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32000 ,
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The production and properties of some autochthonous plum cultivars suitable for brandy production in Serbia

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SUMMARY

Autochthonous plum cultivars have a high degree of share in plum assortment in Serbia. The main reasons for this are minor requirements regarding to growing technology, tolerance to drought, frosts and the most important diseases and above all tradition present among growers. Autochthonous plum cultivars are characterized by variable yields, fruit weight and fruit quality, therefore their main purpose is brandy production. These cultivars mostly have local character, because they are adapted to specific environmental conditions typical to each area. Within this paper, the production (the total number of trees and the growing area) and properties (yield per tree, yield per growing area and chemical characteristics of fruit) of autochthonous plum cultivars 'Trnova a', 'Požega a' and

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" " " " " "

(2004/2008).

" " ("Kraljica"). 9099

26.62 ha

" " (7003 ; 20.10 ha),

4.36 ha), " " (1365 ;

(731 ; 10 ha).

kg) - (45.20

" (15.73 t ha⁻¹)

" " (35.06 kg

⁻¹; 10.88 t ha⁻¹).

(11,68%) -

(14,22)

" " "

-

(10.50%) -

(0.98%),

(10.86).

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'Crvena Ranka' in the Region of Kosjeri , Western Serbia during five years (2004/2008) are presented. Fruits of these cultivars are used for production of brandy of Protected Geographical Indication named "Kraljica". A total of 9099 trees of the aforementioned autochthonous plum cultivars are grown on the surface of 26.62 ha in this region. The most common is cultivar 'Trnova a' (7003 trees; 20.10 ha), followed by 'Požega a' (1365 trees; 4.36 ha), while the cultivar 'Crvena Ranka' is the least present (731 trees; 10 ha).

The highest yield per tree (45.20 kg) and per unit area (15.73 t ha⁻¹) was found in the cultivar Trnova a , and the lowest in the cultivar Požega a (35.06 kg tree⁻¹; 10.88 t ha⁻¹). On the other hand, the highest value of the total sugars content (11.68%) and value of the ratio between the total sugars content and total acids (14.22) were found in the fruits of 'Crvena Ranka' cultivar. 'Trnova a' was characterized by the lowest value of total sugars (10.50%), and the highest value of the total acids (0.98%), as well as the lowest value of the ratio between the content of total sugars and total acids (10.86).

Key words: autochthonous plum cultivars, yield, fruit quality, brandy, Region of Kosjeri

INTRODUCTION

According to the annual production rate of domestic plum (*Prunus domestica* L.), Serbia ranks first in the Europe and the second in the world (FAOSTAT, 2018). Nevertheless, plum production in Serbia is characterized by low and variable yields as well as by fruits with inadequate size and quality (Milošević et al., 2017a). One of the main reasons for this is a high number of autochthonous plum cultivars in production which are currently estimated to account for 30% (Urošević , 2015). These cultivars are

(*Prunus domestica* L.)

(FAOSTAT,

2018).

,

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(Milošević et al.,

2017).

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30% (Urošević , 2015).

characterized by oscillating cropping, inadequate size and poor fruit quality as well as traditional approach, most commonly used in their cultivation, implying minimal use of appropriate agro- and pomotechnical measures. Furthermore, these cultivars are mainly of local character. Their properties depend on environmental conditions, making them specific for each area (Milošević and Milošević, 2012).

The most important plum product for the Republic of Serbia is brandy. Around 75–80% of the total amount of the produced fruits is processed into brandy, whereas considerably lower quantities are used for fresh consumption, drying and processing into other products (Nenadović-Mratini et al., 2007a). The largest share of plum brandy is produced from autochthonous cultivars by extensive and outdated technology, thereby obtaining brandy of non-uniform quality, which considerably aggravates the export of this product into the world market (Nenadović-Mratini et al., 2007b). In order to overcome this situation, in the Fruit Research Institute, a task has been conducted the assessment of the most important characteristics of autochthonous plum cultivars with the aim to select genotypes that may be commercially important for cultivation, for the purpose of processing fruits into brandy (Milošević et al., 2017b). Studies have also been conducted to find an optimum technological procedure that will produce the best quality brandy (Popović et al., 2007; Popović et al., 2009).

In the Zlatibor District area, plum plantations cover 10766.68 ha, of which about 80% are extensive plantations (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2017), which points to a high proportion of autochthonous cultivars. The Region of Kosjeri with a long tradition in plum cultivation and brandy production belongs to the Zlatibor District. The most famous distillery from this region is the "Zari" distillery, the producer of brandy

"Kraljica"), " "Kraljica", carrying the label of Protected Geographical Indication.

The aim of this paper was to show the production and the most important characteristics of autochthonous plum cultivars 'Trnova a', 'Požega a' and 'Crvena Ranka'. Fruits of these cultivars are processed using a precisely defined technological procedure into aforementioned brandy.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(2004-2008) **Object.** Five-years studies (2004/2008) covered the plantations of autochthonous plum cultivars in the Region of Kosjeri, whose annual yield, according to the contract, is processed in the "Zari" distillery. Plantations are located between 500 and 900 m above sea level, with different age and planting distance. The cultivation technology is characterized by a traditional approach, which implies natural crown, soil without cultivation and the use of organic fertilizers only. Furthermore, no protection measures against the causal agents of diseases and pests have been implemented as well.

Plant material. The studies included three top quality autochthonous plum cultivars 'Trnova a', 'Požega a' and 'Crvena Ranka'. 'Trnova a' originates from damson plum (*Prunus insititia* L.) and represents the most prevalent genotype in plum plantations of the Zlatibor District (Miloševi, 2002). It forms a pyramidal crown with branches that rarely crack under the weight of crop. Flowering time is early, on average in the middle of March, while ripening time is late, at the beginning of September. It is a self-fertile cultivar with high bearing potential. It bears regularly under conditions of minimal application of agro- and pomotechnical measures. Good results in cultivation on different types of soil and tolerance to economically the most important diseases and plum pests are characteristic for this cultivar. It is also

L.)
 (Miši , 1996).
 (Niki evi and Teševi , 2010).
 (Prunus domestica L.)
 (Miši , 1996).
 (ha),
 (kg tree⁻¹)
 (t ha⁻¹).

tolerant to the *Plum pox virus*. Compared to other cultivars, it gives a higher alcohol yield. The brandy obtained of this cultivar has very good quality, characteristic odour and taste.

'Pozega a' (*Prunus domestica* L.) has long been the leading plum cultivar in Serbia. It is a medium vigorous to vigorous cultivar, with pyramidal to broad-pyramidal crown with branches rarely cracking under the weight of crop (Miši , 1996). It blooms late and explosively and is a self-fertile cultivar. Its ripening time is late, at the end of August or early September. The fruits of this cultivar are characterized by excellent quality and it is suitable, among other things, for the production of top quality plum brandy (Niki evi and Teševi , 2010). The greatest deficiency of this cultivar is its susceptibility to *Plum pox virus*.

'Crvena Ranka' is one of the oldest brandy cultivars of domestic plum (*Prunus domestica* L.). It is a medium vigorous cultivar of a wide pyramidal crown with fragile branches that easily break under the weight of crop. The flowering time is medium-early. This cultivar is characterized by male sterility and must be grown together with appropriate pollenizer (Miši , 1996). The ripening time is medium, in the first half of August. It is tolerant to the *Plum pox virus* and is one of the most prominent plum brandy cultivars, but in comparison with other cultivars, it gives the smallest alcohol yield.

Presence of certain cultivars in the plantations. For each of the studied cultivars, the total number of trees and area (ha) in which is grown in the analysed area is shown.

Cropping and chemical traits measurement. Cropping of the studied plum cultivars is shown by yield per tree (kg tree⁻¹) and yield per unit area (t ha⁻¹). Ten trees in three replications for each plantation of each cultivar were randomly selected to determine average yield per tree using the electronic scale ACS

ACS System
Electronic Scale (Zhejiang, China).

(%)
Luff-Schoorl (Egan et al., 1981).
7.0 0.1 N NaOH,

2005 2006,
2007
Miši (1996)
700 1000 mm,
350 600 mm (Miši , 1996).
2004

System Electronic Scale (Zhejiang, China). Yield per unit of area is determined by calculation, multiplying yield per tree and number of plants per hectare. According different planting distances in the analysed plantations, the number of plants per hectare was different. For determining the yield per unit area, the average number of plants per hectare for each studied cultivar was determined on the base the total number of plants and total growing area of each cultivar. Based on the total number of plants and average yield per tree, the total yield in certain years of study was calculated.

The content of total sugars (%) was determined as fresh weight basis using the Luff-Schoorl method (Egan et al., 1981). Total acids were measured by neutralization to pH 7.0 with 0.1 N NaOH, the data being presented as a percentage of malic acid. Based on the data obtained, the ratio between total sugar content and total acids was calculated.

Climatic conditions. In the region of Kosjeri there is a moderate-continental climate. During the period of study climatic data from flowering time (March) to fruit ripening time (September) were provided by the nearest meteorological station and are shown in Table 1.

Based on the data shown in Table 1, an incidence of low temperature in March 2005 and 2006 was observed which might have led to certain degree of damage of plum flowering buds. Mean monthly temperature during summer months (June, July and August) in 2007 was above the values that Miši (1996) quotes as suitable for plum growing. The best results in the plum production achieved if it is grown in the areas with annual precipitation sum between 700 and 1000 mm, and the precipitation sum during vegetation between 350 and 600 mm (Miši , 1996). In accordance with the stated, precipitation sum in the vegetation

in 2004 was below optimal for plum and might have reflected on the study results.

1.

