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## Modeling of irrigation regime influence on yield of the vine cultivars Hebros and Trakiyska Slava

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### SUMMARY

The problem with worldwide irrigation water shortage increases, as over 70% of total water consumption falls on agriculture. The irrigation water consumption can be reduced by application of effective methods (micro irrigation) and technologies (irrigation with regulated water deficit). They have been the subject of a three-year field study of the *Hebros* and *Trakiyska Slava* vine varieties. The experiment is conducted in experimental station in Pavlikeni. The aim is to simulate yield change by irrigation with reduced irrigation rates, using experimental data received without irrigation and optimum irrigation conditions. We used the Varlev's simulation model, representing the "irrigation depth - yield" relationship by a second degree equation. An economic analysis was made, based on the obtained results. From the economic point of view, most appropriate the irrigation regime is this with an irrigation rate of 70-75% against to the optimum rate, as this applies to both varieties. Data on the absolute and relative values of the yield

70 %  
( )  
( )  
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” “ ” “  
70-75%

- through different years and different irrigation regime are presented.

**Key words:** drip irrigation, irrigation regime, regulated water deficit, water productivity

## INTRODUCTION

- The effective cultivation of the vineyards is related to the optimization of the agro-technological activities, an important part of which is the irrigation. The deepening of the problem in relation with irrigation water shortages is a prerequisite for conducting research to specify the irrigation parameters of different varieties of vines and to obtain data on both the biologically optimal and the irrigation regime giving the best economic result.

- The results of many studies with different crops show that optimum irrigation regime leads to maximum yields, but from an economic point of view, the result will be better with a scientifically proven regulated water deficit application.

- It is established by data from field experiments including different levels of irrigation rate reduction or through mathematical models describing the relationship "Water-yield", which is based on data for relative yield of optimum irrigation and non-irrigation conditions (Davidov, 1994; Varlev, 1991, 2008).

- Models with practical relevance of this relationship (for different agricultural crops) have been developed in Bulgaria (Harizanova-Petrova 2014; Petrova, 2014; Lozanova, 2014; Tsvetanov, 2015; Gigova, 2016).

- The aim of this study is to re-create the yield change of wine varieties Hebros and Trakiyska Slava when change irrigation rate from 0 to 1, using experimental data, received without

(Davidov, 1994; Varlev, 1999, 2008).

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(Harizanova-Petrova, 2014; Kalaydzieva, 2014; Lozanova, 2014; Tsvetanov, 2015; Gigova, 2016).

- irrigation and optimum irrigation conditions. On the base of received data the economical analysis and determining the most appropriate irrigation regime are made.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- This research is based on data from a field experiment conducted during 1991-1993 period in field experimental station - Pavlikeni. The soil type is chernozem with 40-50 cm humus layer depth.

1993

40-50 cm.

“ ” “ ” “ ”

2) : 1)

75%

- The experiment includes two wine varieties - Hebros and Trakiyska Slava.  
 - The variants of the experiment are as follow: 1) without irrigation, 2) optimum irrigation – 75% FC (field capacity) for the active soil layer. The irrigation period is determinate during end of July to the end of August according to the specific of wine grape varieties.

60 80 mm,

- The irrigations are made via drip irrigation installation and irrigation rates are between 60 and 80 mm, depending on pre-irrigation soil moisture. The vine plants are grown on “Umbrella” formation and plant distance 3.0 1.2m.

3 1.2m.

15

100

- The age of plants at the beginning of this study is 15 years. For each of the varieties are used 100 plants, distributed by variants with two repetitions. The results for relative yield obtained in conditions without irrigation are processed using square simulation model (Varlev, 1999) for determination of “Yield-water” relationship.

Varlev (1999),

$$Y = Y_c + (1 - Y_c)(2x - x^2), \quad Y$$

, Yc –

, –

The equation is as follows:  
 :  $Y = Y_c + (1 - Y_c)(2x - x^2)$ , where Y is the searched relative yield, Yc – relative yield without irrigation and X – the relative annual irrigation rate. In this way are calculated the values of absolute and relative yields for different irrigation rates reduction.

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([http://www.mysmartfarm.com/tcards/r.angelova/tcard\\_grapes.pdf](http://www.mysmartfarm.com/tcards/r.angelova/tcard_grapes.pdf)),  
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:  
23% 6.9 g.dm<sup>-3</sup>  
(Zankov and Babrikov, 1981; Radulov et al., 1985).  
1973  
:  
-  
1971  
, 22-24% 6-7  
g.dm<sup>-3</sup> (Zankov and Babrikov, 1981; Radulov et al., 1985).

The economical analysis is made using these results and costs data from grape growing technological card (soil cultivation, fertilizing, irrigation, pruning, plant protection, harvesting and other activities)

([http://www.mysmartfarm.com/tcards/r.angelova/tcard\\_grapes.pdf](http://www.mysmartfarm.com/tcards/r.angelova/tcard_grapes.pdf)). The following economic indicators have been taken into account through the balance of revenues and costs: yield average, average production cost, total production (incomes), production costs (material and labor), production price, profit rate and net income.

*Short description of Hebros variety:*

A typical wine variety designed to produce high-quality red table wines. It contains more than 23% sugar and 6.9 g.dm<sup>-3</sup> titratable acids (Zankov et al., 1981, Radulov et al., 1985). It was selected in the department of viticulture Agricultural University - Plovdiv and approved by State Variety Committee during 1973.

*Short description of Trakiyska Slava variety:*

High quality variety for red wines, selected in Agricultural University - Plovdiv and approved by State Variety Committee during 1971. The grapes are a good balance between sugar and acidity, respectively 22-24% and 6-7 g.dm<sup>-3</sup> (Zankov and Babrikov, 1981; Radulov et al., 1985).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The irrigation influence on the yield depends largely from the meteorological conditions during vegetation period with the strongest impact of rainfalls. In this relation, a brief characterization of the three experimental years has been made (Table 1). The experimental years are similar with regard to the amount of precipitation during the autumn-winter period, and their quantity is below the norm for the and their quantity is below the norm for the experimental region. This practically means that easily accessible

- initial soil moisture would run out relatively quickly. Because of this, rainfalls during vegetative period and irrigation are critical to obtaining high and stable yields.

/year	/precipitations			°	
	/total (mm)		probability (P%)	/total (° )	probability (P%)
	X – III	IV – IX	IV – IX	IV – IX	IV – IX
1991	163	526	4	3398	62
1992	153	249	71	3418	56
1993	130	180	93	3549	29
/average for 44 years	207	327	53	3480	38

(1991)

4% ( )

62%.

( 5%),

( 20%).

(71%)

56%).  
mm, 250 mm 500

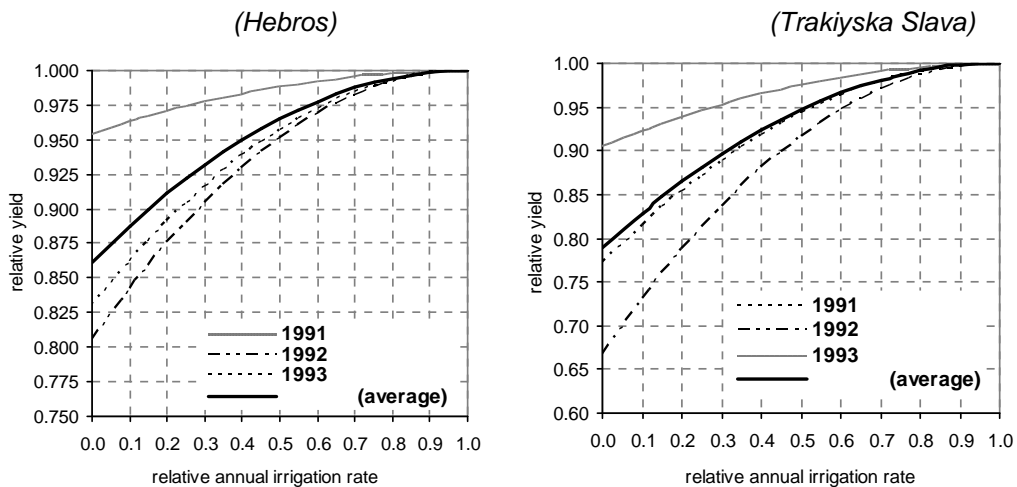
20%

50%

( 1),

- In terms of precipitations during vegetation period the first experimental year (1991) is very humid, with an amount of 526 mm and probability 4% (second position in the statistical row).
- Among the three experimental years it is the coolest with 62% probability.

As result, both tested varieties are irrigated ones and yield differences between irrigation and non irrigation conditions are small for *Hebros* variety (less than 5%). The variety *Trakiyska Slava* is more drought-sensitive and the differences are over 20%. The second experimental year is middle-dry (250 mm and 71% probability) and middle (56% probability) in regard to the air temperature. The precipitations during vegetation period compensate ½ of seasonal evapotranspiration (500mm). As a result two irrigations were realized, increasing the yield over 20% for *Hebros* variety and 50% for the variety *Trakiyska Slava*. During this experimental year, there were significant frost damages during the winter, especially for *Trakiyska Slava* variety and extremely low yields, both in non-irrigation and optimum irrigation conditions. The most dry and warmest is the third experimental year (Table 1), which is a prerequisite for a more positive influence of the irrigation on the yield.

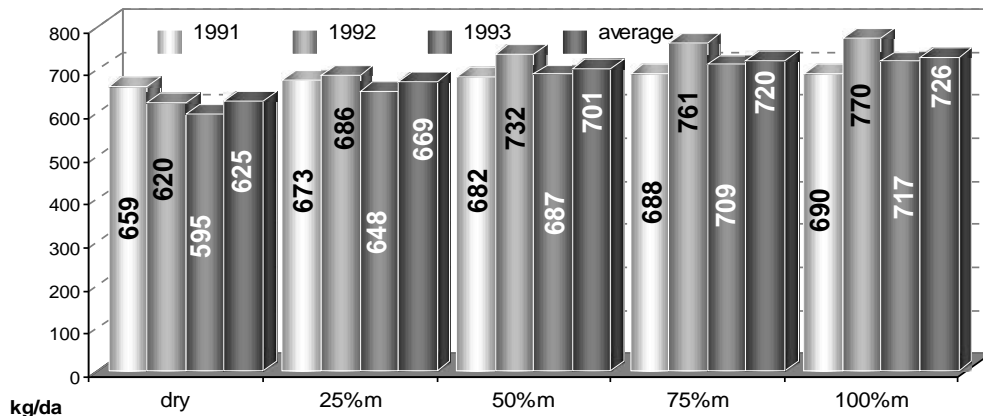


. 1.

