

GF 677

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Chemical control of weed infestation in the production of peach trees on the vegetative rootstock GF 677

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SUMMARY

2015-2016 .

(33 – 400 ml/da)

GF 677

50 – 8,0 g/da)

The study was carried out in the period 2015-2016 at the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv. The effect of the selective systemic soil herbicide pendimethalin (Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da) on weed infestation and growth habits of the vegetative rootstock GF 677 in one-year nursery, as well as the effect of the contact herbicide of soil and foliar effect flumioxazin (Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da) on the grafted plants in second-year nursery were investigated in a field trial.

The applied soil herbicides successfully killed the weed vegetation in the first- and in the second-year nurseries. The duration of the herbicide effect of pendimethalin was about 120 days, which provided good conditions for rootstock development at the early stages of vegetation when the weed-crop competition has the strongest inhibitory effect.

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GF 677.

Zhivondov, 2015).

130 | The soil effect of flumioxazin lasted for about 130 days and provided weed-free environment during the period of vegetation and good conditions for the development of grafted plants. After the application of these two herbicides there was no inhibitory effect on the growth of the vegetative rootstock GF 677 and on the peach cultivars grafted on it.

Key words: herbicides, weeds, GF 677, growth habits, planting material

INTRODUCTION

In recent years in Bulgaria there has been a growing interest in the establishment of new peach plantations on the vegetative rootstock GF 677. It has many advantages over the peach seedling rootstocks, as it is characterized by a vigorous growth, it is suitable for calcareous soils (with active calcium up to 12%) and it shows a good drought resistance. It is also suitable for planting in case of soil fatigue (Vasilev and Zhivondov, 2015).

The production of good quality fruit planting material is the starting point of fruit production, determining to a large extent its effectiveness. The major agrotechnical problem in fruit nurseries is the control of weed vegetation, which competes with rootstocks for water, light and nutrients. In case of strong weed infestation, the produced rootstocks are of low quality, they cannot reach the optimal thickness to be grafted in the year of planting. Weed control is limited to applying mainly mechanical means (hoeing or manual weeding), which are labor consuming and reduce the economic efficiency of the production of planting material. In literature, there are data about the different effect of a number of soil and foliar herbicides on the growth of fruit species used as rootstocks, i.e. from lack of phytotoxicity and the production of good quality planting

(Rankova 2004; Hanson and Schneider, 2008; Rankova, 2011; Rankova and Tityanov, 2013; Rankova and Zhivondov, 2013; Rankova and Tityanov, 2014).

50

(Summit Agro – Product Catalogue, 2019).

400ml/da)

(33 – GF 677

material to a very strong toxicity after the application of some active substances contained in the herbicides, causing plant death (Rankova 2004; Hanson and Schneider, 2008; Rankova, 2011; Rankova and Tityanov, 2013; Rankova and Zhivondov, 2013; Rankova and Tityanov, 2014). The results of a number of previous studies showed that the soil herbicide pendimethalin exhibited satisfactory selectivity in the major rootstocks for the fruit species yellow plum, peach, mahaleb, wild cherry and the herbicide successfully controls a large number of annual cereal and broadleaf weed species typically found in the nurseries. The active substance flumioxazin has a contact soil and foliar action. A large number of annual cereal and broadleaf species are susceptible to it: *Amaranthus retroflexus* L., *Sinapis arvensis* L., *Chenopodium album* L., *Datura stramonium* L., *Persicaria lapathifolia* L., *Matricaria chamomilla* L., *Solanum nigrum* L., *Abutilon theophrasti* L., *Polygonum aviculare* L., *Portulaca oleracea* L., *Convolvulus arvensis* L., *Cirsium arvense* L., *Xanthium strumarium* L., *Setaria viridis* L., *Digitaria sanguinalis* L., *Echinochloa crus-galli* L., *Sorghum halepense* L. (seedlings). Pledge 50 WP is registered in some European countries for application in orchards and vineyards. The effect of Pledge 50 WP on *Cirsium arvense* L., *Xanthium strumarium* L., and *Convolvulus arvensis* L. was observed after foliar application at the early stages of weed development. The continuous soil activity of the product provides weed-free areas throughout the vegetation season. Treatment is carried out only within the rows, and the inter-row space is cultivated mechanically (Summit Agro – Product Catalogue, 2019).

The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of the soil herbicide pendimethalin (Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da) on the growth habits of the vegetative rootstock GF 677 in a first-year nursery

50 – 8,0 g/da)

(

and the contact herbicide of soil and foliar effect flumioxazin (Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da) on the development of the grafted plants in a second-year nursery.

2015-2016 .

