foliage mass and, to a lesser extent, for the growth of the young fruits. The largest fruits of best quality were obtained in the fertilization variant with Agrifull at both studied rates with an average fruit weight of 0,213 g and 0,211 g, respectively. Good quality fruits, about 0,190 g in weight, were also obtained after fertilization with Biohumus at the highest studied rate. That tendency was not observed in the variant with the application of Humustim foliar fertilizer. The average fruit weight at a fertilizer rate of 120 ml/da was 0,170 g. The highest

120 ml/da 0,170 g. yield obtained using Humustim, resulted in the production of smaller fruits compared to the other variants and the control.

1.

2014-2016 .

Table 1. Average fruit weight of 'Glohaven' cv. in different variants of fertilization in the period 2014-2016

Variants	Average fruit mass, g		
	2014	2015	2016
Bio-hummus 0,6kg	0,162	0,143	0,223
Bio-hummus 1,2kg	0,164	0,144	0,177
Bio-humus 1,8kg	0,203	0,173	0,187
Agrifull 0,5l/da	0,189	0,204	0,245
Agrifull 1,0l/da	0,212	0,185	0,235
Humustim 100ml/da	0,154	0,169	0,222
Humustim 120ml/da	0,155	0,179	0,180
Humustim 150 ml/da	0,209	0,178	0,202
Control	0,171	0,174	0,224

CONCLUSIONS

- Among the studied variants of fertilization, the highest yields were obtained with the application of Agrifull. In both variants (0,5 and 1,0 L/da) there was a good correlation between yield and fruit size in cv. 'Glohaven'. Comparatively high yields were also obtained after fertilization with the highest rate of Biohumus (1,8 kg/tree) and Humustim 120 ml/da. The yield increase when using Humustim resulted in obtaining smaller fruits. The results obtained gave grounds to recommend Agrifull, Biohumus and Humustim for additional fertilization in integrated peach production.

(0,5 1,0 L/da)

120ml/da. 1,8kg/

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([®]):
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**, *Dysaphis plantaginea* Pass.,
(Hemiptera: Aphididae)**

“ . . . ”, 115,
9712 ,

**Spirotetramat (Movento[®]): new systemic insecticide
for control of the rosy apple aphid, *Dysaphis plantaginea*
Pass., (Hemiptera: Aphididae)**

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SUMMARY

-
, *Dysaphis plantaginea* Passerini
(Hemiptera: Aphidae),
.
.
.
2015 2016 ,
Movento [®]
(a. .)
-
,
(BBCH 69)
Movento [®]
,
(BBCH 69)

The rosy apple aphid, *Dysaphis plantaginea* Passerini (Hemiptera: Aphidae), is a major pest of apple trees.
- Spirotetramat is a new insecticide with a specific mode of action against aphids and other sucking pests.
- In field trials conducted in industrial apple gardens in the vicinity of Plovdiv (Bulgaria) 2015 and 2016, the efficacy of Movento [®] (spirotetramat) to the control of rosy apple aphid was verified with that of other reference insecticides when applied alone after flowering (BBCH 69) or in combined strategies with other products. The efficacy of Movento [®] was compared to that of thiamethoxam or imidacloprid when applied alone after flowering (BBCH 69) or in combination strategies with other products including

(BBCH 59)

(BBCH 69).

Movento®

Movento®,

D. plantaginea,

plantaginea,

: *Dysaphis*

flonicamid treatment before flowering (BBCH 59) followed by treatment with thiamethoxam or imidacloprid after flowering (BBCH 69).

Spirotetramat demonstrates excellent efficacy and very good persistence when applied once after flowering or in strategies with other products (flonicamid before flowering, followed by Movento® after flowering).

The efficacy of Movento® once applied after flowering ensures excellent and reliable control of *D. plantaginea* populations comparable to the best reference insecticides.