Fig. 1. Trend of relative yield yearly and average, depending on size of irrigation rates

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On the Figure 1 is shown the relative yield change (by years and average) depending on annual irrigation rate value. This simulation is made using the squire equation, suggested by Ivan Varlev (1999). The two graphs clearly show the impact of the year on productivity when applying the same irrigation regime. Directly or by calculation using this formula, the yields can be determined for each irrigation rate, and specific optimization tasks being solved.



. 2.

Fig. 2. Yield of Hebros cv. depending on irrigation regime

Using data for relative yield changing depending on value of annual irrigation rate and the value of absolute maximum yield for both varieties and three experimental years, the yield by 25, 50 and 75% reduction of irrigation rate is calculated (Figure 2 for *Hebros* variety and Figure 3 for *Trakiyska Slava* variety). On the base of these data economical analysis is made. As result, the all economical parameters (shown in Materials and methods) were established and presented on fig.4 and 5. When the irrigation rate increases, production costs gradually increases too, for both varieties with 10.7%, compared to non-irrigation conditions.

The 25% reducing of irrigation rate leads to 2.2-2.7% change of production costs. At the same time, relative increase of the incomes is counted by irrigation with smaller irrigation rates (up to 50% of the optimum), which is clearly visible on both graphs (Figure 4), then at 75% they increase by 3-5%. The difference between 75 and 100% irrigation rate is insignificant (1.0-1.6%). This is due to the fact that with the increase of the irrigation rate the yield does not increase linearly, but according to the second degree function.

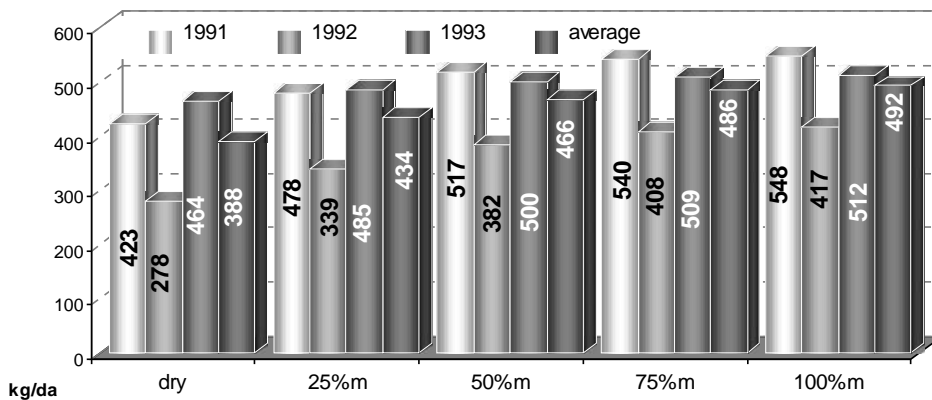


Fig. 3. Yield of Trakiyska Slava cv. depending on irrigation regime

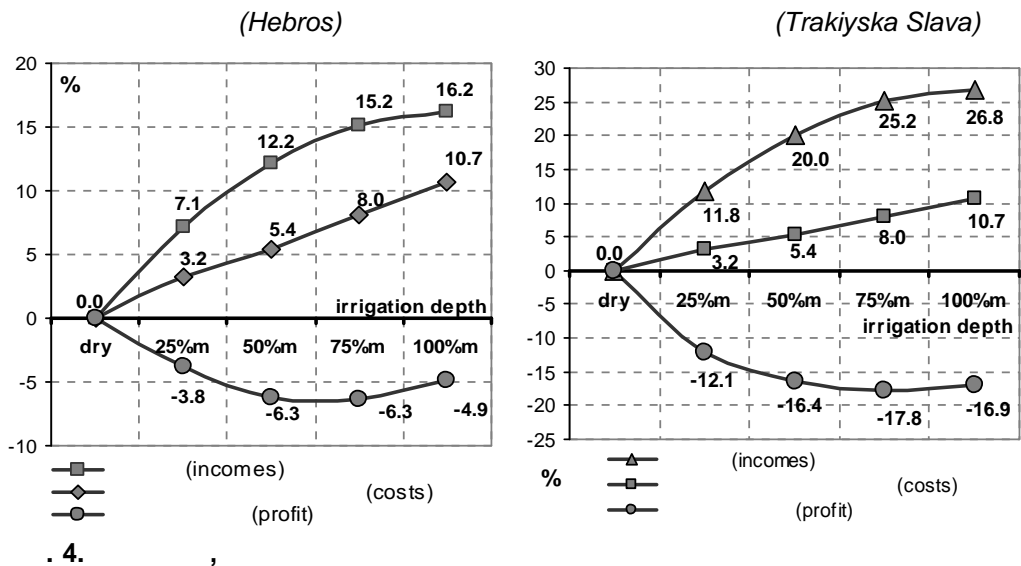


Fig. 4. Income, production costs and cost price depending on irrigation regime

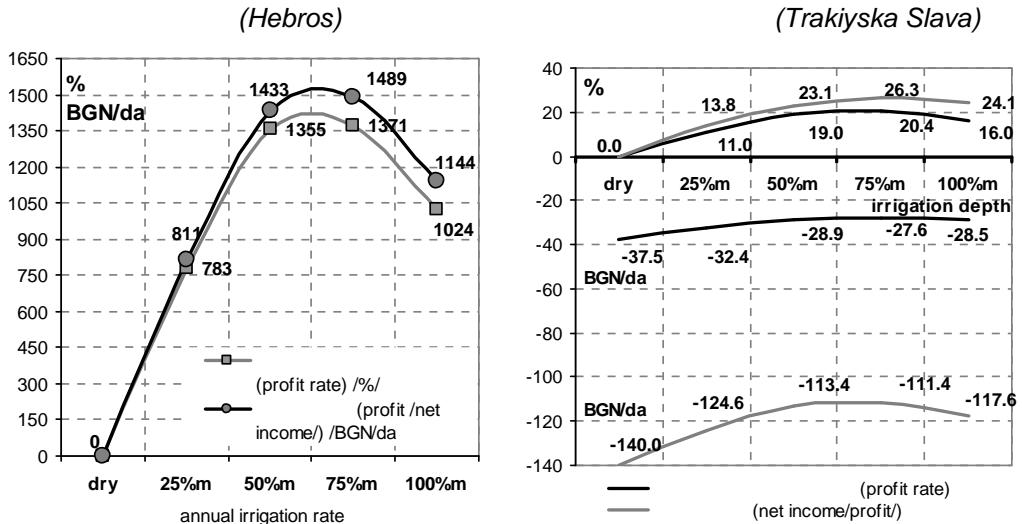
An important economic parameter in Agriculture is the cost of production.

- For both varieties and in the three experimental years the profit gradually decreases to a rate of 75% and then gradually increases again.

This irrigation regime also shows the best results in terms of the profit rate and the profit (net income) (Figure 5), and therefore can be defined as an optimal from an economic point of view. For *Trakiyska Slava* variety, however, the absolute values of these two parameters are negative.

The main reason for this is that it is not suitable for cultivation in the region of Pavlikeni. In addition, during the experiment, there are significant damages caused by low temperatures in the winter. Therefore, the results for this variety cannot be useful for the practice.





5. Rate of profitability and net income depending on irrigation regime

95%  
80-83%  
2%  
1-3  
50-60 mm.

### CONCLUSIONS

During wet years, non irrigated vineyards (*Hebros* variety) grown in region of Pavlikeni give over 95%, against to the yield by optimum irrigation conditions. During middle-dry and dry years it is 80-83%. By irrigation with 75% of the optimum irrigation rate, the yield is practically equal to the optimum irrigation, the difference being less than 2%. This irrigation regime gives highest profit rate and net income (profit), independently of meteorological conditions, therefore it is recommended. The same is done with 1-3 irrigations with irrigation rate 50-60 mm.

For the conditions of this experiment, the yield of *Trakiyska Slava* variety is unstable and very low as quantity and quality of the grapes, regardless of irrigation regime. For all experimental years and all irrigation regimes the profit rate and net income (profit) are negative. Therefore, the results for this variety cannot be useful for the practice.

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## Biometric analysis of some technological traits of cv Rusensko bez seme, grafted onto three vine rootstocks

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### SUMMARY

The influence of three vine rootstocks: Berlandieri Riparia SO<sub>4</sub>, Rupestris du Lot (with common name Montikola) and Chasselas x Berlandieri 41 B (hereinafter for short Chasselas 41B) was studied on some technological traits of “Rusensko bez seme” table vine cultivar. The study was carried out in the experimental vineyards of the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science „Obraztsov chiflik”, Rousse in four replications, 11 plants each. First class vines, at one and the same vegetative growth were used.

The objective of the study was via biometric analysis of the results, the existence of a higher level of significance in the differences between the rootstocks to be statistically proven. The values of 12 technological traits were reported. Data

Fisher t-Student.

t-test

80%

(Bica et al., 2000).

(Nicolic et al., 2000; Garcia et al., 2001a; Garcia et al., 2001b).

(Hardie and Considine, 1976).

(Winkler, 1958; Gawel et al., 2000; Walker et al., 2000).

(Katerov et al., 1990).

Williams and Smith (1991)

Cabernet Sauvignon, AxR 1, St. George 5C.

F- Fisher and t-Student evaluation criteria. The study took place in seven consecutive years, as the degree of variation of the values of the studied traits was low to moderate. Via t-test, used for statistical processing of the results, 80% of the comparisons showed the presence of insignificant differences between the variants.

**Key words:** rootstocks, "Rusensko bez seme" seedless table vine cultivar, biometric analysis, technological traits

**INTRODUCTION**

The type of the rootstock influences the leaf area, chlorophyll content, conductivity of stomata, and yield quality (Bica et al., 2000).

The influence of the rootstocks on the technological traits of grapes was indirect (Nicolic et al., 2000; Garcia et al., 2001a; Garcia et al., 2001b). A number of authors reported the influence of the rootstock on the nutrition regime of vine plants, and therefore on the biosynthesis of anthocyanins (Hardie and Considine, 1976). That affected both – the growth and the structure, also and color of grape berries (Winkler, 1958; Gawel et al., 2000; Walker et al., 2000, etc.).