(33 – 400 ml/da)

677

(50 – 8,0 g/da)

GF

MATERIAL AND METHODS
The study was carried out in the period 2015-2016 at the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv. The effect of the selective systemic soil herbicide pendimethalin (Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da) on the weed infestation and the growth habits of the vegetative rootstock GF 677, as well as the effect of the contact herbicide of soil and foliar effect flumioxazin (Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da) on the grafted plants in a second-year nursery were investigated in a field trial.

First-year Nursery

GF 677

90 15

cm.

33 – 400 ml/da

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Plants of the vegetative rootstock GF 677 were planted at the beginning of April in a first-year nursery at a planting distance 90×15 cm. Immediately after planting, the plants were treated with the soil herbicide. The effect of pendimethalin – the commercial product Stomp 33 EC, applied at a rate of 400 ml/da – on weed infestation and on growth, development and quality of the rootstocks was studied.

The experiment was set by the standard long-row method, in 4 replications. The control was maintained free from weeds by manual weeding every 30 days. During vegetation, the rootstocks were grown following the standard technology.

Weed infestation in the separate variants was evaluated, reporting the weed species composition and the period of the active herbicide post-effect, in order to assess the efficacy of the herbicide applied during vegetation. Visual observations were made on plant growth and development – development rate, external symptoms of toxicity – chlorosis, necrosis, growth suppression.

(cm).

increment of the shoots (cm).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of soil herbicides on the specific composition and the level of weed infestation

The weed association in the fruit tree nursery established in the experimental field of the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv is characterized as an association of an arable type, i.e. the predominant weeds are of the group of annual early and late spring species. The following annual weed species were reported in the first- and second-year nurseries: shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris* L.), blackgrass (*Alopecurus myosuroides* L.), common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis* L.), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense* L.), common chickweed (*Stelaria media* L.), White goosefoot (*Chenopodium album* L.), redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus* L.), Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis* L.), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleracea* L.) Crab grass (*Digitaria sanguinalis* L.), rough cockle-bur (*Xanthium strumarium* L.), purslane (*Portulaca oleracea* L.).

No new emerging weed plants were found in the treated variant in the first three months after treatment with the herbicide.

33

400 ml/da

3,5-4

120

(*Portulaca oleracea*

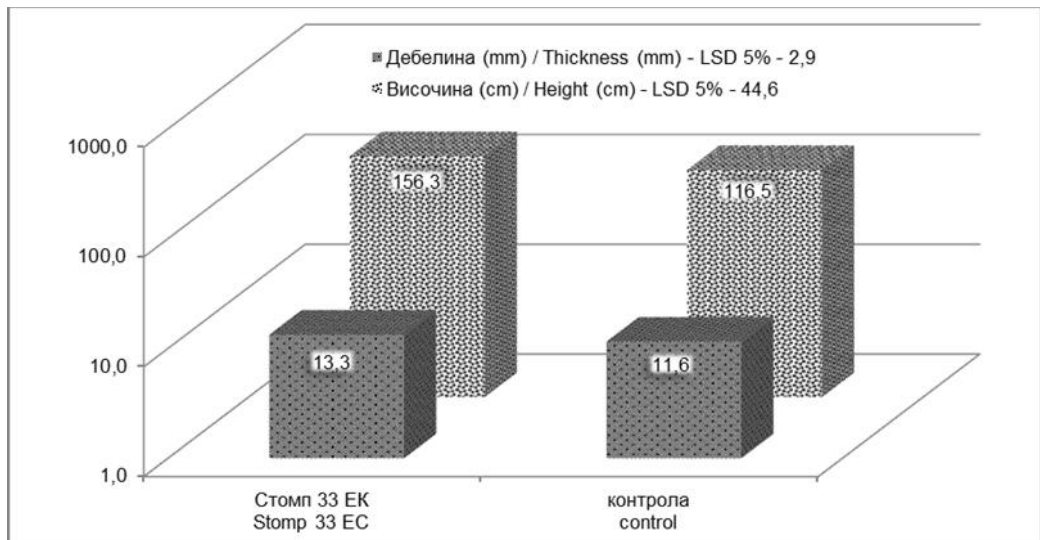
L.)

The soil herbicide Stomp 33 EC at the applied rate of 400 ml/da achieved excellent weed control efficacy, the duration of the herbicide activity lasting for 3,5 to 4 months.

That helped to eliminate the competitive effect of the weeds at the initial stage of rootstock development. The end of the herbicide activity was observed about 120 days after treatment – at the beginning of August. At that time only single purslane plants (*Portulaca oleracea* L.) were found in the treated variant.