Table 1. Climatic conditions during the period of study in the Region of Kosjeri

| Month | Year | Average month temperature (°) | Minimal monthly temperature (°) | Maximal monthly temperature (°) | Precipitation (mm) | Number of rainy days |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| March | 2004 | 6.0 | -2.5 | 16.8 | 28.1 | 10 |
| | 2005 | 3.7 | -9.0 | 17.0 | 37.2 | 13 |
| | 2006 | 5.5 | -6.1 | 17.8 | 112.6 | 15 |
| | 2007 | 7.6 | 2.2 | 16.3 | 65.7 | 9 |
| | 2008 | 6.6 | 1.3 | 14.6 | 51.4 | 13 |
| April | 2004 | 11.4 | 4.4 | 19.2 | 59.8 | 14 |
| | 2005 | 9.9 | 3.3 | 17.8 | 45.1 | 13 |
| | 2006 | 11.1 | 4.0 | 19.7 | 72.9 | 15 |
| | 2007 | 10.7 | 1.2 | 21.6 | 14.6 | 3 |
| | 2008 | 11.0 | 4.8 | 19.2 | 52.2 | 14 |
| May | 2004 | 13.1 | 6.6 | 21.3 | 65.8 | 14 |
| | 2005 | 14.9 | 5.8 | 25.2 | 89.4 | 19 |
| | 2006 | 14.6 | 6.6 | 25.6 | 49.3 | 15 |
| | 2007 | 16.5 | 8.8 | 24.9 | 95.5 | 17 |
| | 2008 | 16.2 | 5.9 | 27.1 | 85.4 | 14 |
| June | 2004 | 19.0 | 12.3 | 26.5 | 99.1 | 15 |
| | 2005 | 17.4 | 9.1 | 28.4 | 62.6 | 11 |
| | 2006 | 18.2 | 8.0 | 31.8 | 134.6 | 16 |
| | 2007 | 20.2 | 12.7 | 31.0 | 45.0 | 9 |
| | 2008 | 19.7 | 13.4 | 30.9 | 49.6 | 14 |
| July | 2004 | 20.5 | 13.3 | 30.6 | 100.5 | 12 |
| | 2005 | 19.96 | 14.0 | 29.9 | 59.9 | 17 |
| | 2006 | 20.3 | 12.3 | 30.9 | 107.7 | 14 |
| | 2007 | 21.6 | 11.9 | 32.8 | 37.3 | 4 |
| | 2008 | 29.3 | 13.2 | 29.7 | 71.8 | 12 |
| August | 2004 | 19.7 | 12.2 | 28.1 | 60.0 | 12 |
| | 2005 | 18.7 | 13.7 | 26.0 | 88.9 | 13 |
| | 2006 | 18.7 | 12.5 | 29.6 | 120.9 | 16 |
| | 2007 | 21.1 | 12.7 | 33.0 | 42.5 | 12 |
| | 2008 | 20.0 | 15.0 | 30.7 | 12.6 | 2 |
| September | 2004 | 15.5 | 9.5 | 24.5 | 50.2 | 4 |
| | 2005 | 16.4 | 13.4 | 26.0 | 73.9 | 14 |
| | 2006 | 15.9 | 11.0 | 25.5 | 36.8 | 10 |
| | 2007 | 13.2 | 7.7 | 21.2 | 110.1 | 14 |
| | 2008 | 13.9 | 7.4 | 30.6 | 77.6 | 12 |

(ANOVA),
Microsoft Office Excel 2003.

Data analysis. The obtained results were analysed using the Fisher model analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the software package Microsoft Office Excel 2003. The degree of relevance of differences between the treatments was determined using the LSD

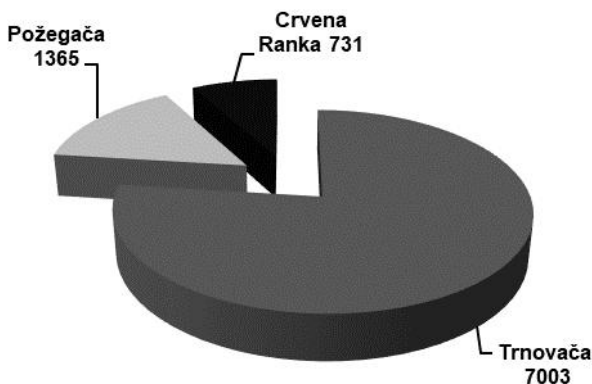
P <0,05.

LSD test, with the probability level of P 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

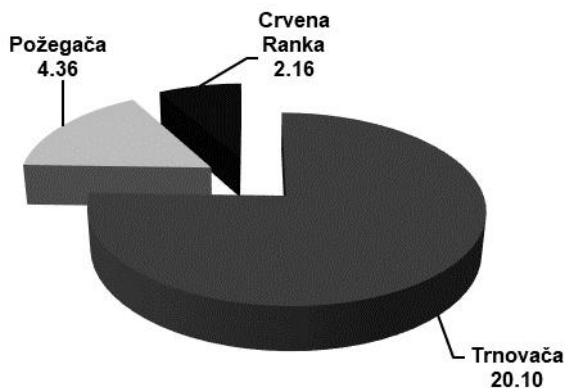
ha. - 7003
20.10 ha (1 2).
" " 1365
4.36 ha,
" - 731
2.10 ha.

Total contracted production of autochthonous plum cultivars in the Region of Kosjeri accounts for 9099 trees cultivated in the area of 26.62 ha. With 7003 trees cultivated in 20.10 ha, the cultivar 'Trnovača' is the most common (Figure 1 and 2). It is followed by 'Požegača' with 1365 trees cultivated in 4.36 ha, while the cultivar 'Crvena Ranka' is the least present, with 731 trees in the area of 2.10 ha.



. 1.

Fig. 1. Number of trees of studied autochthonous plum cultivars in the Region of Kosjeri



. 2.

(ha)

Fig. 2. Orchard area (ha) of studied autochthonous plum cultivars in the Region of Kosjeri

Yield per tree and per unit area varied depending on the cultivar, year of study and their interaction (Table 2). The greatest yield per tree (45.20 kg) and per unit area (15.73 t ha⁻¹) was found in the cultivar Trnova a, whereas the lowest values of the aforementioned parameters were obtained in the cultivar Požega a (on average 35.06 kg tree⁻¹; 10.88 t ha⁻¹). Observed from the aspect of the studied year, the highest average yield values per tree and unit area were determined in 2007 (50.66 kg tree⁻¹; 17.63 t ha⁻¹), and the lowest in 2004 (31.66 tree⁻¹; 10.98 t ha⁻¹). However, in certain cultivars, a different yield tendency is observed per certain year of study, which speaks in favor of the significant influence of the interaction between genotype and year of study on yield. This phenomenon is expected because the cropping is known to be controlled by numerous factors of biological and ecological nature such as genotype (Milošević and Milošević, 2011), the condition and age of trees, the amount of water in soil, temperature and light (Luić et al., 1996), as well as the applied cultivation technology (Blažek and Pišković, 2009). The lowest average yield in 2004 can be explained by the fact that the amount of precipitation during vegetation in this year was below the optimum for plum growing. Furthermore, the occurrence of the lowest yields for the 'Požega a' cultivar can be explained by the premature fruit drop due to the pronounced sensitivity of this variety to the *Plum pox virus* (Mišić and Ranković, 2002). The Crvena Ranka' cultivar is distinguished by its high cropping, but due to the brittleness and cracking of branches in certain years, it is prone to alternative bearing (Milošević, 2002).

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2.

Table 2. Yield of the studied autochthonous plum cultivars

| | | Yield per tree (kg) | Yield per growing area (t ha ⁻¹) |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| /Genotype (A) | | | |
| | /Trnova a | 45.20±9.10 a | 15.73±3.29 a |
| | /Požega a | 35.06±8.18 b | 10.88±0.50 b |
| | /Crvena Ranka | 36.80±3.56 c | 11.68±0.43 c |
| /Year (B) | | | |
| 2004 | | 31.66±5.29 d | 10.98±2.05 d |
| 2005 | | 37.66±5.18 bc | 13.11±1.80 b |
| 2006 | | 37.11±3.86 c | 12.91±1.34 c |
| 2007 | | 50.66±9.99 a | 17.63±3.48 a |
| 2008 | | 38.00±2.92 b | 13.22±1.02 b |
| Genotype (A) × Year (B) | | | |
| Trnova a | 2004 | 38.00±0.86 de | 13.22±0.30 de |
| | 2005 | 43.00±1.73 c | 14.96±0.60 bc |
| | 2006 | 41.00±1.00 cd | 14.27±0.35 cd |
| | 2007 | 63.00±2.95 a | 21.92±0.92 a |
| | 2008 | 41.00±1.00 cd | 14.26±0.35 cd |
| Požega a | 2004 | 25.00±3.04 g | 8.70±1.06 h |
| | 2005 | 32.00±2.00 f | 11.14±0.70 fg |
| | 2006 | 32.33±0.57 f | 11.25±0.20 fg |
| | 2007 | 48.00±3.60 b | 16.70±1.25 b |
| | 2008 | 38.00±1.00 de | 13.22±0.35 de |
| Crvena Ranka | 2004 | 32.00±1.80 f | 11.02±0.50 g |
| | 2005 | 38.00±3.04 de | 13.22±1.06 |
| | 2006 | 38.00±0.50 de | 13.22±0.17 de |
| | 2007 | 41.00±0.87 cd | 14.27±0.30 cd |
| | 2008 | 35.00±2.29 ef | 12.80±0.79 f |
| ANOVA | | | |
| A | | * | * |
| B | | * | * |
| A×B | | * | * |

P ≤ 0.01 LSD

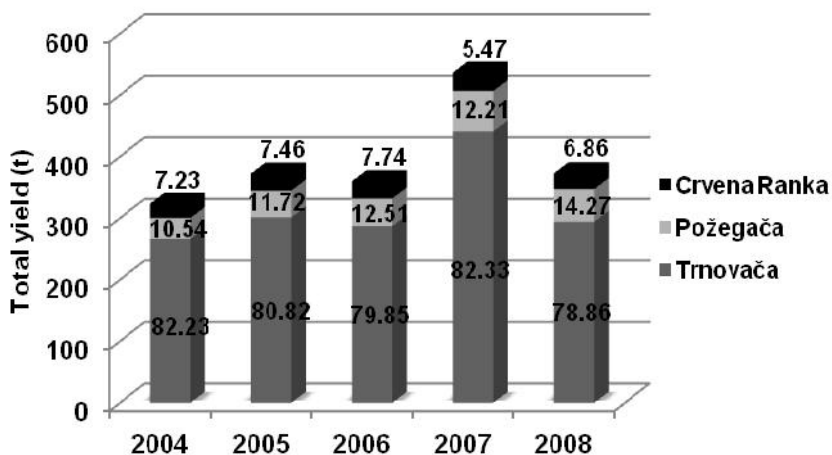
(*) P ≤ 0.05 (*)

The various lowercase letters in respective columns indicate significant differences at P ≤ 0.01 according to the LSD test.