Key words: *Dysaphis plantaginea*, apple, spirotetramat, efficacy, Bulgaria

Dysaphis plantaginea Passerini
(Hemiptera: Aphidae)

(Grigorov, 1980; Angeli and Forti, 1999; Angeli and Simoni, 2006; Arnaoudov and Kutinkova, 2006). *D. plantaginea*

Plantago,
Plantago lanceolata L.

INTRODUCTION

Dysaphis plantaginea Passerini (Hemiptera: Aphidae) is one of the most common and most harmful species of the numerous aphids attacking apple trees that can cause significant economic damage to apple production. This species of aphids is capable of causing serious damage to various vegetative and reproductive organs (such as leaves, shoots, flowers and fruits) even at very low population densities, resulting in growth inhibition, deformation of fruits and shoots, "honeydew" excretion causing sooty mould, which prevents the normal photosynthesis of all green parts and gives poor commercial appearance to the fruits (Grigorov, 1980; Angeli and Forti, 1999; Angeli and Simoni, 2006; Arnaoudov and Kutinkova, 2006). *D. plantaginea* is a binomial holocyclic species, with a host host - the apple and secondary - the *Plantago* species, mainly *Plantago lanceolata* L.

In industrial apple orchards, the control of the rosy apple aphid is most

e

(Pirimor WG)),

D. plantaginea

D. plantaginea

Movento ® ()

Bayer Crop Science.

(Nauen et al., 2008; Brück et al., 2009; Cantoni et al., 2008; Roffeni et al., 2010).

(De Maeyer et al., 2002).

(Movento ®),

commonly carried out through the application of systemic aphicides early in the spring. Two treatments before and after flowering were usually performed. The first treatment is done before flowering with flonicamid or tau-fluvalinate-based insecticides and is directed against the fundatrix before they have formed multiple colonies, and the second treatment – after flowering with neonicotinoid-based insecticides (acetamiprid, imidacloprid, thiomethoxam and clothianidin) and it aims to achieve full control over the populations of the pest.

The withdrawal from the market of certain substances such as pyrimicarb (Pirimor), the problem of the emergence of resistance in *D. plantaginea* populations to some commonly used insecticides, the restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids in the pre-flowering period and the emergence of new active substances capable of to control the populations of the aphids are the main motives that provoked this study aimed at updating the control strategy of *D. plantaginea* in the apple orchards.

Movento ® (Spirotetramat) is a representative of a new class of products – ketoenols derived from spirocyclic tetrionic acid produced by Bayer Crop Science. It is the first active substance that has a two-way action, acropetal and basipetal, which has the ability to move both the xylem and the phloem after foliar treatment. It acts as an inhibitor of lipid biosynthesis in the insect body after ingestion. (Nauen et al., 2008; Brück et al., 2009; Cantoni et al., 2009; Roffeni et al., 2010). For this reason, it is extremely active against juvenile stages of insects with a piercing-sucking mouthparts. (De Maeyer et al., 2002).

The aim of this study was to evaluate and compare the efficacy of spirotetramat (Movento ®), when applied alone or in a strategy with other products

plantaginea

- used to control *D. plantaginea* to improve the pest management system in apple orchards.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(Movento®)
(*Dysaphis plantaginea* Pass.)

- Field experiments were conducted to evaluate the efficacy of Spirotetramat (Monvente®) against *Dysaphis plantaginea* Pass. in an industrial apple garden near Plovdiv in 2015 and 2016.

2015
2016 . 26

The trials were carried out on 26 year old apple trees, cv *Golden Delicious*, grown as a spindle on a M -106 rootstock, in a planting pattern of 4.5 x 2.0 m. All experiments were set in a randomized block pattern of 3 replicates (four trees per iteration) for each treatment.

Golden Delicious,
-106,
4,5 2,0 m.

(4 3)

- The purpose of the study was to evaluate and compare the efficacy of spirotetramat (Movento®) when applied alone after flowering (69) or in a combined strategy with another product. Three strategies for controlling *D. plantaginea*, including prefloral treatment (A) with flonicamid (Teppeki) (59), followed by post-blotting treatment (B) (69) with imidacloprid, thiametoxam and spirotetramate, respectively, were compared.