On the basis of the results obtained

33	- 400 ml/da	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - about the efficacy of the applied herbicide - against weed vegetation, it could be concluded that the soil herbicide pendimethalin – Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da manifested very good control on weed infestation, the duration of the herbicide activity lasting for 120 days. The continuous herbicide effect of about 4 months after treatment provided good conditions for the development of the rootstocks at the earliest stages of vegetation when the weed-crop competition has the strongest inhibitory effect.
	130	<p>The soil activity of flumioxazin lasted for about 130 days and provided weed-free environment during the period of vegetation and good conditions for the development of the grafted plants.</p>
	GF 677	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effect of soil herbicides on the vegetative habits of the rootstock GF 677 and cultivar-rootstocks combination in the first- and second year nursery - Visual symptoms of phytotoxicity, as well as obvious growth suppression were not observed in the plants of the treated variants. - Data of the biometric analysis carried out immediately before grafting of the rootstocks showed that all the herbicide-treated plants had a stem height greater than those in the control variant (Figure 1). Similar data were reported about the effect of pendimethalin on the indicator thickness at the place of grafting.
	400 ml/da	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treatment with the studied herbicide did not exert a negative effect on rootstock development. That gave the reason to assume that treatment with the soil herbicide pendimethalin Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da results in obtaining good quality rootstocks suitable to be grafted in the year of planting.



1. ml/da (cm) GF 677 33 - 400 (mm)

Fig. 1. Effect of the soil herbicide pendimethalin Stomp 33 EC – 400 ml/da on height (cm) and thickness at the place of grafting (mm) of the vegetative rootstock GF 677

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GF 677 (2).

No visual symptoms of phytotoxicity or differences in the rates of development of the grafted plants in the different variants were observed in the second-year nursery after treatment with Pledge 50 WP.

The results show that the application of flumioxazin did not lead to growth suppression in the cultivar-rootstock combinations on the vegetative rootstock GF 677 (Figure 2).

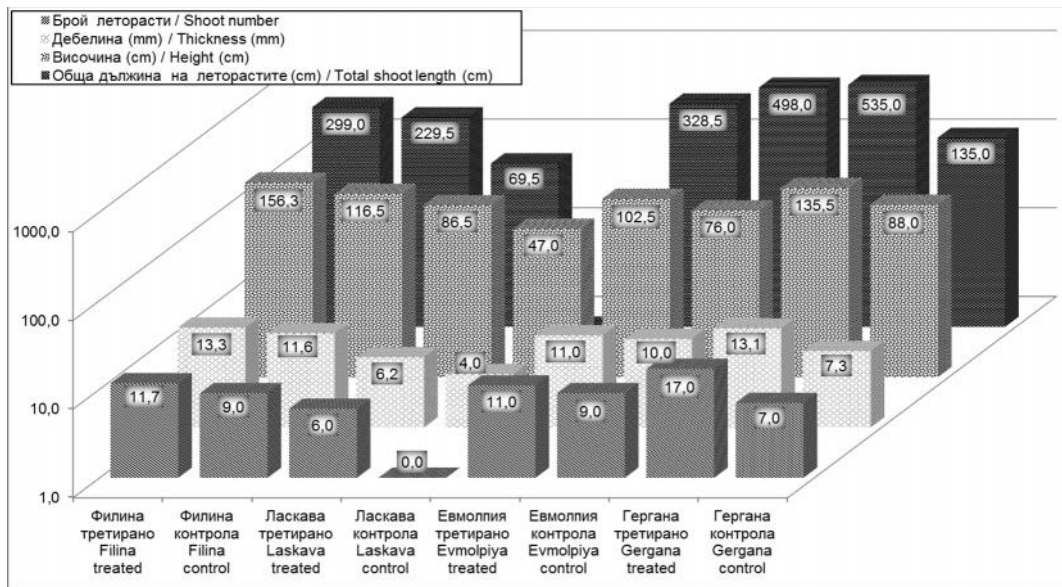


Fig. 2. Effect of the soil herbicide flumioxazin – Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da GF-677

Fig. 2. Effect of the soil herbicide flumioxazin – Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da on the growth of peach and nectarine cultivars grafted on the rootstock GF 677 in the second-year nursery

The plants in the variants treated with Pledge 50 WP were characterized by higher values of the biometric parameters compared to the untreated control plants.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The applied soil herbicides pendimethalin (Stomp 33 EC) and flumioxazin (Pledge 50 WP – 8,0 g/da) successfully killed the weed vegetation in the first- and second-year nurseries. The duration of the herbicide effect of pendimethalin was about 120 days, which provided good conditions for rootstock development at the early stages of vegetation when the weeds-crop competition has the strongest inhibitory effect. The soil activity of flumioxazin lasted for about 130 days and provided weed-free environment during the period of vegetation and good conditions for the development of the grafted plants.

2. GF 677, - 2. There was no inhibitory effect on the growth of the vegetative rootstock GF 677 and on the grafted peach and nectarine cultivars after the application of those two herbicides.