Asterisks in columns indicate significant differences at P ≤ 0.05 (*) according to the F test.

The share of fruits of the studied autochthonous plum cultivars in total yield, by which processing the plum brandy of Protected Geographical Indication is obtained, was uniform by years (Figure 3). The share of 'Trnova a' cultivar ranged from 78.86% to 82.33%, followed by 'Požega a' with a share of 10.54–14.27%, while the smallest share was found in Crvena Ranka (5.47–7.74%).

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3. (t) (%)

Fig. 3. The share of fruits (%) of the studied autochthonous plum cultivars in total yield (t) in certain years

| | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 3. | (11,68%) | - |
| (14,22) | " | " |
| (0,98%) | " | " |
| (10,50%) | - | (10,86). |
| (11,43%), | - | 2007 |
| (10,50%). | - | 2008 |
| 2006 | (0,92%), | - |
| 2004 | 2007 | (0,82%). |

The results of the chemical composition of autochthonous plum cultivars are shown in Table 3. The studied cultivars differed considerably in terms of the content of total sugars and total acids in fruits, as well as in terms of relation between these two parameters. The highest value of the total sugar content (11.68%) and the highest value of the ratio between the content of total sugars and total acids (14.22) were found in the fruits of 'Crvena Ranka' cultivar. The highest value of the total acids (0.98%) was determined in the fruits of 'Trnova a'. This cultivar was also characterized by the lowest value of total sugars (10.50%) and the lowest value of the ratio between the content of total sugars and total acids (10.86).

Chemical composition of fruit of the studied plum cultivars differed depending on the year of the study as well. The highest average value of the content of total sugars was determined in 2007 (11.43%), and the lowest in 2008 (10.50%). The average content of total acids in fruit was the highest in 2006 (0.92%), and the lowest in 2004 and 2007 (0.82%). The ratio between the content of

2007 . (14.03),
2008 . (11.81).

total sugars and total acids was highest in 2007 (14.03), and the lowest in 2008 (11.81). The mentioned regularity is not observed in all studied cultivars, which speaks in favor of the significant influence of the interaction effect between genotype and year of study on the analysed parameters of the chemical composition of fruit.

3.

Table 3. Chemical characteristics of the fruit of studied autochthonous plum cultivars

| | | /Total sugars content (%) | /Total acids content (%) | Total sugars/Total acids content |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| /Genotype (A) | | | | |
| | Trnova a | 10.50±0.27 c | 0.98±0.11 a | 10.86±1.41 c |
| | Požega a | 10.88±2.84 b | 0.79±0.07 c | 13.77±1.42 b |
| | Crvena Ranka | 11.68±0.43 a | 0.82±0.08 b | 14.22±1.72 a |
| /Year (B) | | | | |
| | 2004 | 11.30±0.63 a | 0.82±0.63 d | 13.97±2.46 a |
| | 2005 | 10.93±0.47 b | 0.86±0.11 c | 12.92±1.91 b |
| | 2006 | 10.93±0.72 b | 0.92±0.19 a | 12.48±2.89 c |
| | 2007 | 11.43±0.55a | 0.82±0.06 d | 14.03±1.45 a |
| | 2008 | 10.50±0.47c | 0.89±0.09 b | 11.81±1.22 d |
| () (B) Genotype (A) × Year (B) | | | | |
| Trnova a | 2004 | 10.70±0.10 fg | 0.87±0.03 bc | 12.31±0.29 f |
| | 2005 | 10.50±0.10 gh | 1.00±0.03 b | 10.50±0.21 g |
| | 2006 | 10.20±0.17 hi | 1.15±0.06 a | 8.88±0.41 h |
| | 2007 | 10.80±0.26 ef | 0.88±0.03 bc | 12.29±0.68 f |
| | 2008 | 10.30±0.17 hi | 1.00±0.06 b | 10.33±0.76 |
| Požega a | 2004 | 11.20±0.17 cd | 0.90±0.02 b | 12.44±0.14 f |
| | 2005 | 10.80±0.17 ef | 0.80±0.01 de | 13.50±0.37 d |
| | 2006 | 10.80±0.10 ef | 0.70±0.03 f | 15.44±0.48 b |
| | 2007 | 11.50±0.10 bc | 0.75±0.03 ef | 15.34±0.43 b |
| | 2008 | 10.10±0.10 h | 0.81±0.04 d | 12.49±0.65 f |
| Crvena Ranka | 2004 | 12.00±0.50 a | 0.70±0.02 f | 17.16±1.09 a |
| | 2005 | 11.50±0.20 bc | 0.78±0.03 de | 14.74±0.35 c |
| | 2006 | 11.80±0.26 ab | 0.90±0.02 b | 13.11±0.09 e |
| | 2007 | 12.00±0.17 a | 0.83±0.03 cd | 14.47±0.61 c |
| | 2008 | 11.10±0.10 de | 0.88±0.02 bc | 12.61±0.17 ef |
| ANOVA | | | | |
| | A | * | * | * |
| | B | * | * | * |
| | A×B | * | * | * |

The various lowercase letters in respective columns indicate significant differences at $P \leq 0.01$ according to the LSD test.

Asterisks in columns indicate significant differences at $P \leq 0.05$ (*) according to the F test.

$P \leq 0.01$ LSD

(*)

$P \leq 0.05$ (*)

17,74% (Miši , 1996).
 (Tanner and Brunner, 1998).
 " "
 - "
 Nenadovi -Mratini et al. (2007b), "
 " "
 Jordovi and Rankovi (1972). "
 , - "
 2007 ., "
 - , . . "
 . "
 (2006). Mitrovi et al. "
 , "
 , "
 , "
 (Nenadovi -Mratini et al., 2007b).

7- Edible part of plum contains 7–17.74% total sugars (Miši , 1996). For the production of top quality fruit brandys, it is essential that the fruits are characterized by high sugar content and to have a fully developed aroma typical for the species and cultivar (Tanner and Brunner, 1998). The obtained average values of total sugars and total acids content in the autochthonous plum cultivar 'Crvena Ranka' in our work are slightly lower than the results stated by Nenadovi -Mratini et al. (2007b), while the obtained results for the cultivar 'Požega a' are in agreement with the results of Jordovi and Rankovi (1972).
 - If we observe the result tendency by years, it is noticeable that on average, the highest content of total sugars in fruits of the studied plum cultivars was determined in 2007, which was distinguished by the highest temperatures during summer months, i.e. during the period of intensive fruit development and ripening. The obtained results are in accordance with Mitrovi et al. (2006).
 - Analysis of the obtained results showed that the chemical composition of the fruit was specific for each cultivar as well as for the conditions that were present in certain years of study. The obtained results can be explained by the fact that autochthonous cultivars are adapted to specific conditions of the environment, making them specific and different for each specific area (Nenadovi -Mratini et al., 2007b).

CONCLUSIONS

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Autochthonous plum cultivar 'Trnova a', which is characterized by the highest and most regular cropping, is predominantly represented in the Region of Kosjeri (West Serbia). It participates with about 80% of the total yield of all the studied plum cultivars, which are used to produce brandy of Protected Geographical Indication. The highest value of total sugars and the highest

values of the ratio between total sugars and the total acids in fruit were determined in the 'Crvena Ranka' cultivar. The results of the study indicate the possibility of exploitation of the existing extensive plantations of autochthonous plum cultivars as well as on the possibility of expanding production and establishing new plantations with genotypes tolerant to *Plum pox virus* in order to provide larger quantities of fruits that would be processed into high quality brandy. In this sense, it would be significant to perform clone selection within the existing population of autochthonous plum cultivars with the aim to allocate genotypes with the most favorable production traits that could be cultivated under conditions of intensive cultivation technology. Moreover, it is necessary to take certain steps with the aim to produce healthy planting material of the autochthonous cultivars.

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Dipping effect on drying kinetics of plum fruits

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SUMMARY

Drying of plums is a slow and time-consuming process since their skin is covered with waxy bloom and the fruits dried as a whole. In order to increase the drying rate, various pre-treatments are applied, among which most commonly used operation is dipping. The work presents results of dipping effect on drying kinetics of the plum cultivars *Čanska leptotica*, *Mildora*, *Čanska Rodna* and *Stanley*. Dipping is carried out in laboratory conditions by immersing the fruits in boiling water. Examinations are performed at the drying temperature 70 °C in an experimental drier for testing convective drying technological procedure, until reaching 75% of total dry matter in a dried fruit. By dipping at the drying temperature 70 °C, drying time is reduced by 10%, in relation to the control (undipped fruits) for all examined cultivars except *Mildora* where drying process is decreased by 5,5%.

Key words: plum, prune, dipping, drying curves, drying rate

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INTRODUCTION

Drying is probably the oldest method of conserving food in general. In order to optimize this process, which should enable the reduction of the production price and to increase the quality of the product, dry kinetics tests are performed which include all measurements and parameter analyses during the drying process. Testing of the drying kinetic process is carried out in laboratory, experimental or pilot devices (Kandi et al., 2007). From the aspect of drying as a process of mass – moisture transfer, Kandi et al. (2017) states that the basic diagrams of kinetics of drying: drying curves and drying rate curve.

In order to increase drying rate, various pre-treatments are used, and the most commonly used operation is dipping.