(Movento ®),

(69)

D. plantaginea,
()
(Teppeki) (59)

(69),

- Insecticidal treatments (1 per test variant) were made using an aerosol sprayer, simulating a 1500 l/ha working solution. The data on the treatment and investigation time are presented in Table. 1. The evaluation was performed visually on 100 shoots by determining the number of individuals in the colonies. It was done 4 times at regular intervals for two months.

(1
1500 l/ha.

1.

100

4

1.

Dysaphis plantaginea

Table 1. Characteristics of tested insecticides to control *Dysaphis plantaginea*

Test variants	Commercial formulation	Active substance	Active substance (%)	Formulation	Dose g-ml/hl	Time of application	Date of treatment	
							2015	2016
1	/ Untreated plot						-	-
2	Actara	Thiametoxam	25	WG	25	() (69)	14.05	01.04
3	Confidor	Imidacloprid	20	SL	50	() (69)	14.05	01.04
4	Movento	Spirotetramat	100	SC	100	() (69)	14.05	01.04
5	Teppeki	Fonicamid	50	WG	14	()	17.04	01.04
	Actara	Thiametoxam	25	WG	40	()	05.05	05.05
6	Teppeki	Fonicamid	50	WG	14	()	17.04	01.04
	Confidor	Imidacloprid	20	SL	50	()	05.05	05.05
7	Teppeki	Fonicamid	50	WG	14	()	17.04	01.04
	Movento	Spirotetramat	100	SC	100	()	05.05	05.05

(Anova)

Tukey (<0,05).

D. plantaginea

Abbott (1925).

Statistical analysis

The data on the percentage of infested shoots from *D. plantaginea* were subjected to analysis of variance (Anova) and the differences between the means compared to the Tukey test (p <0.05). For the evaluation of effectiveness of the strategies the Abbott formula (1925) was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Tests 2015. In the research, at the end of the flowering (03.05) (before post-blossoming treatment), no colonies of *D. plantaginea* were detected in any of the test variants. A week later, in untreated plot there were about 4.6% infected shoots. In the plots, where Aktara and Confidor were applied alone after flowering, the percentage of infested shoots with aphids was about 0.3%, unlike the plot with the Monvento, where infestation of the aphids was not observed.

2015.
(03.05)
(*D. plantaginea*),
(2).
4,6%
, Akt ra Confidor
0,3%,
Movento,
13.05,
D. plantaginea
24.9%,
Aktara,

In the plots with combined strategies, the presence of aphid infestation was also not found. In the evaluation of 13.05, the infestation with *D. plantaginea* in the untreated plot was 24.9%, in the plots with the Aktara and Confidor and Monvento,

Confidor Monvento, 1,8
 1,3% 0%,
 28.05,
 35.2%,
 ;
 90 95%,
 94 97%.

respectively 1.8 and 1.3% and 0% respectively, whereas in the plots with the combination strategies infestation of the aphids was not observed. In assessing 28.05, the infestation of the shoots in the untreated plot increased to 35.2%, with visible damage to the shoots and the fruit trees; in the plots with post-blossoming treatment the effect varied between 90 and 95%, while in the combined strategy plots it ranged between 94 and 97%.

2.