The chemical composition of grapes is crucial for its quality. Numerous studies on the chemical composition showed that it is very complex and it includes different groups of compounds - sugars, organic acids, nitrogen and pectin substances, anthocyanins, tannins, polyphenols, aromatic substances, ferments, vitamins, etc. (Katerov et al., 1990).

Williams and Smith (1991) did not find out any differences in the distribution of dry matter in the organs of the vine in Cabernet Sauvignon grafted onto AxR 1, St. George and 5C. Other authors, however, recorded such differences

(Tardaguila et al., 1995).  
 101-14  
 41B -  
 Boselli et al (1992) Boselli and  
 Volpe (1993)  
 5, 41, SO4, 5, 1103,  
 130 SMA  
 SO4  
 5, 1103  
 5  
 Hristov et al.  
 (1998) Popov and Hristov (2008)  
 41  
 ( )  
 Ezzahouani and Larry  
 (1998). Ezzahouani and Williams  
 (1995),  
 Ruby Seedless. Venegas et al.  
 (2001),  
 SO4, 5BB and 99R

influenced by the rootstock (Tardaguila et al., 1995). According to their study, 101-14 rootstock increased the accumulation of dry substance in the canes, while 41B positively affected its accumulation in the clusters.

Bocelli et al (1992) and Bocelli and Volpe (1993) examined the impact of Teleki 5C, 1103 P, Kober 5BB, Chasselas 41B, SO4, etc. rootstocks on the pH and the concentration of K and organic acids in the juice of grapes of Chardonnay variety, 130 SMA clone. SO4 and Kober 5BB rootstocks induced the highest values of K and pH, while in the variants with 1103 P and Teleki 5C were the lowest.

The study of Hristov et al., (1998) and Popov and Hristov (2008) about the influence of Ferkal and Chasselas X Berlandieri 41B on Bolgar, Muscat Ottonel, Super ran Bolgar, Plevan, Druzhba and Naslada rootstocks, showed insignificant differences in the examined elements of the chemical composition and tasting evaluation of grapes and wine (in table and wine varieties – Naslada and Druzhba).

The influence of the rootstock on the quality of Italy grape variety was studied by Ezzahouani and Larry (1998). According to Ezzahouani and Williams (1995), the type of the rootstock is of great importance for cv Ruby Seedless. Venegas et al. (2001), investigating the influence of different rootstocks on the quality of grapes of the same variety, found that SO4, 5BB and 99R in general induced the highest quality of the harvest.

The choice of statistical evaluation criterion is an important stage of research in agricultural studies.

In experiments with permanent crops conducted under field conditions, the value of the data is determined by the

(Shanin, 1977).

SO4 ( ),  
(V1)  
41 (V2). 1969  
V-4 (Todorov, 2005;  
Pandeliev et al., 2006).  
11  
2,0 m/1,4 m,  
1 m  
0,60 m  
5 19  
9 2

degree of accuracy. For this reason, one of the requirements is to obtain data with the highest possible accuracy, respectively the differences as small as possible between the variants tested to be determined and statistically significant because only of such results correct conclusions could be made also and recommendations for practice. The impact of accidental causes of variation of data of the experiment, i.e. the error is defined as the data is subjected to statistical processing (Shanin, 1977).

The objective of the study is two statistical criteria to be applied for mathematical processing of data, reported by 12 technological traits of Rusensko bez seme table vine variety, grafted on three different rootstocks in order a higher level accuracy of results to be reached.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study included cv Rusensko bez seme table seedless variety, grafted on the rootstocks: Berlandieri Riparia SO4 (control), Rupestris du Lot V1, and Chasselas x Berlandieri 41 B (V2). The variety was created in 1969 when the varieties of Bolgar and Kondarev VI-4 (Todorov, 2005; Pandeliev et al., 2006) were crossed.

The study was conducted at the Experimental vineyard of IASS „Obraztsov chiflik” - Rousse in four replications, 11 plants in every replication. The vine planting was conducted at the distance of 2,0 m/1,4 m on hilly areas, facing South, at about 1 km from Danube river.

Soil type was carbonate chernozem on deep loess. The formation was half standard Guyot, stem height being 0,60 m and vine loads 19 winter buds, realized in 5 spurs of 2 buds each and 1 fruiting cane of 9 buds.

41 , SO4, 12 ,  
 :  
 ( Ivanov, 1981),  
 : 100  
 (g); % ( );  
 ( );  
 100 ;  
 3 .  
 , %,  
 0,1  
 n NaOH, (g/l).  
 -  
 (g) ( )  
 (g).  
 100 .  
 Student (t - test) Fisher (F),

For cv Rusensko bez seme, grafted onto the three rootstocks — Rupestris du Lot, Chasselas 41B, and SO4 the values of 12 technological traits, combined in three groups were registered, and their measurement was done in the following way:

*Mechanical composition of grapes*

It characterized the varieties mainly in terms of the ratio of the individual uvological units (rachises, skins, seeds and mesocarp) in the construction and structure of the cluster. The parameters were determined according to the conventional methods of Prostoserdov (after Ivanov, 1981), who proposed the mechanical composition of grapes to be characterized with the parameters of the construction and structure of the cluster and the berry.

The group of those parameters included: mass of the cluster and 100 berries (g); % of berries in the cluster (by weight); % of mesocarp, seeds and skin in the berry (by weight); number and mass of seeds in 100 berries.

*Chemical composition of grapes*

The content of sugars and acids defined the technological maturity of grapes. The beginning of that phase was found through periodical preliminary measurements of sugars with handheld refractometer every three days. The content of sugars was determined by the areometer of Dujardin, in %, and the total acids – via titration with 0,1 n NaOH, in promiles (g/l).

*Transportability of grapes*

Theoretically-experimentally it was determined via measurement of the resistance of the ripe berry to pressure (g) (up to cracking of skin) and to picking up from the stalk (g). The endurance of the berry to the both resistances mentioned above, was measured by specialized equipments of three samples of 100 berries each replication.

Two parametrical criteria - Student (t - test) and Fisher (F) were used in the statistical processing, as for the purpose

SPSS 19

(Zapryanov and Dimova, 1995; Mencher and Zemshman, 1986).

SPSS 19 was used for analysis of the data obtained. Standard formulas were used for calculating the criteria (Zapryanov and Dimova, 1985; Mencher and Zemshman, 1986).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the mathematical analysis by the criterion of Student of the technological characteristics of cv Rusensko bez seme were presented in Table 1.

In data comparisons in grafted Rusensko bez seme vines onto the three rootstocks, significant differences were observed in a limited number of traits. For the variant with Rupestris du Lot (V1) rootstock only 16.7% of all comparisons were significant (for the traits % berries in the cluster and mass of 100 rudiments), and for Chasselas 41B (V 2) – 25% (for three of the studied traits – % rudiments of berry mass, sugar content and berry resistance to pick off from the stalk). The only reported significant difference in favor of Chasselas 41B rootstock was recorded for the last of the studied traits, for the other reported significant differences, the direction was positive for SO4 rootstock (control).

In order to follow fully the influence of the rootstocks on the technological characteristics of cv Rusensko bez seme, we performed an additional comparison between the variants with rootstocks Rupestris du Lot and Chasselas 41B, respectively. The number of traits with obtained significant differences had doubled and the percentage was 42%. When comparing the rootstocks, traits important for the technologists were manifested: % berries in the cluster, % rudiments of berry mass, mass of 100 rudiments, contents of sugars and total acids.



1.

Student

&lt;0.05;

0.01 0.001

**Table 1. Comparative evaluation of cv Rusensko bez seme by technological traits via criteria Student (t) at appropriate levels of significance <0.05; 0.01 and 0.001**

/ Traits	/ cv Rusensko bez seme											V2 – V1	
	SO <sub>4</sub> Rootstock SO <sub>4</sub> control		Rootstock Rup. du Lot V 1				Rootstock Shasla 41B V 2						
	$\bar{x}$	S%	$\bar{x}$	S%	t	signi- ficance	$\bar{x}$	S%	t	signi- ficance	t	signi- ficance	
Mass of the cluster, g	345,25	26,4	332,07	28,1	0,53	ns	372,75	25,3	1,1	ns			
Mass of 100 berries, g	282,6	21,4	294,6	21,2	0,74	ns	284,5	24,3	0,1	ns			
% berries in cluster	98,4	0,5	98,1	0,4	<b>2,36</b>	–	98,4	0,3	0,07	ns	<b>2,7</b>	<b>+++</b>	
% mesocarp of berry mass	92,9	2,9	93,6	2,9	0,91	ns	93,7	2,2	0,16	ns			
% rudiments of berry mass	0,88	13,6	0,85	20	0,23	ns	0,63	30,1	<b>3,28</b>	---	<b>2,61</b>	<b>+</b>	
% skin of berry mass	6,19	39,9	5,18	40,1	1,65	ns	5,69	34,6	0,84	ns			
Number of rudiments in 100 berries	134,6	25,8	146,7	29,1	1,15	ns	132,6	22,7	0,22	ns			
Mass of 100 rudiments, g	1,59	27,7	1,13	27,4	<b>4,03</b>	---	<b>1,65</b>	27,2	0,89	ns	<b>5,03</b>	<b>+++</b>	
Content of sugars, %	21,97	16,1	22,08	13,6	0,13	ns	19,77	17,1	<b>2,37</b>	–	<b>2,7</b>	<b>--</b>	
Content of total acids, g/l	5,45	36,3	6,06	26	1,25	ns	6,52	28,5	0,91	ns	<b>2,3</b>	<b>+</b>	
Endurance of berry to pressure, g	1543,6	29,02	1503,2	25,5	0,36	ns	1350	32,2	1,29	ns			
Resistance of berry to pick up from the stem, g	384,3	20,7	355,1	36,9	1	ns	405,6	20,3	<b>2,33</b>	<b>+</b>			

At critical values of the criterion:  
 : t 5% = 2,004  
 t 1% = 2,670  
 t 0,1% = 3,480

2

Fisher. Table 2 presents the results of statistical data processing with the criterion of Fisher. An equal number of significant differences were recorded for the studied rootstocks for different traits. An overlapping of the results from the application of the two criteria was

100  
41  
%  
%  
100  
100

reported for the trait “mass of 100 rudiments”. In additional comparison of Rupestris du Lot and Chasselas 41B, again the tendency was obvious to double the number of traits with significant differences. Those were the technological traits “% of mesocarp of berry mass”, “% rudiments of the same mass”, “number of rudiments in 100 berries”, “mass of 100 rudiments” and “berry resistance to pick off from the stem”.