Dipping can be carried out by immersing the fruits in hot (Tarhan et al., 2006) or boiling water (Sacilik et al., 2006), a base solution (Pangavhane et al., 1999), fatty acid ester solutions (Di Matteo et al., 2002; Doymaz, 2004) of different concentrations and temperatures, or in the fatty acid ester solution with the addition of different bases (Doymaz, 2006), in order to distort or remove the waxy layer without damaging the skin.

Examining the influence of dipping on the quality of dried plums of the cultivar Požega a, Janda (1969) immersed the fruits into a boiling solution of sodium of different concentrations and in boiling water and concludes that in treated fruits in boiling of sodium hydroxide there is a degradation of colour in dried fruits, whereas in fruits dipped in boiling water no such changes are seen, which is why this treatment is recommended for wider use in production.

Doymaz and Pala (2002) examined the influence of different dipping agents

Ismail et al. (2008),

70 °C,

(Kandi et al., 2006).

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1 kg).

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on the rate of grape drying and concluded that there was a drastic reduction of the drying time in dipped fruits compared to control, i.e. fruits that were not dipped. In their experiments, it has been shown that different dipping agents behave in the same way, i.e., dipped fruits are dried for the same time regardless of the respective solution. The same conclusion was reached by Ismail et al. (2008) examining the effect of fatty acid bases and esters as a dipping agent in the course of drying grapes at different temperatures.

The aim of this paper is to determine whether dipping affects the reduction of drying time of some plum cultivars that dry at an air temperature of 70 °C.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plum fruits from the plantations of Fruit Research Institute a ak, a anska Lepotica, Mildora, a anska Rodna and Stanley with agro and pomotechnical measures commonly used for this kind of fruit trees regularly applied were used for the examination. The fruits for drying were picked selectively in a full maturity phase for the respective cultivar

Drying of fruits was carried out in an experimental dryer for testing the convective drying process (Kandi et al., 2006). An air-streaming drying procedure was applied at a constant temperature of 70 °C. Fruits were dried without pre-treatment (control) and dipped (plum fruits immersed in boiling water for 20 seconds). Fresh plums of about the same average initial mass (based on counting of fruits in 1 kg) were placed on a pre-defined stainless tray in one layer. There were 6 trays in the drying chamber.

Through the trays with plum fruits, the vertically air-heated air with pre-defined characteristics was introduced (temperature, air-flow). The speed of the air flow in the intersection of drying

1 m/s.

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105 ° ,

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- DM [kg DM/kg] – ;

- W [kg W/kg] – ;

- U [kg W/kg DM] – ;

- G_{SMz} [kg DM/kg] – () ;

- chamber was 1 m/s. Direction of vertical air-flow during the drying process was

- changed alternatively and periodically at the intervals of 60 min, so that the same conditions during drying on all trays were achieved, which was the reason why the fruit mass on the trays was measured every 2 hours. Dipped fruits and fruits representing control were dried simultaneously in the same experiment, on the trays symmetrically placed in the dryer, thus achieving the same drying conditions. Drying of fruits ends when the dry matter content of the samples is about 75% of dry matter.

- Before drying process, measuring and determination of the basic fruit parameters were carried out: measuring of fruit mass, fruit stone mass and the content of dry matter. Mass share of the stone in the fruit was determined based on the fruit and stone mass. The initial dry matter of fresh plum fruits and final dry matter of prunes were determined by standard method, by drying at 105°C until the constant mass was reached.

Nomenclature:

- DM [kg DM/kg] – content of total dry matter;

- W [kg W/kg] – Moisture content on a wet base;

- U [kg W/kg DM] – Moisture content on a dry base;

- G_{SMz} [kg DM/kg] – Final content of total dry matter in edible fruit part (total dry matter of dried fruit);

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

75%

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- Before drying, initial parameters of the mechanical composition of fresh plum berries and the content of total dry matter are determined, which represent the data necessary for the calculation of drying process completion on trays with 75% of dry matter, which is shown in Table 1. For drying, fruits of the uniform mass (large) and uniform maturity are used. The fruit mass ranges from 23.00 g (Mildora

23.00 g
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 23.00 g -
 (Mileti et al., 2015),
 (Mitrovi et al., 2013a),

cultivar) to 43.10 g (Stanley cultivar). According to Sottit et al. (2010) the most desirable fruit characteristics for drying are fruits weighing between 30 and 40 g and with stones from 1.2 to 2 g, which we have used in our research in the cultivars a anska Lepotica, acanska Rodna and Stanley. On the other hand, the Mildora cultivar with the fruit mass of 23.00 g belongs to the group of plums with small to medium fruits (Mileti et al., 2015), but since it contains extremely small stone (Mitrovi et al., 2013a), it can be used for processing by drying.

1.

Table 1. Mechanical composition and content of total dry matter in fruits of the studied plum cultivars

| Cultivar | Fruit mass (g) | Stone mass (g) | Stone ratio (%) | Dry matter (%) |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| a. Lepotica | 41.50 | 1.70 | 4.10 | 15.66 |
| Mildora | 23.00 | 1.03 | 4.48 | 25.63 |
| a. Rodna | 37.40 | 1.51 | 4.04 | 22.80 |
| Stanley | 43.10 | 2.20 | 5.11 | 19.47 |

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 " (25,63%),
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 (22,80
 19,47%),
 Mileti et al. (2015) Mitrovi et
 al. (2013b).
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 (15.66%),
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 (Gliši et al., 2015; Minev and
 Stojanova, 2013).

According to the content of total dry matter, the fruits of all plum cultivars are picked at the stage of technological maturity for drying, whereas differences in values are the result of varietal characteristics. Namely, the cultivar Mildora is characteristic for its extremely high content of total dry matter (25.63%), while the cultivars a anska Rodna and Stanley have lower contents (22.80 and 19.47%, in order), which is in agreement with the results of Mileti et al. (2015) and Mitrovi et al. (2013b). In the a anska Lepotica cultivar, this value is far smaller (15.66%), which is explained by the varietal characteristic and the fact that it belongs to the early-ripening cultivar group (Gliši et al., 2015; Minev and Stojanova, 2013).

The drying kinetics can be presented by different curves that

(Graph 1),

(5,38 kg W/kg DM)

(25,63%)

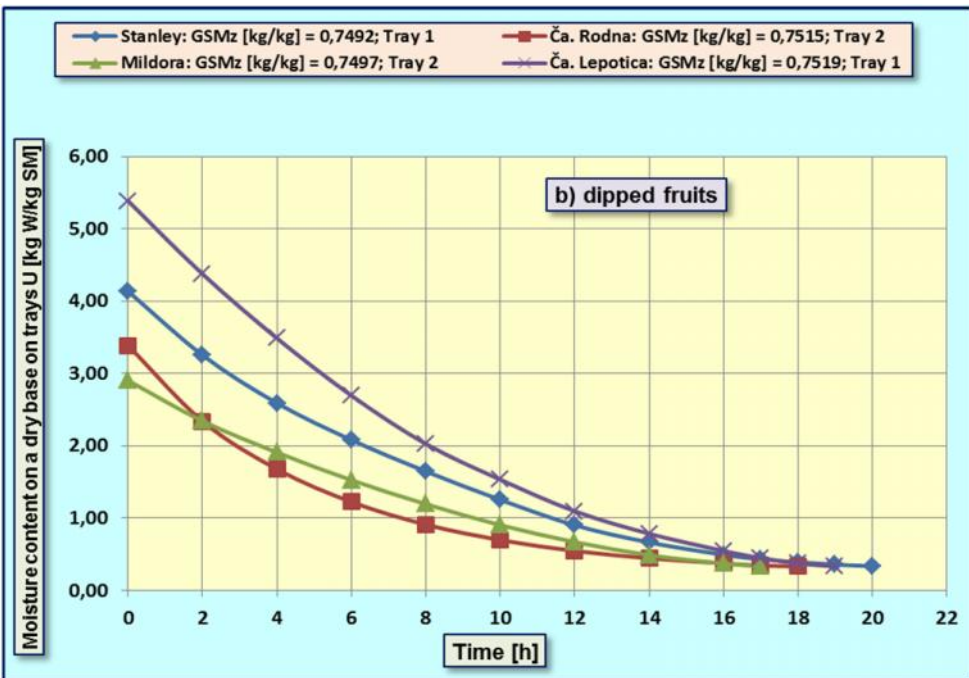
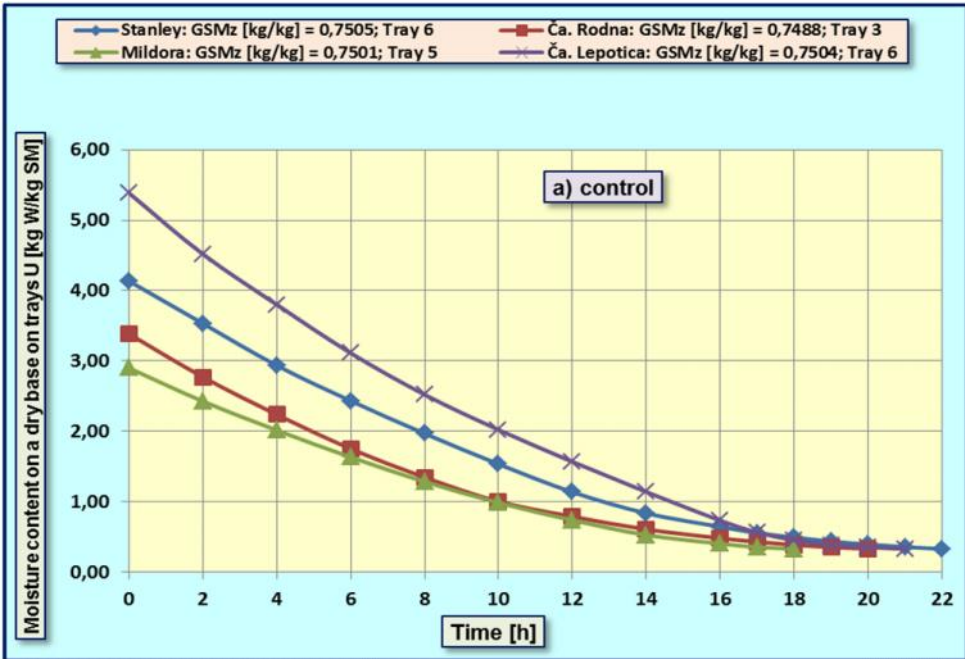
(2,90 kg W/kg DM).