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Impact of the 'Gisela 5' Rootstock on the Yield and the Fruit Quality of Mature Cherry Trees

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SUMMARY

The productivity and the economic efficiency of the sweet cherry production can be enhanced by its intensification based on dwarfing rootstocks. Today a candidate for a leader amongst the dwarfing rootstocks is 'Gisela 5'. Unfortunately, it cannot fully meet the expectations yet, because of the widely spread opinion that the dwarfing rootstocks are not suitable in more arid conditions, on poor and light soils. Objectives of the present publication are the yield and the fruit quality of mature cherry trees. The investigation was carried out at the Fruit-Growing Institute of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, in the period 2015-2017.

The sweet cherry plantation was established in the spring of 2001 at 4 x 2 m planting distances. The cultivars 'Bigarreau Burlat', 'Lapins' and 'Regina' were studied during their fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth vegetation (2015-2017) under drip irrigation, fertigation and winter pruning. Fruit quality was evaluated by measuring their mass, height, width and thickness.

The yield of the studied cultivars was estimated as well. Obtained results unambiguously proved the great potential of the dwarfing rootstock under the conditions of conceptually new technology for the cherry crop management, revising almost thoroughly basic practices as pruning, irrigation, and fertilization.

Key words: sweet cherry, dwarfing rootstocks, yield, quality

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays it is generally accepted that the yields and economic efficiency of sweet cherry production can only be enhanced by its intensification, which means smaller trees in a larger number per unit area, precocity, high yields, good fruit quality, and efficient use of the resources (labour, water, fertilizers, pesticides).

Dwarfing rootstocks are prerequisite for the intensification (Lang, 2000, Lang, 2001; Predieri et al., 2003; Long, 2004; Lang, 2008; Whiting, 2006; Long and Kaiser, 2010). However, the wide introduction of those rootstocks is hampered by the widespread opinion that they are inappropriate in drier conditions, on poor and light soils: sweet cherry trees are overloaded with fruit, stunned and even they die.

The careful reading of the available literature and our experience convincingly show that the unsatisfactory results are due, practically without exception, to the non-compliance with the extremely high requirements regarding pruning, water and nutritional regimes of the intensively grown trees (Koumanov and Tsareva, 2014; Koumanov et al., 2018). The high level of technical equipment, the high and multi-disciplinary qualification of the fruit grower and the strict implementation of each practice are compulsory.

Drip irrigation and fertigation are

(Lang, 2000, Lang, 2001; Predieri et al., 2003; Long, 2004; Lang, 2008; Whiting, 2006; Long and Kaiser, 2010).

(Koumanov and Tsareva, 2014; Koumanov et al., 2018).

- irreplaceable elements of that technology, but they require precise adjustment of the water- and the mineral-nutrition regimes
- of trees according to the ecological conditions, their development stage and the cultivar/rootstock combination. In support of those statements, the present paper reports results of both quantity and quality of the yield from mature trees of three sweet cherry cultivars grafted on the 'Gisela 5' dwarfing rootstock.

5.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out at the Fruit-Growing Institute of Plovdiv. The sweet cherry plantation was established in the spring of 2001. 'Bigarreau Burlat', 'Lapins' and 'Regina' cultivars were on-site grafted on the 'Gisela 5' clonal rootstock, at planting distances of 4 x 2 m. The years of the study (2015-2017) covered the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth vegetation of the trees.

The soil in the experimental cherry orchard was defined (Kabakchiev, 1963) as a sandy loam *Luvisol*. It is slightly acidic, poorly stocked with phosphorus and moderately stocked with potassium.

Data about rainfalls and the course of the average, maximum and minimum daily temperatures during the vegetation period in the experimental years are presented in Figure 1.

The rainfall during the vegetation period in 2015 was 372 mm and the year was characterized as wet at 16% probability level. However, if the two major rainfalls on 22 August and 11 September are excluded because of the low efficiency of precipitation use under drip irrigation, the probability level is 63%, which characterizes the year as average. The year was hot: the average daily temperature was 20.6°C with 13.5% probability level. The maximum temperatures surpassed 35°C mainly during the second and third decades of August.