2.

Fisher

<0.05; 0.01

**Table 2. Comparative evaluation of cv Rusensko bez seme by technological traits via criteria Fisher (F) at appropriate levels of significance <0.05; 0.01**

/ Traits	cv Rusensko bez seme				V1 – V2	
	Rootstock Rup. du Lot V 1		41 Rootstock Shasla 41B V 2			
	F	Significance	F	Significance	F	Significance
Mass of the cluster, g	1.026	ns	1,04	ns	1.036	ns
Mass of 100 berries, g	1.037	ns	1,14	ns	1.1	ns
% berries in cluster	1.17	–	1,38	ns	1.19	ns
% mesocarp of berry mass	1.0	ns	<b>1,72</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>+</b>
% rudiments of berry mass	1.42	ns	<b>3,24</b>	<b>++</b>	<b>4.59</b>	<b>++</b>
% skin of berry mass	1.41	ns	1,56	<b>+</b>	<b>1.1</b>	ns
Number of rudiments in 100 berries	1.51	ns	1,33	ns	<b>2.02</b>	<b>++</b>
Mass of 100 rudiments, g	2.19	<b>++</b>	1,02	ns	<b>2.1</b>	<b>++</b>
Content of sugars, %	1.39	ns	1,08	ns	1.28	ns
Content of total acids, g/l	1.56	<b>+</b>	1,13	ns	1.38	ns
Endurance of berry to pressure, g	1.37	ns	1,06	ns	1.29	ns
Resistance of berry to pick up from the stem, g	2.7	<b>++</b>	1,07	ns	<b>2.54</b>	<b>++</b>

: F p<sub>5%</sub> = 1.53

At critical values of the criterion: F p<sub>1%</sub> = 1.84

In previous analyzes of authors with other varieties and rootstocks, it has been noted that applying the criterion of

Fisher

- Fisher significantly increased the number of significant differences between the studied variants. In that comparative study, that tendency was obvious. The greater number of significant differences allowed technologists to have more points of view in making the right decision cv Rusensko bez seme onto which rootstock to be cultivated.

## CONCLUSIONS

➤

- The three rootstocks had specific influence on certain technological traits, so the direction of application of the finished production of cv Rusensko bez seme will determine which one will be most suitable for its cultivation.

➤

Fisher

- In that kind of studies, it is more correct to apply the criterion of Fisher when analyzing results, as significantly increases the number of significant differences between the studied variants.

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## Effects of humatic fertilizer „ umustim”, on the development of above ground parts and root system in production of vine planting material of cv Zornitsa

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### SUMMARY

The objective of the study was to monitor the effect of soil fertility maintaining by modern means, as the influence of the humatic fertilizer „ umustim” on the production of vine planting material to be determined.

The experiment was conducted during the period 2014-2016 at the experimental nursery for grapevine rootings of IASS “Obraztsov Chiflik” on the area of 0,2 da, as cv Zornitsa with vines grafted onto SO4 rootstock was put for rooting. The variant treated with „ umustim”, included 1000 pcs grafted vines in four replications, 250 pcs each, and was compared with a control

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 al., 2010).  
 (Shehata and El-Khawas, 2003),  
 (Wu et al., 2004).  
 (Alves et al.,

(untreated) variant with grafted vines of cv Zornitsa, put for rooting in the same number of replications. Treatment with „ umustim” was made by immersing the section at the base of grafted cuttings in Humustim aqueous solution (20ml/l) for 48 hours.

- Based on some of the parameters, specific for the quality of class vine planting material (number of developed shoots, number of roots) the most efficient variant could be selected.

- Average for the period of study, the variant treated with „ umustim” was found as more efficient for the production of class vines of cv Zornitsa, grafted on S04 rootstock. According to the biometric assessment, that variant could be recommended in practice in the production of vine planting material.

**Key words:** humatic fertilizers, vine, increment, root formation, vine planting material

## INTRODUCTION

Significant growth in the sector of organic farming and its contribution to sustainable and rational land use are one of the main reasons for the frequent comparison between organic and conventional farming, with potential opportunities for organic grape growers (Popov et al., 2010).

- In recent years, biofertilizers have been established as a promising component of an integrated food supply system in agriculture (Shehata and El-Khawas, 2003), because they have been determined as an alternative to chemical fertilizers to increase soil fertility and yield in the sustainable agriculture (Wu Et al., 2004). The objective of the use of liquid biofertilizers is balanced plant nutrition to be achieved (Alves et al., 2009). The use of biofertilizers is a real opportunity to

2009).

(Tenova, 2012; Koteva et al., 2013; Vlahova and Popov, 2013).

2012).

(Kostadinova and Popov,

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(Sengalevich, 2007).

realize quality and healthy food (Tenova, 2012; Koteva et al., 2013; Vlahova and Popov, 2013).

- For the transition to organic
- farming, it is necessary to take measures
- the soil conditions to be improved and
- humus content to be increased.
- (Kostadinova and Popov, 2012). In the
- field of viticulture, the main method for
- improving the agronomic soil
- characteristic, i.e. to take measures to
- restore the qualities of agricultural land is
- via soil enriching with organic matter and
- mineral compounds, protection of the
- active microflora, improvement and
- regulation of food, water, air and thermal
- regime of the soil.

- The production of vine planting
- material has been one of the most
- important trends in the wine-growing
- practice since the end of the 19th century.
- The creation of cost-effective vineyards is
- conditioned to a high extent by the quality
- of the produced initial planting material.
- Phytosanitary healthy and long-lasting
- vineyards are created with high-quality
- vine planting material.

- There is a tendency to
- improvement of the individual
- technological moments of this production,
- one of which is the improvement of the
- soil and the treatment of plant parts with
- potassium humate, which enriches the
- soil with humus, improves the moisture
- retention, improves its structure, the
- development of the useful microflora and
- bonds the heavy metals and other
- technogenic contaminants for a definite
- period of time in insoluble forms.

- "Humustim" fully meets the
- requirements for the production of
- environmentally friendly agricultural
- produce (Sengalevich, 2007).

The objective of that study was to provide new data for the effect of soil

( )

- fertility maintaining by modern means, as the influence of "Humustim" (potassium humate) natural biostimulating organic fertilizer on the production of vine planting material to be determined.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Description of the "Humustim"

(potassium humate) natural biostimulating organic fertilizer – The multipurpose is a product of high quality organic substrate and contains high content of indispensable humic acids and fulvic acids, all macro and microelements, a spectrum of other organic substances, which actively improve and stimulate the physiological activity of plants. Humustim has an alkaline reaction – pH-9.

The main active substance is potassium salts of humic acids, which guarantees its application Female (during vegetation, by foliar application or introduced into irrigation water) – accelerated growth and development of habitus and the root system of the treated plants.

Along with this technology of application, potassium humate easily and efficiently finds applying in treatment seed and planting material (berries, fruit trees and vine planting material) by soaking before planting.

Processed by this method, planting material (seeds and root system) increases the volume of lateral root branches several times, which provides more intensive intake of nutrients from the soil and the waterproviding, ensuring their normal development and taking roots.

Growth accelerating is accompanied by activation of photosynthesis, biosynthesis of green pigment, regulation of carbohydrate, protein and energy metabolism. Significantly increases the immune system of the plants.



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The experiment was conducted during the period 2012-2013 at the experimental nursery for grapevine rootings of IASS “Obraztsov Chiflik” on the area of 0,2 da, as cuttings of Zornitsa seedless table cultivar were used for rooting, grafted onto SO4. The grafted and stratified cuttings were rooted on raised double-row beds with a bed width of 0.60 m and a distance between the rows in the bed – about 0,30 m. The vines in the nursery for grapevine rootings were grown according to the commonly adopted technology for the production of grafted vine planting material (Todorov, 2005). The variant treated with Humustim included 1000 pcs grafted vines, in four replications of 250 pcs each and was compared with a control (untreated) variant with grafted vines of cv. Zornitsa, set for rooting at the same number of replications.

The treatment with “Humustim” (potassium humate) natural biostimulating organic fertilizer was done by soaking the heels of grafted cuttings in Humustim water solution (20ml/l) at exposure of 48 hours.

The soil type is carbonate chernozem on deep loess. The soil is moderately supplied with nitrogen and phosphorus and well-stocked with potassium.

On the basis of some of the traits, specific for the quality of class vine planting material (number of developed shoots, number of roots), the more effective variant was searched.

To conduct the experiment a comparative study was made in formed two variants:

V0 – grafted and stratified cuttings without treatment

V1 – grafted and stratified cuttings treated with Humustim, by soaking the petioles of grafted cuttings in Humustim water solution (20ml / l) at exposure of 48 hours. Biometric measurements were taken on a sample of 18 class vines of each variant.

DUNKAN,  
ANOVA (STATGRAPHICS Plus ver. 2.1.)

The number of shoots and the number of stepped roots per a vine were recorded.

A mathematical processing of the experimental data was performed by the method of dispersion analysis, and the differences between the variants were determined by the test of DUNKAN, ANOVA, (STATGRAPHICS Plus ver. 2.1).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main trait characterizing the production of vine planting material is the yield of rooted vines. It is influenced by all changes in the factors determining the normal course of rooting, growth and development of grafted cuttings.

The number of shoots is important and is the basis for determination of first-class grafted and rooted vines. From the data obtained a significant increase was observed in the number of shoots per a vine in the variant, treated with Humustim, compared with the same trait in the untreated variant (Table 1). In the treated variant, the number of shoots, on average per a vine, was 1,72, which exceeded the number of shoots in the control variant by 29,3% (1,33 pcs).

Data about the obtained differences were statistically proven by the test of Duncan, at  $P < 0.05$ .

$<0,05$ , Duncan.

1.

**Table 1. Influence of Humustim humate fertilizer on the number of shoots of vines of cv Zornitsa**

	Number of shoot per a vine	%	LSD LSD after the method of Duncan	Duncan
/ Control	1,33	100,0		
/ Humustim	1,72*	129,3		b

\*, \*\*, \*\*\*, LSD<0,05; 0,01;0,001.