75%

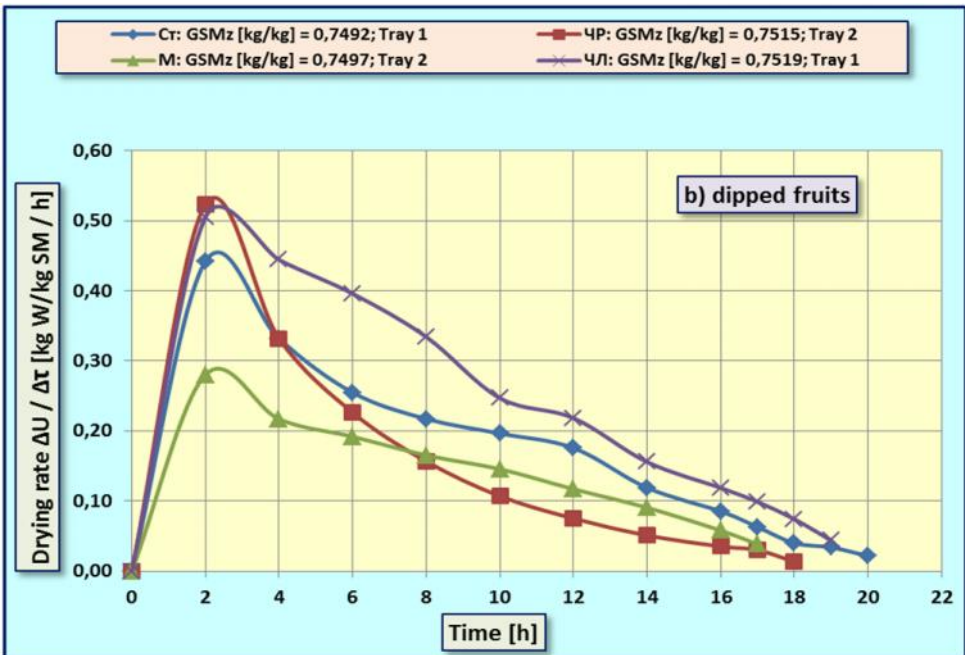
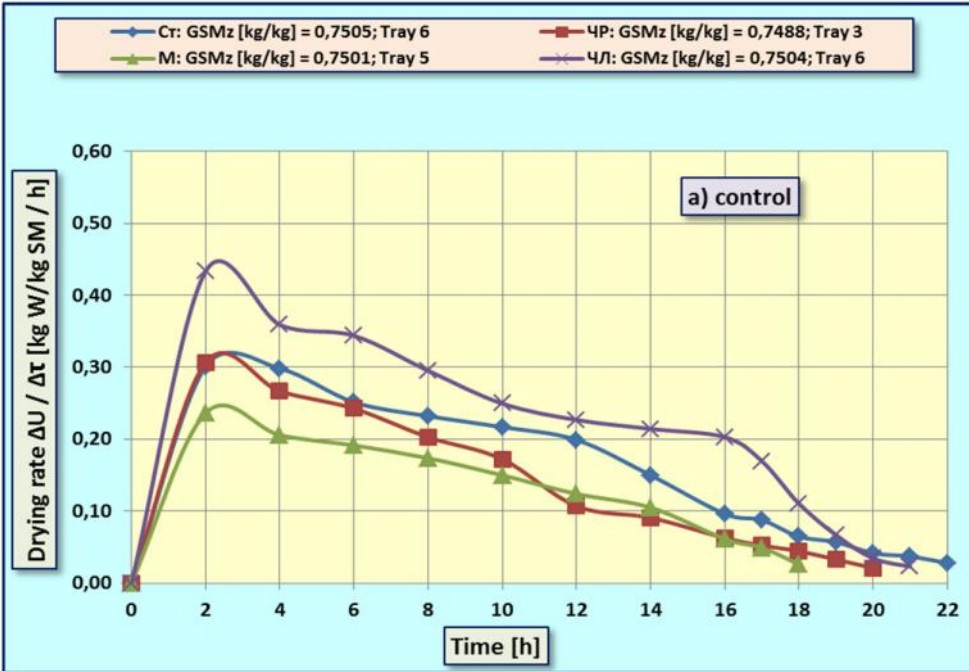
0.33 kg W/kg DM.

represent changes in the time of different units of the basic drying material state, i.e., units that describe the condition of fruits of the studied plum cultivars. Graph 1 shows the curves of the moisture content (on a dry basis) of the fruits of the studied plum cultivars during drying: (a) the fruits representing control and (b) the dipped fruits. Drying kinetics is most commonly shown using this curve because it annuls the difference in the initial data of the tested cultivars: the starting total mass and the starting dry matter content of the fruit on trays. Since the dry matter mass in fruits remains unchanged during drying, by using the unit of moisture content on a dry base, it is possible to much better notice different drying kinetics of the tested plum cultivars.

Analyzing the drying curves (Graph 1), it is concluded that all the curves of the studied plum cultivars start from different values, since the fruits of the studied plum cultivars have different contents of total dry matter at the beginning of drying, i.e., the different moisture content on a dry base. The fruits of the plum cultivar *a anska leptica* have the lowest content of total dry matter (15.66%), due to which its fruits have the highest dry matter moisture content (5.38 kg W/kg DM) at the beginning of drying and the fruits of *Mildora* cultivar due to the highest content of total dry matter (25.63%) at the beginning of drying have the lowest moisture content on a dry base (2.90 kg W/kg DM). Drying of fruits lasted up until 75% of the total dry matter is achieved, thereby the ultimate moisture content on a dry basis in all tested cultivars is about values 0.33 kg W/kg DM.



1. :) ; b)
 Graph 1. Contents of moisture on a dry base on trays during the drying period:
 a) control; b) dipped fruits



2.
:) ; b)
Graph 2. Drying rate on a dry base on trays during the drying period: a) control; b) dipped fruits

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of the drying process. Table 2 shows the loss of free water in relation to the total evaporated water after 2, 4 and 6 hours of drying for dipped fruits and the fruits representing control.

(%)

Table 2. The loss of free water (%) in relation to the total evaporated water for the fruits in intervals of 2, 4 and 6 h in relation to the drying start

| /Cultivar | Intervals of time from the drying start | Loss of free water in relation to the total evaporated water (%) | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| | | /control | /dipped |
| a anaska Lepotica | 0 – 2 h | 17.15 | 19.98 |
| | 0 – 4 h | 31.36 | 37.56 |
| | 0 – 6 h | 44.97 | 53.23 |
| /Mildora | 0 – 2 h | 18.40 | 21.82 |
| | 0 – 4 h | 34.41 | 38.72 |
| | 0 – 6 h | 49.31 | 53.65 |
| a anaska Rodna | 0 – 2 h | 20.08 | 34.27 |
| | 0 – 4 h | 37.56 | 55.99 |
| | 0 – 6 h | 53.46 | 70.81 |
| /Stanley | 0 – 2 h | 15.84 | 23.25 |
| | 0 – 4 h | 31.51 | 40.69 |
| | 0 – 6 h | 44.73 | 54.09 |

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At a drying temperature of 70 °C, at the beginning of drying, when it is crucial, drying rates of dipped fruits are significantly higher than the control. After 2 hours of drying, the loss of free water in relation to the total amount of evaporated water is drastically higher in dipped fruits, with the biggest difference seen in the a anaska Rodna cultivar (34.27% versus 20.08% at control). Although after initial mass measurement (2h) fruit drying enters the phase of the falling drying rate (Datta, 2007), the evaporation of water from the fruits is still intense. After 6 hours of drying, dipped fruits lost over 50% of the free water in relation to the total amount of evaporated water in all

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Agrochemical soil status for 'Stanley' cultivar plantation

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SUMMARY

In 2016, experimental studies were conducted to determine the amount of basic nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium), humus and pH in the soil of a plum plantation with 'Stanley' cultivar, at the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan. The aim is to assess the long-term effect of the local organic stockpile fertilizing with manure, applied during the planting of fruit trees.

The agrochemical status was investigated in the intra-row and row spacing for three soil profiles: 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm and 40-60 cm.

The average values of nitrogen in the intra-row space ranged from 11.90-19.00 mg/kg for soil layers. The phosphorus content reaches 11.0 mg/100 g at a soil horizon of 0-20 cm and

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: 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm 40-60 cm.
11,90-19,00 mg/kg
11,0 mg/100 g 0-20 cm

0-20 cm
: 29,6 mg/100 g
32,30 mg/100 g.
pH

decreases as the depth increases.

The potassium amount at the surface layer of 0-20 cm was high in the intra-row and row spacing, respectively: 29.6 mg/100 g and 32.30 mg/100 g.

Key words: plums, agrochemicals indicators, soil fertility, humus, pH

INTRODUCTION

(Blum, 2005).

(WVVOOF, 2011).

(Popski et al., 2013).

(Todorova and Boteva, 2015).

(Baldi et al., 2010).

(Arnhold et al., 1914).

(Burmeister et al., 2015).

Rousseva, 2004),

(Filcheva and

Soils have a number of environmental, social and economic functions (Blum, 2005). Soil fertility is significant when assessing the quality and productivity of plants (WVVOOF, 2011). It is represented by providing the necessary basic macro- and microelements for trees. Therefore, genetic soil properties and fertilization are an important element of soil fertility management. The heavy mechanical structure, the high power and density of illuvial horizon define low water permeability and high water holding capacity of grey forest soils (Popski et al., 2013).