Year	Rainfall (mm)	Probability Level (%)	Average Daily Temperature (°C)	Probability Level (%)	Maximum Temperature (°C)
2015	372	16 %	20.6°	13.5%	35°
2016	22.08	11.09,			
2017		63 %			

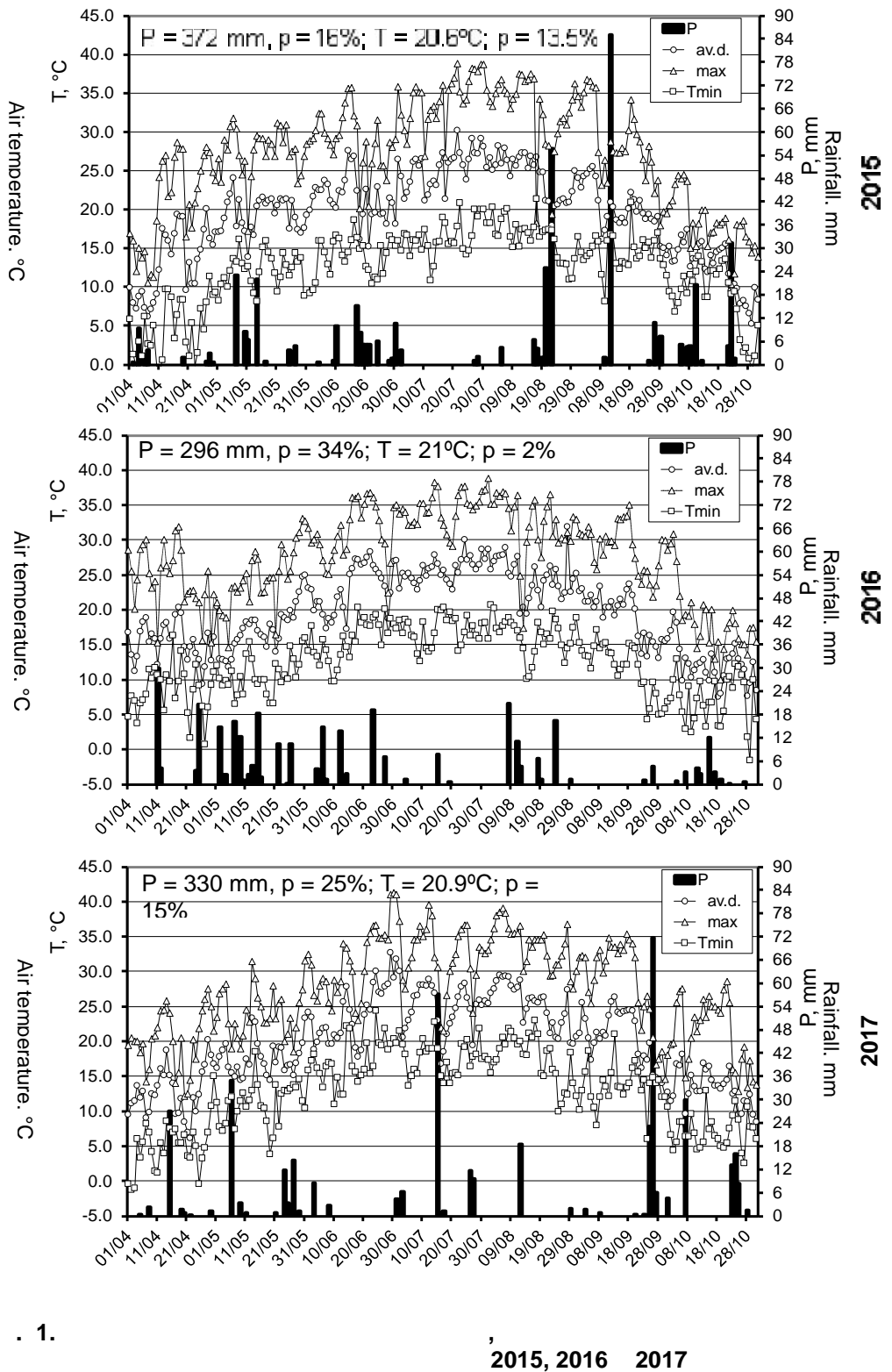


Fig. 1. Rainfall and course of the average and the maximum daily temperature during the vegetation period of 2015, 2016 and 2017

2016 .
 -
 296 mm 34
 %.
 :
 21°
 2%.
 35°
 .
 ,
 17 18
 -2.6° ,
 ,
 .
 ,
 .
 2017 .
 330 mm
 25%,
 .
 ,
 35-72 mm,
 ,
 :
 20.9° 15%,
 41.2 ° 6%.
 ,
 .
 .
 :

2016 experimental year was characterized as moderately wet with a rainfall of 296 mm at 34% probability level. The year was very hot: the average daily temperature was 21°C with 2% probability level. The maximum temperatures surpassed 35°C during the second decades of June and July and throughout August. At the same time, the year was also characterized by meteorological anomalies that compromised the cherry fruit yield. A late frost on 17 and 18 March with the temperature dropping down to -2.6°C, preceded by a month period with positive temperatures, resulted in severe frost damage to the larger number of the fruit buds. Additionally, there were frequent rainfalls in May, even daily in the first half of the month, which caused cracking of the cherry fruits and further reduced yield quantity and quality.