(a,b,c . .),

$P < 0.05$

\*, \*\*, \*\*\*, at LSD <0.05; 0.01; 0.001. All non-star variants have no significant difference with the untreated variant. The values in a column, followed by different letters (a, b, c, etc.), differ significantly at  $P < 0.05$

Another very important trait, which determines the quality of the obtained first-class vines, is the number of stepped up roots (Figure 1).

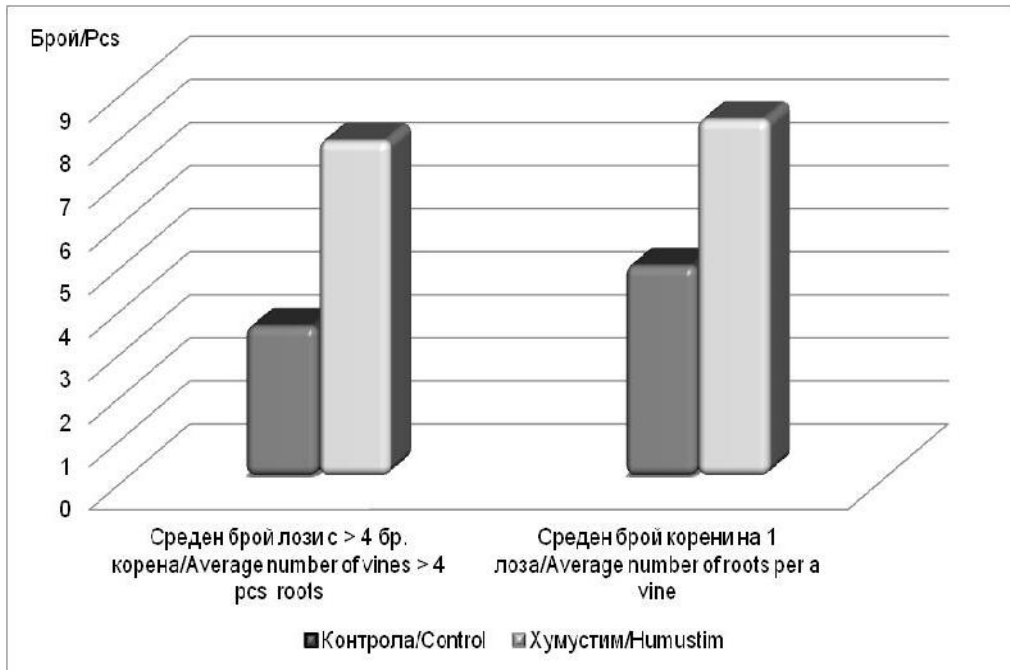


Fig. 1. Effects of Humustim humate fertilizer on the average number of vines with more of 4 pcs roots and average number of roots per a vine, cv Zornitsa

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122,8%,  
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69,4%.

It could be seen from Table 2 that in the treated variant, the average number of vines with more than 4 pcs roots exceeded the data for that trait in the control untreated variant. The action of Humustim stimulated the formation of more than 4 stepped up roots per a vine, exceeding the control variant by 122,8%, which was a prerequisite for increasing the quality of grafted vines. The determined differences were found to be significant at  $P < 0,001$ .

The fertilization with Humustim created conditions for the absorption of the humic acids and polyacids included in it and influenced on the root system of the grafted cuttings. The average number of stepped up roots per a vine in the variant with applied Humustim increased, exceeding the control variant by 69,4%.

From the mathematical processing for the

<0,001.

average number of roots per a vine, a significance was found at P <0,001.

2.

**Table 2. raits, showing the root formation in the vine experiment of cv Zornitsa treated with Humustim humate fertilizer**

	>4 Average number of vines with roots >4 pcs	%	LSD Duncan LSD after the method of Duncan	1 Average number of roots per a vine	%	LSD Duncan LSD after the method of Duncan
/ Control	3,5	100,0	a	4,9	100,0	a
/ Humustim	7,8***	222,8	b	8,3***	169,4	b

\*, \*\*, \*\*\*, LSD 0,05; 0,01;0.001.

P<0.05

(a,b,c . .),

\*, \*\*, \*\*\*, at LSD <0.05, 0.01; 0.001. All non-star variants have no significant difference with the untreated variant. The values in a column, followed by different letters (a, b, c, etc.), differ significantly in P <0.05

## CONCLUSIONS

The development of the root and above-ground parts of the grafts of cv Zornitsa showed that in the variant of treating with Humustim, more highly developed first-class vines were obtained.

On average, over the entire study period, in the above-shown variant, the plants were characterized with a higher average number of stepped up roots and a higher number of shoots.

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## Studying of changes in the catalase enzyme activity in Prista table vine cultivar treated with the micronutrient Lebosol-Kalium 450

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### SUMMARY

The study was carried out from 2015 to 2017 in the experimental vineyard of IASS "Obraztsov chiflik", Rousse, monitoring the variations in the activity of catalase enzyme in Prista table vine cultivar after spraying with Lebosol-Kalium 450 micromineral fertilizer. The foliar spraying treatment of the vines was applied twice – before flowering and once in cluster formation phase and in beginning of ripening phase. The variations in catalase activity were traced, in order the resistance of vines to abrupt changes in abiotic environmental factors to be determined.

Samples were taken from the leaves of young shoots seven days after each application of the micromineral fertilizer. It was found that spraying with Lebosol-Kalium 450 influenced positively on the activity of catalase enzyme, with the greatest increase in values found after treatment in pre-flowering phase.

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**Key words:** vine, catalase, enzyme activity, micromineral fertilizer, potassium

## INTRODUCTION

The continuing worsening of the quality of the environment, result of the diverse anthropogenic activities, affecting the stability and sustainability of the ecosystems, together with the increasing demand for food products, requires search for ways to increase the productivity and sustainability of already existing and newly created varieties of agricultural crops.

According to the latest climate models, droughts, different in their duration or sharp rises in temperatures will occur in many regions, which will have unfavourable influence on yield of the main crops, consequently on the supply of food products to the population.

In view of this, the main challenges facing agriculture are yield increasing and supporting the growth and development of plants under the conditions of abiotic and biotic stress (Reynolds et al., 2011).

Potassium is among the elements of great importance for the normal course of a large number of physiological processes, for the growth of crops, the quality and quantity of yield, also and the resistance of crops to stress (Zörb et al., 2014).

It plays an extremely important role in limiting the loss of water from plants at high atmospheric air temperatures and under drought conditions. According to the literary data, in plants under drought conditions, the intensity of photosynthesis is directly related to potassium levels.

There is still no exact explanation how does potassium deficiency or relative potassium deficiency effect on photosynthesis, which requires

(Reynolds et al., 2011).

(Zörb et al., 2014).

(Chaerle et al., 2007).

(Amiri and Fallahi, 2007).

(Böhlmann, 1991; Vlahov et al., 2002).

Lebosol- 450

2015-2017

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Lebosol- 450

450 3 %

(N) 45 g/l 30 %  
(K<sub>2</sub>O) 450 g/l

( 1).

- subsequent studies to explain these processes (Chaerle et al., 2007).

The addition of potassium increases vine yield as a result of the increased number and weight of grapes (Amiri and Fallahi, 2007). There is also a strong relation between the potassium stock of vineyards and the quality of the grape must.

- The variations in the activity of catalase enzyme are well-known indicators of the resistance of plants to abrupt changes in environmental abiotic factors but can also be used successfully in assessing the effect of applying a number of fertilizers and plant protection products on crop plants (Böhlmann, 1991; Vlahov et al., 2002).

- The objective of the study was variations in the activity of catalase enzyme in cv "Prista" dessert vine to be traced after spraying with Lebosol-Kalium 450 micromineral fertilizer during different stages of vegetation.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the period 2015-2017 an experiment was carried out in the experimental vineyard of IASS "Obraztsov chiflik", monitoring the variations in the activity of the catalase enzyme in cv "Prista" dessert vine. Lebosol-Kalium 450 micromineral fertilizer and control were selected and tested for the study.

- Lebosol-Kalium 450 contains 3% ureic nitrogen (N) 45 g/l and 30% water-soluble potassium oxide (K<sub>2</sub>O) 450 g/l and can be mixed with conventional plant protection products.

For the trial purposes, the test product was used with terms, in ways and at dosages recommended by the Distributor (Table 1).



1.

**Table 1. Scheme of the experiment**

Variants	Dosage, ml.da <sup>-1</sup>	Fertilization in table vine
Control	-	-
Lebosol-Kalium 450	0,5	- « » Spraying twice – pre-flowering phase
		- « » Single spraying – cluster formation phase
		- « » Single spraying – beginning of ripening

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(Kimenov et al. 1995),

(H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>),  
.  
0,1 N  
(KMnO<sub>4</sub>).

$$A = \frac{(a - b) \cdot T \cdot 60 \cdot 1,7}{c \cdot t}, \quad (1)$$

:  
- ml 0,1N n<sub>4</sub>,  
;  
b – ml 0,1N n<sub>4</sub>,  
;  
- 0,1N n<sub>4</sub>;  
1,7 – n<sub>2</sub> 2,  
1 ml 0,1N n<sub>4</sub>;  
60 – 1  
;  
- ;  
t – .

- The activity of the enzyme was determined within 7 to 10 days after performing the fertilization, provided in the methodology. Samples of leaves of young shoots from all the treated and control vines were taken, and an average sample was separated from which plant material necessary for the analysis was taken – leafy blades without ribs.