The application of organic fertilizers is one of the oldest and most common fertilization methods (Todorova, 2015). The application of composted organic matter has a positive effect on the soil, improving its physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics (Baldi et al., 2010). It contributes for maintaining and increasing fertility, thus preventing soil degradation processes (Arnhold et al., 1914). Organic fertilization, improving soil nutrition, creates conditions for increased biological activity (Burmeister et al., 2015).

It is important to analyze and determine the agrochemical soil status, because the imported organic substances, which enter the soil are subjected to different physicochemical and biological impacts (Filcheva et al., 2004), including erosion and flood water

(Teoharov, 2011)

pH

20-40 cm 40-60 cm

runoffs that export a number of nutrients, such as humus, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other macro and microelements (Teoharov, 2011),

The aim of the study is to determine the content of macro elements, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, humus and pH in soil samples of 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm and 40-60 cm depth after a long-term period of local stock organic fertilization with organic manure, imported during the planting of trees.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2016

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0-20 cm, 20-40 cm, 40-60

cm

The study was conducted in 2016 in the plum plantation with 'Stanley' cultivar in the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture - Troyan. A soil analysis of the intra-row and row spacing was done by means of samples of three depths of 0-20 cm, 20-40 cm, and 40-60 cm for the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, nutrient, as well as humus content and pH.

2003

5/4 m

The plantation for the experiment was established in the spring of 2003. The fruit trees were planted at a distance of 5/4 m in planting pits filled with manure. The preparation for planting of trees involves digging of three pits along the row. The stock fertilization is applied in all three, as the trees are planted in the middle pit, in order for the root system of the trees to use the nutrients of the manure. The area is maintained in black fallow, with the application of the necessary agro-technology, according to the crop.

Samples of the variants are taken from the intra-row line and the row spacing of the plantation.

The agrochemical analyses were carried out in the Central Laboratory of ISSAPP - "Nikola Poushkarov", Sofia.

The following indicators are analyzed:

- pH - potentiometric analysis;

- N – ;
- P₂O₅ – ;
- K₂O – ;
- – .

- N - method of Bremner and Keeney;
- P₂O₅ - method of P. Ivanov;
- K₂O - method of P. Ivanov;
- Humus - Turin method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the analysis of the basic nutrients, it was found that in the values of the soil reaction in the intra-row spacing at the three depths are similar, ranging from medium to slightly acidic reaction of the medium – pH in H₂O=6,17-6,27; in KCl= 5.50-5.77 (Table 1).

H₂O=6,17-6,27; KCl=5,50-5,77 (1).

Table 1. Composition of agrochemical indicators of soil layers in the intra-row line (2016)

| | | (2016) | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Soil surface 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 | Minimum | 5,1 | 4,8 | 16,7 | 5,0 | 23,4 | 1,59 |
| | Maximum | 7,2 | 6,9 | 21,3 | 11,0 | 39,1 | 2,16 |
| | Mean | 6,17 | 5,77 | 19,00 | 7,93 | 29,60 | 1,92 |
| | St error | 0,61 | 0,61 | 1,33 | 1,73 | 4,82 | 0,17 |
| | St Dev | 1,05 | 1,06 | 2,30 | 3,00 | 8,35 | 0,29 |
| | CV % | 17,02 | 18,37 | 12,10 | 37,83 | 28,21 | 15,10 |
| 20-40 | Minimum | 5,2 | 4,2 | 16,7 | 1,6 | 13,7 | 0,55 |
| | Maximum | 7,5 | 7,3 | 20,7 | 2,7 | 25,0 | 1,07 |
| | Mean | 6,10 | 5,50 | 18,23 | 2,00 | 21,13 | 0,80 |
| | St error | 0,71 | 0,93 | 1,24 | 0,35 | 3,72 | 0,15 |
| | St Dev | 1,23 | 1,61 | 2,16 | 0,61 | 6,44 | 0,26 |
| | CV % | 20,16 | 29,27 | 11,85 | 30,5 | 30,47 | 32,50 |
| 40-60 | Minimum | 5,0 | 4,4 | 5,2 | 0,3 | 16,1 | 0,26 |
| | Maximum | 7,8 | 7,0 | 20,1 | 3,4 | 29,5 | 2,25 |
| | Mean | 6,27 | 5,52 | 11,90 | 2,00 | 22,00 | 1,09 |
| | St error | 0,41 | 0,39 | 2,01 | 0,54 | 2,32 | 0,29 |
| | St Dev | 0,99 | 0,97 | 4,92 | 1,32 | 5,69 | 0,71 |
| | CV % | 15,79 | 17,57 | 41,34 | 66,00 | 25,86 | 65,14 |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0-20 cm | | - | The 0-20 cm surface layer has a medium to slightly acidic reaction. In the next 20-40 cm layer with pH 5.2, the acidity degree increases. The trend towards increasing growth continues for 40-60 cm, a depth with a strong acid reaction of the soil of 4.72. The coefficient of variation of the indicator is very broad (8.99-15.57%). |
| 20-40 cm | 5,2 | - | |
| 40-60 cm, | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |

2.

(2016)

Table 2. Composition of agrochemical indicators of soil surface in the row spacing (2016)

| Soil surface 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 | Minimum | 5,3 | 4,9 | 10,9 | 3 | 24,7 | 1,24 |
| | Maximum | 7,0 | 6,7 | 21,3 | 12,5 | 39,7 | 2,41 |
| | Mean | 6,20 | 5,78 | 16,31 | 6,71 | 32,30 | 1,88 |
| | St error | 0,17 | 0,17 | 1,09 | 0,93 | 1,74 | 0,10 |
| | St Dev | 0,53 | 0,52 | 3,29 | 2,78 | 5,21 | 0,31 |
| | CV % | 8,55 | 8,99 | 20,17 | 41,43 | 16,13 | 16,48 |
| 20-40 | Minimum | 4,5 | 4,1 | 12,7 | 0,4 | 15,6 | 0,43 |
| | Maximum | 7,1 | 6,9 | 20,2 | 3,9 | 25,3 | 1,23 |
| | Mean | 5,8 | 5,2 | 16,50 | 1,8 | 21,4 | 0,8 |
| | St error | 0,26 | 0,27 | 1,02 | 0,41 | 1,17 | 0,09 |
| | St Dev | 0,77 | 0,81 | 3,06 | 1,24 | 3,5 | 0,27 |
| | CV % | 13,27 | 15,57 | 18,54 | 68,88 | 16,35 | 33,75 |
| 40-60 | Minimum | 4,9 | 4,3 | 9,8 | 1,1 | 19,8 | 0,50 |
| | Maximum | 6,1 | 5,6 | 13,2 | 2,2 | 28,8 | 0,98 |
| | Mean | 5,27 | 4,72 | 11,80 | 1,6 | 23,05 | 0,82 |
| | St error | 0,28 | 0,30 | 0,71 | 0,27 | 2,00 | 0,11 |
| | St Dev | 0,57 | 0,60 | 1,43 | 0,53 | 4,00 | 0,22 |
| | CV % | 10,81 | 12,71 | 12,12 | 33,15 | 17,35 | 26,83 |

40-60 cm 11,8 mg/kg
16,5 mg/kg 20-40 cm.

The average nitrogen content in the row spacing, presented in ammonia and nitrate at three depths ranges from 11.8 mg/kg in the 40-60 cm layer to 16.5 mg/kg at 20-40 cm. As a result of the quantification of nitrogen, soil layers have

g,

12,5 mg/100 g.

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 20-40 cm | 40-60 cm |
| 1,8 mg/100 g | 1,6 mg/100 g. |

0-20 cm – 6,71 mg/100

0-20 cm – 32,3 mg/100 g,

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| 20-40 cm, | 40-60 |
| 21,4 mg/100 g, | 23,0 |

cm
mg/100 g.

0-20 cm (– 1,88%),

: 0,80 % 0,82 %.

been found to be low in nutrients.

The phosphorus amount in the inter-rows, identical to intra row spacing, decreases as the depth increases. The highest average phosphorus content was recorded at 0-20 cm - 6.71 mg/100 g, and at this depth the highest element value was also recorded - 12.5 mg/100 g. The results recorded at 20-40 cm and 40-60 cm are respectively 1.8 mg/100 g and 1.6 mg/100 g respectively. On the basis of the data obtained, it can be determined that the soil layers, with the exception of the first one, are poorly stocked with the macro-element phosphorus but have a high variation coefficient.

The row spacing also has high potassium values. Variability in the content in depth is average. The highest average amount is in the surface layer 0-20 cm - 32.3 mg/100 g, which determines it as well-stocked. In the next 20-40 cm, its content decreases to 21.4 mg/100 g, and at 40-60 cm it increases insignificantly to 23.0 mg / 100 g.

Similar to the results obtained in the intra row spacing, the humus content of inter-rows is highest in the surface soil layer 0-20 cm (on average – 1.88%), which defines it as a poorly stock. At the other two depths, humus content values are very low and almost equal, respectively: 0.80% and 0.82%.

CONCLUSIONS

From the agrochemical status of the intra-row line and the row spacing, in a plum plantation of 'Stanley', a low nitrogen content was established in order to assess the long-term effect of the local organic stockpile fertilizing with manure applied during the planting of fruit trees. The average values of nitrogen in the soil layers of the row ranged from 11.90-19.00 mg/kg.

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 11,90-19,00 mg/kg. | | The phosphorus content reaches 11.0 mg/100 g at a soil horizon of 0-20 cm and sharply decreases as the depth increases. |
| 11,0 mg/100 g | | 0-20 cm ú. | |
| | | - | A high amount of potassium is recorded in the 0-20 cm surface layers of the intra-row and row spacing, respectively: 29.6 mg/100 g and 32.30 mg/100 g. |
| 0-20 cm | | - | |
| : 29,60 mg/100 g | 32,30 mg/100 g. | | Low content of humus in soil layers was reported. |

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Influence of liquid organic fertilizers 'Aminobest' and 'Ecosist-Arbanassi' on the yield and biometric indicators of 'Stanley' plum cultivar

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SUMMARY

In the period 2015-2017, the yields and biometrics of plums of 'Stanley' cultivar were studied after soil and foliage treatment with the liquid organic fertilizers 'Aminobest' and 'Ecosist-Arbanassi'. The experiment comprised four variants with ten trees each. 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' was used for soil application 0.8%, v/v, and 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' was used for foliar application 0.8%, v/v and 'Aminobest' 0.9%, v/v.