In 2017, the rainfall sum during the vegetation period (April – September) was 330 mm with probability level of less than 25%, which characterized the year as moderately wet. It should be noted, however, that the precipitation sum was mainly formed by four rainfalls of 35-72 mm, distributed in April, May, August and late September, respectively. The year was hot: the average daily temperature was 20.9°C with 15% probability level and the maximum temperature reached 41.2 °C at 6% probability level.

The years of the study covered a sufficiently broad spectrum with respect to climatic characteristics, providing the representativeness of the results obtained.

Irrigation was provided by a drip irrigation system. When calculating the irrigation regime, the irrigation rate *I* was determined by the formula:

$$I = \frac{1}{K_e} K_r K_c ET_0 \quad (1)$$

$$K_r = \frac{ET_0}{ET_c}$$

$$K_e = \frac{ET_c}{ET_0}$$

$$K_p = 0.8$$

FAO (Allen et al., 1998).

$$K_r = 1$$

Fereres et al. (1982).

$$K_e = 1$$

-3000.
 1.

- where ET_0 is the reference evapotranspiration, K_c is the crop coefficient, K_r is the reduction coefficient, and K_e is the application-efficiency coefficient.

The reference evapotranspiration ET_0 was determined on the basis of the evaporation from free water surface, measured by a "Class A" evaporation pan, the coefficient of the evaporation pan being $K_p = 0.8$. The crop evapotranspiration was calculated using crop coefficient K_c values recommended in the FAO methodology (Allen et al., 1998). The reduction coefficient K_r , taking in account possible reduction of evapotranspiration due to the localized irrigation water supply and the partial shading of the soil surface by the canopy, was determined according to Fereres et al. (1982). The efficiency coefficient was adopted to be $K_e = 1$.

- An automatic meteorological station located near the experimental site provided daily and, when necessary, hourly information on temperature and air humidity. The falling rains were measured with a GGI-3000 pluviometer. Data on the water balance of the cherry plantation are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Cherry orchard water balance for the experimental years' vegetation period

/Elements	/Unit	2015	2016	2017
(-3000)	mm	870	865	860
Evaporation	mm	602	587	594
Evapotranspiration	mm	482	559	553
Application rate	mm	118	32	63
Effective rainfall	mm	600	590	616
+ Irrigation + Rainfall				

(),
 " (YARA)

- Fertilizers were applied with irrigation water (fertigation) through a pressure-differential tank. Complex fertilizers of 'Kristalon' series (YARA) with different contents of macro and micro

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elements were used (Table 2).
 Additionally, ammonium nitrate was introduced between the main doses every three to five days, providing additional nitrogen at the rate of that introduced with the complex fertilizer 'Kristalon', in order to maintain the nitrate concentration in the soil solution. Fertigation rates were estimated according to the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and iron concentrations in the leaves. The fertilization rates were the same in all the studied variants.

2. 2015-2017 .

Table 2. Fertigation schedule in years 2015-2017

Fertilizers	Rates kg ha ⁻¹	/March %	/April %	/May %	/June %	/July %	/August %	/Sept %	
2015 . - 14		"		" (YARA) + 14					
2015 - 14 doses of "Kristalon" (YARA) + 14 doses of ammonium nitrate									
N	158	13	19	28	14	11	8	7	
P ₂ O ₅	40	8	12	17	53	0	6	4	
K ₂ O	55	14	21	30	17	0	10	8	
2016 . - 13		"		" (YARA) + 13					
2016 - 13 doses of "Kristalon" (YARA) + 13 doses of ammonium nitrate									
N	162	13	19	27	14	13	8	6	
P ₂ O ₅	43	8	11	16	50	6	5	4	
K ₂ O	62	12	19	28	15	11	9	6	
2017 . - 14		"		" (YARA) + 14					
2017 - 14 doses of "Kristalon" (YARA) + 14 doses of ammonium nitrate									
N	159		13	47	14	11	8	7	
P ₂ O ₅	43		8	27	50	6	5	4	
K ₂ O	62		12	46	15	11	10	6	

Pruning was performed during the period of dormancy.

The yield was estimated from four/three trees per cultivar, each tree being a replication. Fruit quality was evaluated by measuring the fruit mass, height, width, and thickness. All determinations were performed in four/three replications with samples of 50 fruit.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data about the yield and the mass of one fruit in 2015-2017 are presented in

2015-2017 .

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3. | Figure 2, and those about the fruit size in
Figure 3.