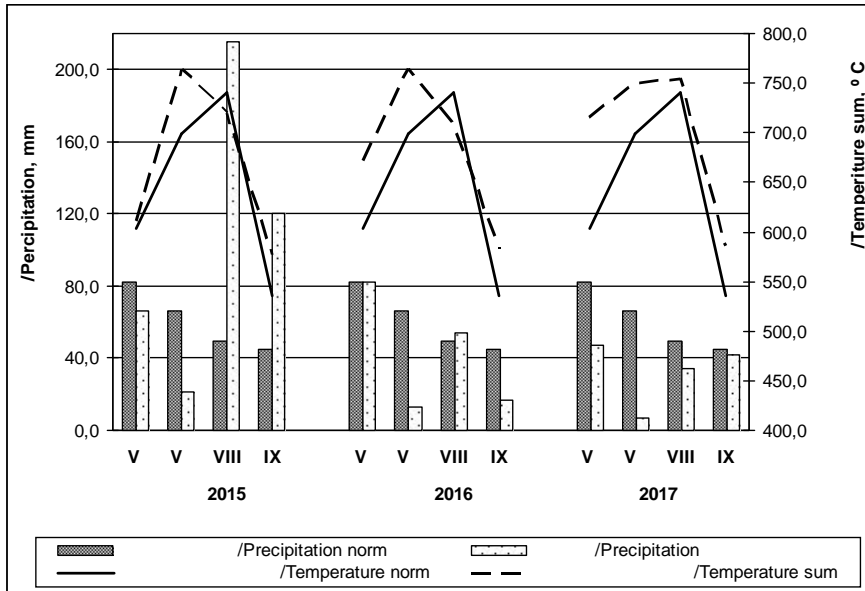
- Catalase activity was determined after the titrimetric method (Kimenov et al., 1995), which was based on the determination of the amount of hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) degraded by the enzyme per unit time of 1 gram of plant material. The undissolved residue was titrated with 0.1 N potassium permanganate solution (KMnO<sub>4</sub>).

- The activity of the enzyme was calculated by the formula:

where:  
a – ml of 0.1N solution of KMnO<sub>4</sub> spent on the titration of the control sample;  
b – ml of 0,1 N KMnO<sub>4</sub> solution used to titrate the test sample;  
T – titer of 0.1N solution of KMnO<sub>4</sub>;  
1.7 – an amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> corresponding to 1 ml of 0.1N KMnO<sub>4</sub>;  
60 – minutes to bring in 1 hour;  
c – weight of the plant material;  
t – incubation time of the samples.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The weather conditions during vine vegetation throughout the period of study were atypical for the region, extremely dynamic and often unfavourable for the development of the vine (Figure 1).



1. **2015-2017**  
**Fig. 1. Average monthly air temperatures and precipitation by month for 2015-2017**

2015  
 21,5 mm  
 65 °  
 2016  
 13 mm

June-July period of 2015 was characterized with a significant drought and significantly higher than the average air temperature. July was particularly dry, with precipitation only 21.5 mm at air temperature sum of above 65 °C. August and September were extremely humid, with rainfall significantly exceeding the norm and temperatures lower than the normal for that period of the year.

The amount of precipitation and average daily air temperatures at the beginning of June 2016 were higher than the norm for the region. July was extremely dry, with precipitation only 13 mm and air temperature higher than the norm for the month. By contrast, in

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 , 31 °  
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 7,1 mm.  
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 Lebosol- 450 ,  
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 Lebosol-  
 450 « »  
 2.

August the precipitation slightly exceeded the norm while the temperature was lower by 31 °C.

The period of June-August 2017 was characterized with significant drought, especially in July, when the precipitation reached scarcely 7.1 mm. The average daily temperatures in June and July exceeded the norm significantly, as in August the values began to approach the usual for the region.

However, the activity of catalase enzyme, determined in leaves of young shoots of vines, treated with Lebosol-Kalium 450 increased, to a greater or lesser extent, through all the phases of vegetation development.

The variations in the activity of the catalase, registered in cv Prista vines, treated with Lebosol-Kalium 450 micromineral fertilizer were presented in Table 2.

2.

, 2015-2017 .

**Table 2. Changes in catalase enzyme activity, 2015-2017**

Variant	Catalase activity, [mg/g/h]					
	2015	%	2016	%	2017	%
" / Pre-flowering phase						
Control	34,58	100	39,00	100	43,70	100
Lebosol-Kalium 450	41,89	+ 21	61,00	+ 56	58,60	+ 34
« » / Cluster formation phase						
Control	10,03	100	89,76	100	78,63	100
Lebosol-Kalium 450	29,21	+ 191	97,00	+ 8	89,74	+ 14
« » / Beginning of ripening phase						
Control	4,76	100	14,00	100	23,34	100
Lebosol-Kalium 450	10,69	+ 124	19,00	+ 35	29,47	+ 26

Lebosol-

450

34 %

21%.

56 %

14 % – 2017

8 % 2016

2016 .  
35 %

27 %

2017 .,

- The first determination of the  
- catalase activity was performed after  
- completion of the scheduled sprays in the  
- pre-blooming phase. Comparing the  
- results obtained, it was found that the  
- activity of the enzyme in the leaves of the  
- treated vines in the first year exceeded  
- the activity, registered in the control by  
- 21%. The subsequent readings of  
- catalase activity showed an even greater  
- increase of values in the vines, treated  
- with Lebosol-Kalium 450 compared to the  
- control, 56% in the second and 34% in  
- the third year, respectively.

- In accordance with the accepted  
- methodology, the second determination  
- of the activity of the catalase was carried  
- out after spraying in "cluster formation"  
- phase. The values reported during the  
- first year were extremely high; the  
- activity, measured in the leaves of treated  
- vines exceeded that of the control -  
- untreated vines, almost three times.

- Over the next two years, the  
- activity of catalase enzyme in cv Prista  
- vines, treated with the product was  
- significantly lower but still exceeded the  
- control, though to a much lesser degree,  
- by 8% in 2016 and 14% in 2017,  
- respectively.

- The activity of catalase remained  
- extremely high in "beginning of ripening"  
- phase. Some decreases in values were  
- observed compared to the reports in  
- "cluster formation" phase, but they  
- remained twice higher than those of the  
- control.

- The positive effect of the  
- fertilization with the product also was  
- found in the following years. The activity  
- of catalase in the treated vine leaves in  
- 2016 exceeded the control by 35% and  
- was 27% higher than the activity  
- measured in "cluster formation" phase.  
- The same dynamics were observed in  
- 2017 when the activity of the catalase

26 %.

after spraying in “beginning of ripening” phase exceeded that of untreated vines by 26%.

## CONCLUSIONS

Lebosol- 450

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Spraying with Lebosol-Kalium 450 contributed to increase the activity of catalase enzyme in the leaves of treated cv Prista vines throughout all the phases of their vegetation development.

The greatest effect of the product over the entire period of study was found after treatment in “pre-flowering” phase.

Lebosol- 450

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5800

## Weed control technological systems in the area of the vine rows for organic grapes production

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### SUMMARY

- An analysis had been made and a classification of the existing weed control technology systems in the grapevine rows area for the organic production of grapes, the working organs, devices and materials used for this purpose has been proposed.
- The preventive measures impact to control weeds in vineyards had been also analyzed.

**Key words:** organic production, weeds, weed control systems

- The steadily increasing requirements to grapes as a raw material for quality wine making and on the other hand for the environmental protection (soil, water, air, grapes and wine), as well as the reduction of the labor force and the gradually rising production costs have necessitated the search for environmentally acceptable and economically viable solutions in viticulture.

In certain countries, for years, it has been



When transitioning to organic grape production, these measures have been partially or completely replaced by others. Weed control is no longer considered equivalent to weed destruction.

Rather, the unwanted weeds in the area of the vine row have to be controlled by using appropriate effective technical resources.

In this controlled, organic viticulture it is necessary to be observed the entire complex including soil, varieties, suitable pest control products, technical means and terms for plant protection, threshold of damage, fertilization, as this complex goes along with the research and technical novelties in viticulture and wine-making (Peykov et al., 2006; Peykov et al., 2012).

(Peykov et al., 2006; Peykov et al., 2012).

The weed control system is an integral part of the vine growing systems. This problem is especially important in the creation of vineyards for organic grape production, where the normative documents do not allow the use of chemicals (herbicides) in all stages – from the preparation of the terrain, planting, reaching full fruit-bearing and the rest of their life cycle (Braykov et al., 2006; Kostadinova et al., 2012; Peykov et al., 2012).

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It should be taken into consideration there are two groups of factors having an impact on the presence and density of weed species: natural factors and factors ensuing from the cultivation technology.

The natural factors include some of the characteristics of the particular terrain (terroir) – soil type, microclimate, altitude, slope of the terrain, exposure, state and weed density of the adjacent terrains, etc.

The second group of factors refers to the type of soil cultivation and the technical resources for its achievement, the



machinery tools used; the number of treatments, etc.

The weeds control in the area of the vine row might be accomplished through specific systems in several aspects:

- *mechanical impact on weeds*

# by mechanical soil treatment – it could be implemented manually and mechanically. For the mechanized option, soil tillage machinery (known as deviating sections) are used with attached various tools – flat ploughshares, cutters with horizontal or vertical rotational axis, disk tools, shovel cultivators and a combination of tools attached to the agricultural machinery. With this method, the weeds in the area are cut off, torn off, chopped or covered with soil. It does not destroy all weeds (Kostadinov et al., 2016; Peykov et al., 2012). The choice of the appropriate option depends on the structure and size of the vine plantations, the soil type, the soil condition, the slope of the terrain, the available technical resources, etc.

The advantages of this method are:

- destroying a significant part of the weeds in the area of the row without chemical preparations or manual labour; destroying the habitats of some pests – field voles, etc.; no special conditions are required for the mechanical soil treatment – temperature, wind, even precipitation; special protective devices are not necessary for the introduction of the herbicides;
- the air regime of the soil is improved, the soil structure is preserved and better conditions for the microorganisms are ensured; better penetration and absorption of moisture in depth, moisture storage and moisture retention of the soil;
- creating optimal conditions for drip irrigation of the vines; the accumulation of toxic substances in the soil is suspended;

- machinery tools used; the number of treatments, etc.
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40-50 min<sup>-1</sup>.

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last but not least, the appearance of the vineyard is improved.

The disadvantages are: at lower moisture rates in the surface soil layer the results of these treatments are unsatisfactory; in some variants, soil atomization and deterioration of the structure are also observed in the treated area; some of the tools in the process of operation only cut/tear the underground part of the weeds without bringing the cut part to the soil surface of the soil.

# by periodic mechanical impact on the epigeal part of the weed vegetation – it consists of removing the epigeal part of the weeds at a certain height by cutting and chopping (with mowers) or crushing with partial chopping, whereby most of the foliage remains whole, but the epigeal part of the weed stems is crushed and partially chopped (with machine, roller type).

As an after-effect, the crushing pertains to mulching. The majority of the machinery mower type uses in their operation the principle of unsupported cutting.

For ensuring their quality performance, the peripheral speed of the operating elements of the working tool (blades, segments, etc.) should be in the range 40-50 min<sup>-1</sup>.