D. plantaginea
 , 2015 .

Table 2. Percentage of infested shoots from D. plantaginea and efficacy of control strategies, Plovdiv, 2015

Test variants / products	Time of application	% infested shoots				Efficiency of the strategy, %
		03/5	13/5	21/5	28/5	
1 Untreated plot	-	0	4,59 *	24,92	35,15	-
2 Actara		0	0,25 b	1,76 b	3,24 b	90,8
3 Confidor		0	0,28 b	1,29 b	2,26 b	93,6
4 Movento		0	0 b	0 b	1,72 b	95,1
5 Teppeki-Actara	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	2,16 b	93,9
6 Teppeki-Confidor	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	1,14 b	97,2
7 Teppeki-Movento	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	1,02 b	97,2

* p 0,05 (Tukey)
 * Values in the same column marked with different letters differ significantly from each other for p 0.05 (Tukey's Test)

2016.
 (3).
 (03.05),
 e *D. plantaginea*,
 2 -
 2015 .
 - (13.05)
 5,7%
 Akt ra
 Confidor,
 ,
 0,3%,
 Movento

Tests 2016. Similar results were obtained in 2016 (Table 3).

In the inspection the end of flowering (03.05) before the post-blossoming treatment, no colonies of *D. plantaginea* were found in any of the tested variants, although the vegetation of the trees began about 2 weeks earlier than in the previous 2015.

In the plots with Actara and Confidor, applied alone after flowering, the rate of infestation was about 0.3%, whereas in the variance with the Movento infestation it was not found. Lack of infestation was also observed in the parcels with

21.05 32,4%
 0,3% , 2,3, 1,7%
 Akt ra Confidor Movento,
 28.05
 44.64%.
 90 95%,
 95 98%.

- combined strategies. The survey on 21.05 found 32.4% infestation in the untreated plot, 2.3, 1.7% and 0.3% infestation, in the plots with Aktara and Confidor and Monvento, respectively, while in the plots with combined strategies it was not observed.

- At an inspection on 28.05, the infestation in the untreated plot increased to 44.64%. Visible signs of damage to the shoots and trees were observed only in the untreated plot, whereas in the treated parcels such signs of damage were not observed. In the plots that received only post-blossom treatments, the efficiency ranged between 90 and 95%, while in the plots with the combined strategies it ranged from 95 to 98%.

3.

D. plantaginea
, 2016 .

Table 3. Percentage of infested shoots from *D. plantaginea* and efficacy of control strategies, Plovdiv, 2016

Test variants / products	Time of application	% infested shoots				Efficiency of the strategy, %
		03/5	13/5	21/5	28/5	
1 Untreated plot	-	0	5,74*	32,40	44,64	-
2 Actara		0	0,31 b	2,29 b	4,25 b	90,5
3 Confidor		0	0,35 b	1,68 b	2,97 b	93,4
4 Movento		0	0 b	0,28 b	2,28 b	95,1
5 Teppeki-Actara	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	2,64 b	94,9
6 Teppeki-Confidor	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	1,39 b	96,9
7 Teppeki-Movento	A + B	0	0 b	0 b	1,12 b	97,5

* Values in the same column marked with different letters differ significantly from each other for p = 0.05 (Tukey's Test)

CONCLUSIONS

- Summarizing the results of two-year field research it is clear that
- spirotetramat demonstrates very good efficacy applied alone after flowering or in a combined strategy with Flonicamid (Teppeki).
- In conditions of high infestation strategy (Teppeki applied before flowering and

(Teppeki)

,
 Movento

Teppeki

<p><i>D. plantaginea</i>, - Confidor Actara, Teppeki. Movento ®, <i>D. plantaginea</i>, Confidor Actara, Movento ® , , 3-4 Teppeki, , <i>D. plantaginea</i>, Movento ®,</p>	<p>after flowering Movento) showed very good control of the populations of <i>D. plantaginea</i>, which is similar or better than the reference insecticides Confidor and Actara, applied in a combined strategy with Teppeki. Movento, applied alone after flowering, also demonstrated very good control of <i>D. plantaginea</i> populations similar to those of the reference insecticides Confidor and Actara applied alone after flowering. Movento surpasses them not so much in efficacy as in persistence that is capable of providing the protection of the plants for 3-4 weeks. The application of Teppeki before flowering, although not contributing significantly to increasing the efficacy of the combined strategy, helps to retain the <i>D. plantaginea</i> population, which was later successfully controlled by Movento .</p>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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