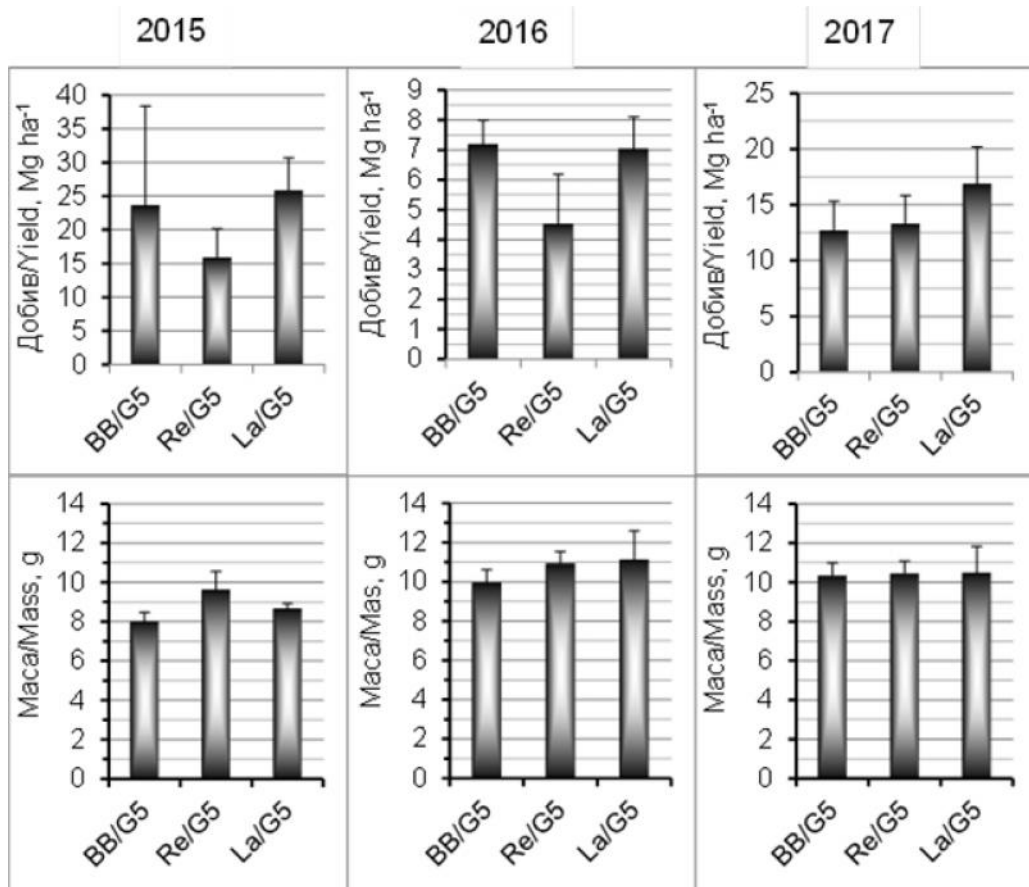


Fig. 2. Yield and mass of one fruit by years; BB – Bigarreau Burlat, Re – Regina, La – Lapins, G5 – Gisela 5

2015 .
-
13 kg , 20 kg
-
-
16000 kg ha⁻¹ 26000 kg ha⁻¹.
8.0 g 8.7 g 9.6 g
.

In 2015, the winter pruning of the dwarf trees of all the three cultivars led to a significant reduction in fruit load and the yield per tree was 13 kg for the 'Regina' cultivar and 20 kg for 'Bigarreau Burlat' and 'Lapins'.

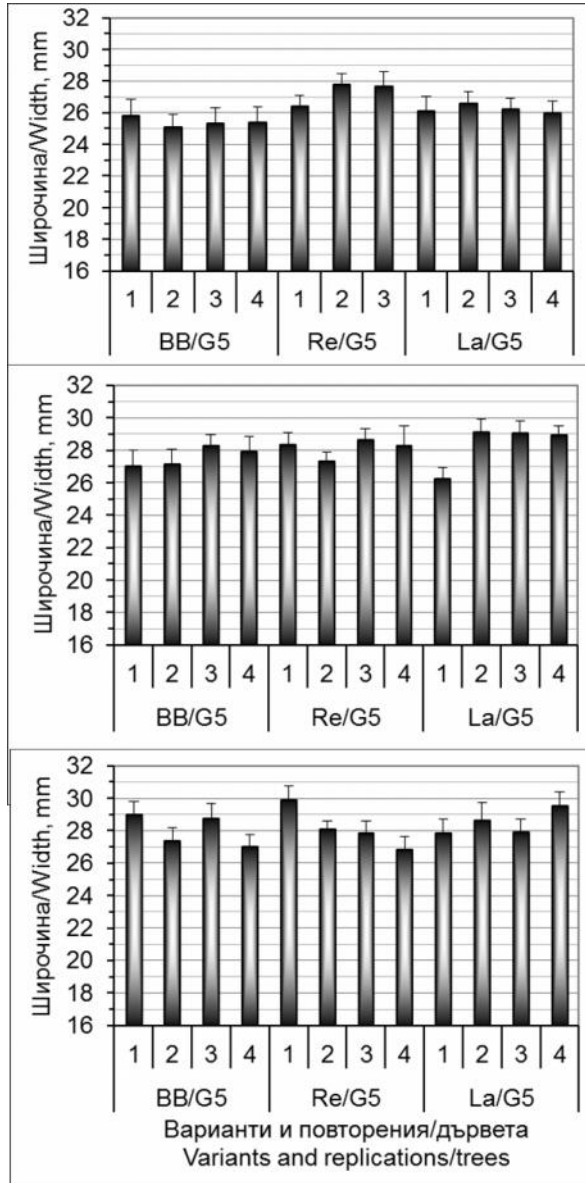
However, due to the considerably higher density of the dwarf trees, the yield per unit area varied from 16000 kg ha⁻¹ to 26000 kg ha⁻¹, respectively. The mean fruit mass varied from 8.0 g in 'Bigarreau Burlat' to 8.7 g and 9.6 g in 'Lapins' and 'Regina', respectively. In 'Regina' the fruit