The advantages of this method are: opportunity for rapid and cost efficient mulching of the row area with the removed and chopped weed vegetation; limiting the water erosion impact on slope terrains.

The disadvantages include the risk of further weed seeds introducing in that area, as well as reducing the effect of the vines drip irrigation.

Lanini, 2015).

(Hofman et al.,1995;

(Bucherfield, 2002; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000; Clemens et al., 1996).

(Bucherfield, 2002; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000;

- In recent years a number of studies and trials have been carried out on new herbicides developed on the basis of plant extracts, e.g. from pine oil, for the purpose of organic production, (Hofman et al., 1995; Lanini, 2015).

- Its action is based on the effect on the plant cuticle, which causes its withering.

- The use of such products for organic grape production is still too limited as the long-term impact on vine and its products have not been studied.

- *biological covers*

- # Mulching is one of the relatively broadly used methods of weed control (Bucherfield, 2002; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000; Clemens et al., 1996).

- Its application achieves suppression of weed growth and seed germination due to the limited access of light and moisture from precipitation to the soil surface layer.

- Mulch is also a physical barrier for weeds development. Organic matter is supplemented to the soil from its gradual decomposition. The weeds that grow are weak and can easily be destroyed.

- This method is particularly efficient in annual weeds. It controls weeds and soil moisture. Organic matters (straw, compost, wood saw-dust, marc from wine-making industry, saturated paper waste, cattle-shed bedding, the green grass cover from the area between the rows, etc.) and synthetic materials (polyethylene, polypropylene or polyester) could be used for mulching.

- The thickness of the mulching cover is of particular importance for achieving a good effect. It depends on the soil and weather characteristics of each micro-region but according to a number of authors (Bucherfield, 2002; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000; Clemens et al., 1996;

Clemens et al., 1996; Hanson, 2011)  
20 cm  
8-10 cm

60%  
(Bucherfield and Webster, 2000; Hanson, 2011),

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(Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield, 2002).

Hanson, 2011) this thickness is about 20 cm for straw cover or 8-10 cm mown or chopped green mass.

It should also be taken into consideration that after the first year, the thickness of the organic material layer decreases naturally to 60% of the original one (Bucherfield and Webster, 2000; Hanson, 2011), as this process varies widely for the different climatic conditions. This method is mainly used for covering the area of the vine row (both in conventional and organic production), with the best results being found on stony soils where other methods are difficult to be applied.

The advantages of this method are: some mulching materials (e.g. chopped green mass) are the source of extra soil enrichment with organic matter; the cover provides an optimal temperature of the surface soil layer, while maintaining moisture in the soil based on evaporation reduction; it also limits the effects of soil erosion.

Its disadvantages are: the possibility of introducing new species of weeds into the area; the method is not suitable for flat terrains with poor outflow and soils that tend to get overwet; the synthetic materials are a convenient shelter for field voles and other enemies; mulching materials are bulky in most cases and require additional costs for transport and scattering; the issue of the microorganisms developing in the different types of covering materials and their influence on the development of the underground and above ground parts of the vines should not be underestimated.

An economically efficient option is to cover the area of the vine rows with the green mass mown or mown and cut from the space between the rows (Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield, 2002). In this case, besides the economic benefit, there is a

(Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield, 2002).

(Bucherfield and Webster, 2000).

(Braykov et al., 2006; Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000).

800-1000 mm.

- limitation of the risk of propagation of other unwanted weed species and pollutants from the mulch materials.

Covering the area of the vine row with some synthetic materials, e.g. black plastic foil has some advantages but the problem of their removal according to the ecological and legal requirements makes them difficult to be applied in organic production (Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield, 2002).

The option for crushing the epigeal part of the weeds with specialized machinery is included in this method too.

- • *biological control* – like most plants in nature, weeds also have natural enemies – insects, mites, diseases. They feed and attack both their ground and underground parts and their seeds. However, carrying out biological weed control is a difficult, expensive method and its application is not in the power of the individual producers (Bucherfield and Webster, 2000).

In the case of organic grape production, in many cases, the option for artificial grassing of the space between the rows, mainly with mixtures of cereals and legumes is applied (Braikov et al., 2006; Peykov et al., 2012; Bucherfield and Webster, 2000). That grass cover successfully competes with the development of weeds in this area. The choice of these cover crops depends on the soil and weather conditions of the region, and it is of utmost importance the necessary moisture and nutrients for the vines to be ensured. This option is suitable for regions with precipitation over 800-1000 mm.

- The effectiveness of this option requires maintaining a weed-free area of the vine rows, most often by mechanical treatments. In regions with not enough rainfall, the option of drip irrigation of the

vines or covering the area of the row with the vegetation mass from the space between the rows is suitable, thus improving the soil structure and soil fertility and eliminating the negative impact of the grass cover on the development and fruit-bearing of the vines during long summer droughts (Bucherfield and Webster, 2000).

• *weed control by applying electrical and thermal methods* – microwave and laser irradiation as well as methods using high frequency current and superheated steam have found limited application because of the high cost of the machines.

• *the time for carrying out the control* as a factor for good results can be discussed in two aspects. Most of the pointed weed control methods are largely dependent on the soil and weather conditions – precipitation (quantity and dynamics over time), the surface soil layer moisture, air and soil temperature, etc. These conditions predetermine the second aspect – the intervals between the different treatments, their number, the opportunity the first treatment to be implemented as early as possible. The two groups of factors are interrelated and interdependent.

In many developed vine-growing countries, particular attention is paid to the preventive weed control measures. They include:

• *quarantine* – practice aimed at limiting the incidence and increasing the density of weed species both in the vineyard and within its borders (Hanson, 2011; Hofman et al., 1995; Lanini, 2015).

That measure requires: restricting the access and movement of people, machinery and animals within the plantations, as particular attention is paid to those coming from areas of high weeds density; clean machinery; to select suitable materials – manure, mulching

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- materials, compost, etc., which do not cause additional weeds propagation;  
 - construction of buffer zones – protection belts, ditches and channels for directing the effluent, etc.

As part of the quarantine is the hygiene – a measure related to carrying out additional actions limiting the weeds incidence in the vineyard.

- These actions include: limiting the propagation of weed seeds; limiting the operations leading to vegetative propagation of weeds, etc.

*monitoring* – It includes measures that help grape-growers to determine the “hottest” weed points and their impact on vine development, to select the appropriate options or a combination of them, the timing, the frequency, the required resources, etc.

- The first one is the annual survey of the vineyard, determination of the species and the density of the weeds, as well as their mapping on the individual sections of the plantation.

- If the control of the prevailing weed species on the specific area is most efficient at the time of their germination, the survey should be carried out periodically, e.g. at about 7-10 days after a heavy rainfall.

- *competition* – the development, incidence and density of certain weed species could be reduced by planting other plants efficiently competing them in the specific soil and weather conditions of the micro-region.

- *measures to limit weeds before planting the vineyard* – it is an important issue for heavily weeded terrains, mainly with perennial weeds – twitch grass, Johnson grass, etc. The significance and effectiveness of these measures is extremely important in the creation of

vineyards for organic grape production.

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- The grapevine is susceptible to weed competition during the first three or four years after planting. Most often, that competition slows down and suppresses their development. After this period the root system of the grapevines reaches depth and degree of development, whereby that influence is decreased.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The dynamic development of organic viticulture in our country has imposed a number of restrictions and additional requirements in grape production technology, which requires the upgrading and optimization of both technological operations and technology as a whole.

The proposed classification of weed control methods in the area of vine row in organic grape production allows for their profound and structural study.

The scientific research developments and implemented systems to solve the problem of weed control in vineyards in our country are insufficient and, to a great extent, outdated and not applicable under the new conditions.

The development of a weed control and management system as a modern and highly efficient solution for our viticulture is an important and topical issue with a particular focus on the organic production of grapes.

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## Technical resources for weed control in the area of the vine rows for organic grapes production

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### SUMMARY

- An analysis had been made and a classification of the existing technical resources for weed control in the grapevine rows area for the organic grapes production. The development of the systems for control of their working organs, their constructive features and the effect of their performance had been analysed.

- **Key words:** weed control, technical resources, organic grapes production

- The problem of weeds in vineyards has been the subject of a serious and large-scale research and experimental work. Maintaining the soil surface, the weed species density and condition in the distance between the rows has many technological and technical solutions meeting the requirements for organic production.

- The problem of the weeds in the area of the vine row is more complex and the work is mainly focused on two trends - destroying the prevailing part of the

( )

(Kostadinov and Tverdochlebov, 2016; Kostadinov et al., 2016).

“L”-

- weeds in the area of the vine row by means of mechanical soil cultivation, etc.
- weed control – keeping their species, quantity and current status in this area to acceptable limits.

- The aim of the study is to be analysed the work in the mentioned two trends and to be indicated the perspectives for technological and technical solutions for our vine-growing.

- A large number of machinery and implements known as the deviating sections have been found to be useful for weed control in the area of the vine row, (Kostadinov and Tverdochlebov, 2016; Kostadinov et al., 2016). According to the method of suspension, they are mainly mounted - with front/rear, intermediate and rear suspension and, in rare cases, attached (with rear mounting). They can work either independently or in combination with another tillage machinery (e.g. mounted cultivator). The self-operating deviating sections are mainly front or side mounted, between the two bridges of the tractor. When mounted to another tillage machinery, the suspension is most often rear. They are used both in one-sided and double-sided versions.