Organic and mineral fertilizers were not used in the control variant.

It was found in the course of three consecutive years, that 'Aminobest' 0.9% v/v had the best effect on plum fruit in 2016 when the yield increased by 100% in comparison with the control.

The soil treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanasi'

2015-2017
0,8%, v/v,
0,8%, v/v
0,9%, v/v.
2016
100%,

0,8%, v/v
2015 .,
37%,
v/v 2016 .
63%,
mm;
mm;
mm;
g.
mm;
mm;
g.
mm;
mm;
g.

0.8%, v/v gave the best results in 2015. There was an increase in fruit yield by 37% in comparison with the control. The foliar application with 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' 0.8%, v/v in 2016 increased the plum yield by 63% in comparison with the control.

Biometric indicators of plum fruit in the four variants were studied during the three years of the experiment: height in mm; width in mm; thickness in mm; and the average weight of one fruit in g.

Key words: 'Stanley', yield, biometric indicators, 'Aminobest', 'Ecosist-Arbanasi'

INTRODUCTION

The production of organic and agro-ecological products has become more and more popular in recent decades. The lack of pesticide residues and the higher content of vitamins and antioxidants in organic fruit production determine the significant advantage over conventional crops in terms of healthy way of living.

The main purpose of the fertilization of fruit trees is to obtain high yields of good quality fruit through optimal and economically profitable norms (Vitanova, 1997).

The concept of the biological effect of isolated substances from plants and micro-organisms and their effect on other organisms has not only a theoretical ecological value.

It also finds practical application in the creation of sustainable, highly productive biosystems. A concrete result of the research in this field is the establishment of organic and integrated agriculture (Yakimov, 2009).

In addition to the production of organic production, biofertilizers are already widely used in conventional farming as

(Vitanova, 1997).

2009).

(Yakimov,

(Russo, 1990).

(Alves et al., 2009).

their cost is low and also contribute to soil fertility, the environment and food safety.

The interest of farmers and scientists in biofertilizers and bioproducts is constantly increasing (Russo, 1990).

- The application of liquid biofertilizers is one of organic farming practices, which aims at achieving a small amount of application to achieve balanced plant nutrition by providing them with
- many macro and microelements in digestible form, biologically active and
- good substances (Alves et al., 2009).

- The application of liquid organic fertilizers increases the quality and quantity of the harvested fruit production, and at the same time the soil and the environment are protected from
- contamination by pesticides and heavy metals.

The present study aims to determine the impact of the organic fertilizers 'Aminobest' and 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' on the yield and biometric parameters of 'Stanley' plum cultivar.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- 'Aminobest' liquid organic fertilizer is a product created by the collaboration of scientists from the University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (UARD) and the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, a part of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. It consists of a mixture of hydrolyzate of sunflower groads in the form of amino acids and short-chain peptides and compost extract in the form of soluble potassium humate.

Aminobest composition: dry matter- 9.5-12.5%; pH 9.0-13; humic compounds- 1.65%; amino acids - 4.02%; total nitrogen - 0.4-0.75%; micro- and macroelements: Phosphorus - 0.1-0.25%; Potassium - 0.55-0.7%; Sodium - 0.2-0.37; Calcium - 0.001-0.003%;

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| - 9,5-12,5%; | 9,0-13; |
| - 4,02%; | - 1,65%; |
| 0,4-0,75%; | - |
| - 0,1-0,25%; | - 0,55- |
| 0,7%; | - 0,2-0,37; |

0,001-0,003%; – 0,009-0,013%; – 0,002-0,003%; – 0,0003-0,0006%; – 0,0005-0,0009%; – 0,001-0,003%;
 %: Ni<0.0005; Cd<0.00003; Hg<0.000005; Cr<0.00003; b<0.0005.

Bacillus subtilis,
Bacillus licheniformis, *Azotobacter chroococum* *Azotobacter vinelandii*.

– *Bacillus subtilis* TS 01,
 NBIMCC 8718

(Todorova, 2009).

(Yakimov et al.,

2016).

2015, 2016 2017 .

2008 .

Magnesium - 0.009-0.013%; Honey - 0.002-0.003%; Zinc - 0.0003-0.0006%; Manganese - 0.0005-0.0009%; Iron - 0.001-0.003%; heavy metals in%: Ni <0.0005; Cd <0.00003; Hg <0.000005; Cr <0.00003; b <0.0005.

The microbial fertilizer 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' contains several strains of *Bacillus subtilis* as well as *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Azotobacter chroococum* and *Azotobacter vinelandii* bacteria. Molasses and high protein flour with food grade purity have been used or nutritional medium of deep-cultivated bacteria. The main strain used - *Bacillus subtilis* TS 01, is registered under NBIMCC No 8718 at the National Bank for Industrial Microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedures. The strain has proven its stronger action against plant pathogens than other strains of the same bacterium (Todorova, 2009).

The microbial product contains other plant and animal-friendly bacteria and organic substances (Yakimov et al., 2016).

The purpose of 'Carbo Active' liquid organic fertilizer is to activate microbial flora in parallel with other microbial fertilizers. It is based on molasses and has the ability to influence the soil and fungal microorganisms and fungi, and in this case helps the activation of the microorganisms in 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' liquid organic fertilizer.

In three consecutive years - 2015, 2016 and 2017, soil and foliar treatment was carried out with the organic fertilizers 'Aminobest' and 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' on 'Stanley' cultivar. The plantation, established in the area of RIMSA, at the branch of the experimental station in Dryanovo in 2008, was in the phase of complete fruit bearing. The soil is pseudopodzolic, gray forest, maintained in black fallow, at the altitude of 300 m. Plum

0,9 %

performed an identical treatment for three times, at the interval of twenty days:

- first leaf treatment - after the trees are in full leaf (the third ten days in April, first ten days of May);
- second leaf treatment - second, third ten days of May;
- third leaf treatment - second ten days of June;

IV. variant: organic and mineral fertilizers were not applied in the control variant.

In order to carry out the planned analyzes, 30 plums of 'Stanley' cultivar were collected during the three years of the experiment, out of the four options. The height, width and thickness average per fruit, mm, as well as average weight/fruit, g.

The yield is determined by collecting all the fruits of ten trees (two replications, of five trees) for each of the four variants. The article presents the average yields over the three-year period (kg/tree).

Studies have been conducted according to the Methodology for the Study of Plant Resources in Orchard Plants (Nedev et al., 1979).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1

It is evident from the data recorded in Table 1 that the soil treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' 0.8%, v/v in 2017 has the best impact on the previous two years.

The highest growth was found in relation to the biometric height, width and thickness, mm. The average height of one fruit is 45.10 mm, while in 2016 it is 44.39 mm, and in 2015 - 43.80 mm.

With respect to the average width of a fruit, it can be stated that the trend of growth is similar. In 2017, there was again the largest increase in width - an average width of 36.60 mm is established

1

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mm, 35,80mm 2015 ., 36,60
 35,64mm 2016 . -
 , mm -
 2017 . - 36,80mm.
 2015 . -
 35,40mm,
 2016 .- 34,09mm.
 , mm ,
 - 2015 .,
 2016 .
 (g),
 - ,
 - 2017 .- 33,50g.
 2015 . -
 31,00g,
 2016 . 31,50g. 2017 . -
 2,70g,
 2015 .

compared to 35.80 mm in 2015 and 35.64 mm in 2016, respectively.

The average thickness of a fruit, mm is the greatest again in 2017- 36.80mm. In 2015, the average thickness of plum fruit is 35,40 mm, and for 2016g - 34,09 mm.

The fruit width and thickness were higher in 2015 compared to the results in the next year - 2016.

The highest average fruit weight of 33,50 g, for this variant of soil treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanassi' was obtained again in 2017.

In 2015, the average fruit weight was 31.00g, whereas it was 31.50g in 2016. In 2017, the average fruit weight was increased by 2.70g, compared to the reported one in 2015.

1.

0,8%, v/v

Table 1. The average fruit size and weight of 'Stanley' cultivar after the soil treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' is 0.8%, v/v

| Year | Height, mm | Width, mm | Thickness, mm | Average fruit weight, g |
|------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2015 | 43,80 | 35,80 | 35,40 | 31,00 |
| 2016 | 44,39 | 35,64 | 34,09 | 31,50 |
| 2017 | 45,10 | 36,60 | 36,80 | 33,70 |

- 0,8%, v/v
 ,
 -
 2016 . / (mm).
 42,62 mm,
 2015 . 42,60 mm. -
 (mm)
 2017 . - 45,40 mm.
 , mm -
 2017 .- 36,10 mm,

After the foliar treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanassi' 0.8%, v/v during the first two years of the experiment, a slight increase in the average fruit height (mm) was observed. In 2016, the average fruit height of 42.62 mm was measured, while it was 42.60 mm in 2015. A larger increase in the biometric fruit height (mm) is reflected in 2017 - 45.40 mm.

The largest fruit width in mm was again in 2017 - 36.10 mm, unlike the previous two years, respectively 34.49 mm in 2016 and 35.00 mm in 2015.

34,49 mm 2016 ., 35,00 mm
 2015 .
 (mm) 2017 . -
 - 36,00 mm,
 . 2015 .
 33,70 mm, 2016 .
 - - 33,34 mm.
 Miletic et al., (2015), -
 - „ ” 33,4 g; 35,9 g.
 - , ,
 34,20g, 2017 . -
 30,80g, 2015 .
 30,50g. 2016 . -
 2017 . -
 3,70g, 2016 .

The average fruit thickness was measured in 2017. It is greater than 36.00 mm, as opposed to those reported in the previous two years. In 2015, the average thickness was 33.70 mm, and the lowest value was obtained in 2016 - 33.34 mm.