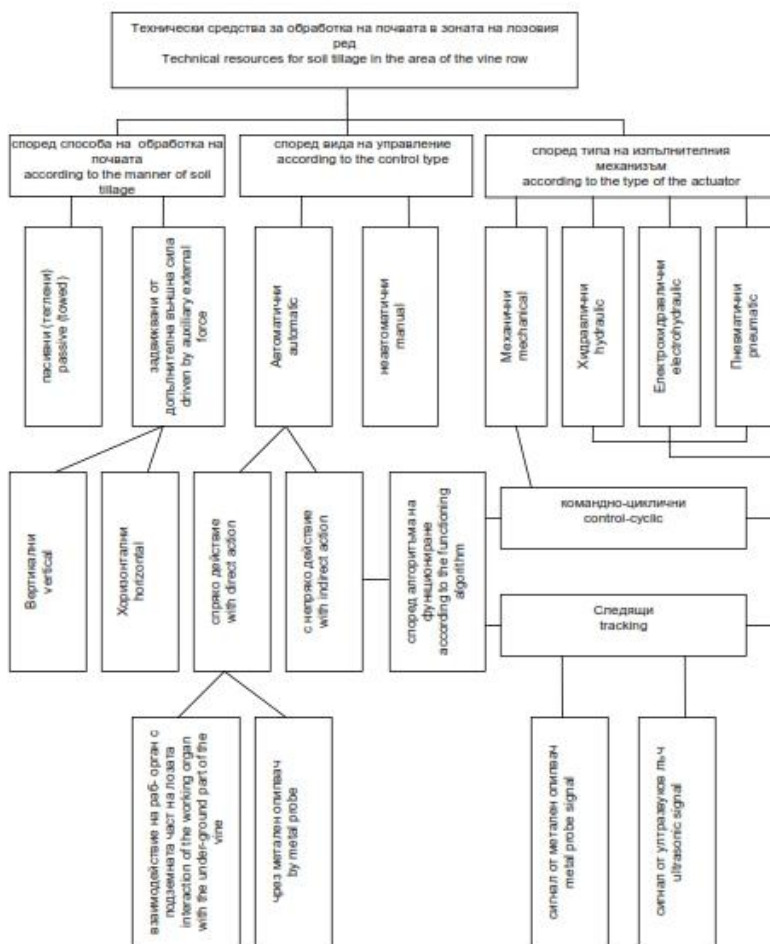
- Depending on their effect on the weeds, that could be for mechanical treating the soil in the area of the row, for removing the over-ground part of weeds (mowing), mowing for mulching, crushing (partial tearing), mulching.

- In practice, experiments have been carried out and deviating sections with a wide variety of working bodies have been applied – plough type, flat or L-shaped ploughshares, disc shovel cultivators with an active and passive action, with horizontal, vertical or inclined axis of rotation, type of cutter with horizontal or vertical axis of rotation; disc working body with a vertical axis of rotation intended for

- mowing. Depending on how the working elements affect the weeds, they could be solid and flexible, affecting their underground part (soil tillage) and affecting the weeds on/above the soil surface.

The working elements of these machineries could be driven mechanically (PTO), hydraulically (via a hydromotor) or pneumatically (by an additional compressor).

According to the method of soil tillage, the working organs could be passive (towed) or active (additionally driven).



. 1.

Fig. 1. Classification of the technical resources for soil tillage in the area of the vine row





body, deviates it, overcoming the force of the counter spring.

In the case of the automatic devices with indirect control (with extra force), the deviation of the working body is effected by a signal received from a special probe when getting into contact with a vine or a pole from the training system. According to the mode of operation these devices are divided into command-cyclic and tracking (Figure 1).

In the case of command-cyclic devices, when a signal is received a trigger is activated then an actuator with the working body performs a preset motion and returns to the starting position, remaining there until the next signal is received. These devices have no positional correspondence between the position of the working body and the probe, while the working body itself performs transverse, preset motions with guaranteed maximum amplitude (Nankov, 1983; Markov, 1983).

This operational principle is used, for example, in the French CKOBEMA machinery for tilling the area of the row, equipped with plough working bodies. The lack of positional correspondence between the probe and the working body at any point in the work cycle necessitates the development of the so-called tracking automatic systems that have become widespread in practice. In general, the functional diagram of such a tracking system includes a probe, a comparing unit, a power control amplifier, an actuator, a working body and a feedback device. Depending on the manner of transformation and amplification of the input impact they are mechanical, hydraulic, electrohydraulic and pneumatic (Figure 1).

During their initial period of development, the devices with mechanical tracking units have found limited use in practice

(Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968a; Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968b).

HUMUS.

GARD, ROTEX

-2.  
( )

(Kostadinov and Tverdochlebov, 2016; Kostadinov et al., 2016; Parhomenko, 2014; Parhomenko, 2015).

(Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968a; Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968b). An example is the rotor harrow of HUMUS Company. It is equipped with a mechanical tracking device, consisting of a probe, mechanical clutch, chain gears and a chain.

When the probe is touched by a vine stem, the mechanical coupling is activated by means of a lever system and a rope. It transmits the rotation of the power take-off shaft to the gear chain, which rolling on a chain, moves the working body. When passing the obstacle, the probe returns to the starting position, as the clutch engages another gear chain, causing forced moving of the working body to the starting position.

Devices working on this principle have been developed and offered by GARD, ROTEX, etc. In our country, an automatic tracking system with a mechanical amplifier and an electromechanical input signal converter has been developed to the UNMM-2 universal vineyard machine.

The working bodies (one-sided cultivator paws) are held in the row area by means of locking devices controlled by the probes via electromagnets. When released, the working bodies are deviated under the action of the soil reaction (passive tilting).

Their return to the working position is forced by the shaft to take-off the power of the tractor by means of electromagnetic connectors and eccentric-throttle mechanism.

The complicated structure and the low operational reliability of the facilities based on this principle imposed the development and introduction of automatic tracking systems with hydraulic power amplifiers (Kostadinov and Tverdochlebov, 2016; Kostadinov et al., 2016; Parhomenko, 2014; Parhomenko, 2015). Depending on the type of the



working body, the devices with a hydraulically driven automatic tracking system could be with a plough, one-sided cultivator paw, cutter type (horizontal and vertical drive axle), disc harrow type and mower type. According to the type of the hydraulic system used, the devices could be with constant flow and constant pressure.

Machinery with a plough-type working body is offered by the companies CLEMENS, BRAUN, NARDI, etc. (10). The working body of these machines as a unit of the actuator performs a translational shifting when crawling around the vine stems and the elements of the support training system. Therefore, in most cases, the actuator is based on a parallelogram mechanism. It ensures the working body shifting in the direction of the distance between the rows without changing its operating parameters and quality of work. There are also machinery where the working body is connected by means of a jointed connection to the main frame and its shifting is performed by a hydraulic cylinder (models of the companies NARDI, CLEMENS, BRAUN, etc.).

Machinery with L-shaped shovel cultivator have been widely used in practice, mainly on lighter soils. Their advantage is the simple construction and service as well as the relatively high operating speed of the unit. The disadvantage is that at higher soil moisture, as well as when working on heavier soils, the latter is only cut and lifted without being shifted (Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968a; Gerganski and Stoychev, 1968b; Nankov, 1983; Markov, 1983; Markov, 2003).

Thus, the weed vegetation is not significantly destroyed. Such machines are offered by companies BRAUN, RINIERI, CLEMENS, RÖLL, MÜLLER, etc. In this type of weed control machinery

<p>( )</p> <p>( )</p> <p>10-20 N.</p> <p>ULTRA RADIUS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in the vine row area there is the widest range of applied variants of hydraulically driven tracking systems.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- In most of them (one-sided and two-sided), a tracking system based on automatic tilting and return to working position using hydraulic cylinders and distributors (with two-sided auxiliary force) is used.</li> <li>- To ensure maximum efficiency, hydraulic distributors with fast action and minimal inertia are used as well as the necessary force to trigger the system by pressing the probe up to 10-20 N.</li> </ul>
<p>CLEMENS</p> <p>( )</p> <p>(Parhomenko, 2014; Parhomenko, 2015).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the ULTRA RADIUS model of CLEMENS, the metal probe is replaced by an ultrasonic beam. The beam is directed to the zone free from overhanging shoots. When encountering an obstacle – a vine stem or a support pole, a signal is sent to an electronic module that triggers the hydraulic system of the actuator with the working body. The advantage of this model is the very accurate operation of the deviating system. A limiting factor is the requirement for a very good agro-technical condition of the plantation, especially in relation to the geometry of the row and the presence of shoots in the area of action of the beam.</li> <li>-</li> <li>- The deviating sections with disc working bodies with a horizontal or vertical (inclined) axis of rotation provide a relatively good quality of the soil cultivation. The disc shovel cultivators with vertical or tilted rotational axis driven by hydromotors have found a wide variety of applications (Parhomenko, 2014; Parhomenko, 2015).</li> <li>- To improve their quality of work on weed destruction, they are combined with passive working bodies – e.g. with ploughshares or disc shovel cultivators. Machinery with vertical axis of rotation is</li> </ul>

Z2), BRAUN ( CLEMENS ( LUV "Perfekt") ..

Velox 1-2, EL, ELX, FS ), BRAUN RINIERI ( .

( Heinz Müller, AFRL AF -3000 HUMUS Humus – Planet .)

(Markov, 1983).

RÖLL .) (10). CLEMENS, BRAUN,

- 10-20 N.

10 km/h.

offered by CLEMENS (Z2 model), BRAUN (LUV model "Perfekt"), etc. Machinery with a horizontal axis of rotation is offered by RINIERI (Velox 1-2, EL, ELX, FS models), BRAUN, etc.

Weed suppression by periodic removal of the above the ground part can be carried out with rotary mowers (e.g. AFRL model of Heinz Müller, models AF -3000 and Humus – Planet of HUMUS, etc.) or rotary brushes. For both types of machines, the working body automatically deviates from the additional force created hydraulically.

The machinery with working body deviation based on the pneumatic principle have found limited application because of the need to install an additional compressor on the tractor as well as the relatively higher inertia of the compressed air, which leads to a slower process of deviating the working body (Markov, 1983).

In practice, the most widespread are the deviating sections operating with extra force for diversion, created on a hydraulic basis (models of the companies CLEMENS, BRAUN, RÖLL, etc.) (10). Their advantages are the relatively easy adjustment, accuracy and reliability of operation and the small force needed to trigger the probe – up to 10-20 N.

They can be operated alone or hinged on one side or on both sides to other tillage machinery running at a speed of up to 10 km/h. The disadvantage is that in the case of the two-sided working bodies a large oil flow is required, which necessitates the installation of an additional oil station on the tractor.

### CONCLUSIONS

1.

1. The classification of the existing weed control technical resources in the area of the vine row allows for a rational choice of suitable machinery both from the point of

- view of the soil and climatic conditions of the region, the training system, the variety and the agritechnical requirements of the cultivation technology as well as the performance characteristics and specifications of the machinery.
2. The researches and the proposed and implemented technical devices for solving the problem of weed control in the vineyards are insufficient and considerably outdated or not applicable to the conditions of our country.
3. The increasingly serious problem of the lack of manpower in the viticulture highlights the issues of finding and putting into practice efficient and cost-effective technological and technical solutions for a number of technological operations, including the problem of weed control.

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