According to Miletic et al. (2015), the average fruit weight varies between and within the cultivars, depending on the treatment - 'Stanley' 33.4 g; 35.9 g. For this variant of leaf-treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanassi', the highest average fruit weight was measured in 2017 - 34.20g, whereas in 2015 it was 30.80g, and the lowest value was in 2016 - 30.50g. In 2017, the average fruit weight was 3.70g higher than the previous year (2016).

2.

0,8%, v/v

Table 2. The average fruit sizes and weight of 'Stanley' cultivar after soil treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' 0.8%, v/v

| Year | Height, mm | Width, mm | Thickness, mm | Average fruit weight, g |
|------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2015 | 42,60 | 35,00 | 33,70 | 30,80 |
| 2016 | 42,62 | 34,49 | 33,34 | 30,50 |
| 2017 | 45,40 | 36,10 | 36,00 | 34,20 |

0,9%, v/v -
 , (mm) -
 2016 ., 43,04 mm,
 2015 . 2017 .
 - 42,10 mm 42,00 mm.
 , mm" "
 2016 . - 35,28 mm.
 2015 .- 33,60 mm,
 2017 . 34,80 mm.
 (mm) 2017 .
 - - 34,90 mm,
 2015 . -
 34,10mm, 2016 . - 34,00mm.

After a further three-year foliar treatment with 'Aminobest' 0.9% v/v, it was found that the greatest average fruit height (mm) was in 2016 when it was 43.04 mm, whereas in 2015, and 2017 it varied slightly - 42.10 mm and 42.00 mm. After the measurement of the biometric indicator "average fruit width, mm" over the three years, the highest value was obtained in 2016 - 35.28 mm.

The lowest value was recorded in 2015 - 33.60 mm, and in 2017 - it was 34.80 mm. The largest average fruit thickness (mm) was found in 2017 - 34.90 mm, compared with almost identical results for the previous 2015 - 34,10mm, and 2016 - 34.00mm.

2017 .
-
v/v - 31,50g,
31,00g.
2015 . 2016 .
0,9%,
2017 . 1,50g,
2015 2016

In 2017, the highest average fruit weight for this variant of leaf treatment with 'Aminobest' 0.9%, v/v was 31.50g, whereas in 2015 and 2016 it has exactly the same values of 31.00g. When comparing the average values during the three years, we recorded an increase in the average fruit weight in 2017 with 1.50g compared to 2015 and 2016.

3.

0,9%, v/v

Table 3. Mean size and weight of 'Stanley' plum cultivar after leaf treatment with 'Aminobest' 0.9%, v/v

| Year | Height, mm | Width, mm | Thickness, mm | Average fruit weight, g |
|------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2015 | 42,10 | 33,60 | 34,10 | 31,00 |
| 2016 | 43,04 | 35,28 | 34,00 | 31,00 |
| 2017 | 42,00 | 34,80 | 34,90 | 31,50 |

4
2016 .
mm.
2015 .
34,90 mm.
2017 . - 35,90 mm.
2015 .
31,20 g,
30,70 g,
g
2017 .,
2015 .

From the results recorded in Table 4 it is evident that the average height of one fruit for the control variant has the highest values obtained in 2017- 44.10 mm. In 2016, the average fruit height was 43.72 mm, and in 2015, the lowest value of 42.40 mm was recorded. With regard to the measured average width of one fruit, over the three years, we again have the highest value for 2017g. - 36.00 mm. In 2016, the average fruit width was 35.46 mm, and a lower value of 34.90 mm was recorded in 2015.

The highest average fruit thickness was measured in 2017 - 35.90 mm. In 2016, the average result was 34.25 mm, and in 2015, it was the lowest - 34.00 mm.

The greatest average fruit weight was found in 2017 - 31.70 g. It was 31.20 g in 2016, and the lowest was found in 2015 - 30.70 g, as a difference of 1.00 g was registered as the weight was increased in 2017, compared to what was found in 2015.

4.

Table 4. Average size and weight of 'Stanley' plum fruit in the control variant

| Year | Height, mm | Width, mm | Thickness, mm | Average fruit weight, g |
|------|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 2015 | 42,40 | 34,90 | 34,00 | 30,70 |
| 2016 | 43,72 | 35,46 | 34,25 | 31,20 |
| 2017 | 44,10 | 36,00 | 35,90 | 31,70 |

, kg

0,9%, v/v 2017 . - -
 19,40kg. 2015 . ,
 17,00kg ,
 2016 . - 9,60 kg.

- 0,8%, v/v ,
 2017 . -
 - 19,40 kg.

2015 . 8,80kg ,
 2016 . - - 7,80kg.
 2017 . -
 - 0,8%, v/v -
 -
 15,50kg, 13,70 kg 2015 .
 3,20 kg 2016 .

-
 2017 ., 14,60kg.
 2015 . 10kg
 2016 .
 - 4,80 kg.

- 0,9%, v/v ,
 2016 .,
 100%, .
 2015 . 70% .

2017 . 33%. ,
 - 0,8%, v/v -
 2015 .,
 -
 37%,

The highest average yields of plum fruits, kg of a tree in a variant of leaf treatment with 'Aminobest 0.9%, v/v in 2017 were - 19.40kg. In 2015, a yield of 17.00 kg of plums was reported and in 2016 - 9,60 kg.

The highest average yield per tree (19.40 kg) was found in the foliar application of 'Ecosist-Arbanassi' 0.8%, v/v on 'Stanley' cultivar, for 2017. The reported plum yields in 2015 are 8.80 kg per tree, while in 2016, they are the lowest - 7.80 kg.

In 2017, the highest average yield of plum fruit was found in the soil application of 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' 0.8%, v/v - 15.50kg, while in the previous years of the experiment it was 13.70 kg in 2015, and 3.20 kg in 2016.

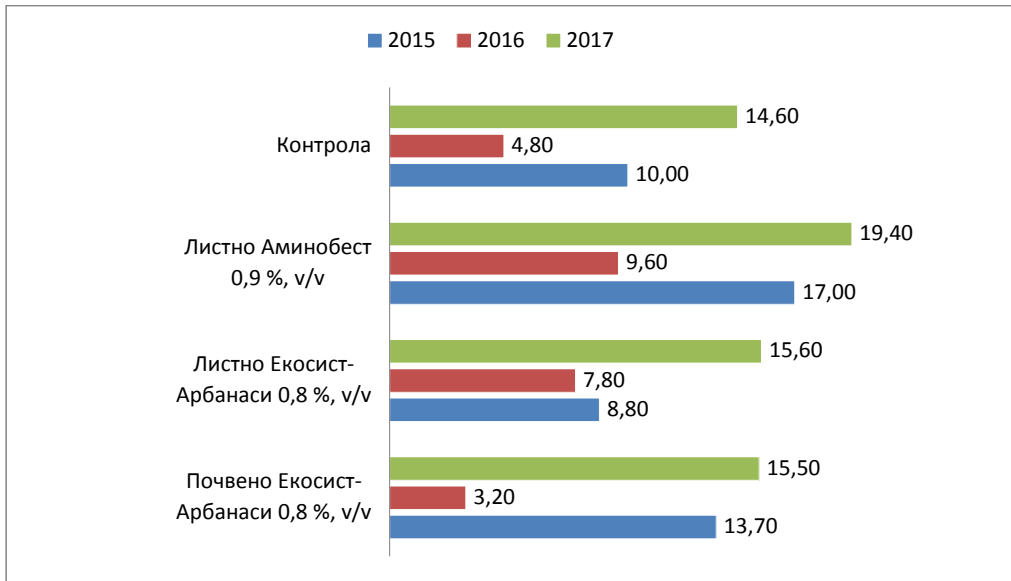
For the control variant, the highest average yield per tree yield was obtained in 2017 when it was 14.60 kg. In 2015, a yield of 10 kg per tree was reported, and in 2016, it was the lowest - 4.80 kg.

It was found in the course of three consecutive years, that 'Aminobest' 0.9% v/v had the best effect on plum fruit in 2016 when the yield increased by 100% in comparison with the control. In 2015, an increase of 70% in yields was recorded compared to the control, and in 2017 by 33%. The soil application of 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' 0.8% v/v gave the best results in 2015 when an increase in fruit yields of 37% over the control was obtained. In 2016, yields were 50% lower

2016 .
 50% - ,
 2017 . 6% -
 - 0,8%, v/v 2016 .
 63%,
 2015 . 14% - ,
 2017 . ,
 7% - .

than the control, whereas in 2017, they were 6% higher than that.

The foliar treatment with 'Ecosist-Arbanassi' 0.8%, v/v in 2016 has influenced an increase in plum yield by 63% in comparison to the control. The plum yield in 2015 was 14% lower than the control, whereas it was 7 higher in 2017.



1. Average yield of plum fruit, kg/tree

v/v) - (0,8%, v/v)
 (0,9%,
 ,
 - (0,8%, v/v)
),
 (

CONCLUSIONS

Three-fold leaf treatment with 'Aminobest' (0.9%, v/v) and 'Ecosist-Arbanasi' (0.8%, v/v) at an interval of twenty days, for the period from the end of April - the middle of June, contributes to a steady increase in yields of plum fruit, mainly due to an increase in the number of fruits

The three-fold soil application of Ecosyte-Arbanassi (0.8%, v/v) on plum trees from the beginning of the growing season (white button colour phase) to the first ten days of September (post-harvest) increases the physiological activity of their

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>),</p> <p>,</p> <p>,mm</p> <p>,mm</p> <p>g,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - root system and enhances the absorption - of nutrients from the soil, which - determines the increase of the quantity of - plum production amount. <p>Biometric results obtained, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - height in mm; width in mm and thickness - in mm as well as the average fruit weight - in g, did not detect significant differences - between the four variants of the - experiment. The average size and weight - of a plum fruit is within the range of - optimal typical characteristics of 'Stanley' - cultivar. |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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