mm,

o

27-28
25-27 mm.

size was 27-28 mm and in 'Bigarreau Burlat' and 'Lapins' it was 25-27 mm. It is clear that fruit quality may be improved by further rationalization of the winter pruning in order to provide precise dosing of the fruit load.



. 3.

, G5 –

5

; –

, RE –

, La –

Fig. 3. Fruit width by years; BB – Bigarreau Burlat, Re – Regina, La – Lapins, G5 – Gisela 5

2016 .

4500 kg ha⁻¹
7200 kg ha⁻¹

11 g

29 mm,

2017 .

16900 kg ha⁻¹

10.3-10.5 g,
27-30 mm

In 2016, the yield was substantially reduced by spring frost in March and subsequent cracking of the fruit due to the daily rainfalls in May.

- The yield ranged from 4500 kg ha⁻¹ in 'Regina' to 7000 and 7200 kg ha⁻¹ in 'Lapins' and 'Bigarreau Burlat', respectively.

The mean fruit mass varied from 10 g in 'Bigarreau Burlat' to 11 g in 'Regina' and 'Lapins'. Fruit size was between 27 and 29 mm, which is not a small one, but it could be even greater taking in account the low fruit load.

Perhaps one of the main reasons for that was the strong attack of black cherry aphid during the vegetation, which, unfortunately, was not properly controlled due to organizational reasons.

In 2017, strong winter pruning and optimal irrigation and fertigation resulted in yields varying from 12700 kg ha⁻¹ in 'Bigarreau Burlat' to 13300 kg ha⁻¹ and 16900 kg ha⁻¹ in 'Regina' and 'Lapins', respectively. The mean fruit mass was 10.3-10.5 g and the size of one fruit was 27-30 mm. Data variation was low in all yield traits.

- The obtained results undoubtedly proved the vitality and the advantages of the dwarf sweet cherry trees in terms of yield and fruit quality.

Moreover, there is a potential for increasing the yields and the fruit quality by further improving the winter-pruning system and, respectively, by precise dosing of the fruit load.

CONCLUSIONS

Actual intensification of sweet cherry production can only be achieved by using dwarfing rootstocks. At present the best candidate is 'Gisela 5'.

Gisela 5.

Gisela 5,	- Dwarfing rootstocks, including 'Gisela 5', provide long life of the cherry trees, high yields and good fruit quality, but require conceptually new cherry-production technology, revising almost entirely major management practices such as pruning, irrigation and fertilization.
	- Indispensable elements of the intensive cherry production are winter pruning, microirrigation and fertigation, which allow for fine tuning of the water-, mineral- and carbon-nutrition regime of the trees according to the ecological conditions, the stages of their development and the cultivar/rootstock combination.

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Growth Parameters of Intensive Apple Orchard Using Water-saving Technology

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SUMMARY

- MM106, under drip irrigation in the Chelopechene experimental field of the Institute of soil science, agrotechnologies and plant protection in town of Sofia in 2018. The experiment was designed by the long plot method with four replications. Drip irrigation with mulch and without mulch were considered as the variants of experiment. During the growing season, the apple trees were irrigated with an optimal irrigation rate. At the end of the vegetation the biometric parameters of the experimental trees: height, stem diameter, crown diameter and length of the twigs were measured.
- The area of cross-section of the stems, the crown volume and the average length of the twig were estimated. Mulch and non-mulch the variants were compared. In case of drip irrigation with mulching, the apple trees showed stronger growth in the following parameters: cross-sectional area

5000-6000 m³/ha.

3000-3600 4200 m³/ha,

0-60 cm (Zhivkov, 2013).

2018

- total water consumption of apple for the vegetation period is in the range of 5000-6000 m³/ha. The value depends on the area, soil type, the climatic conditions in which the apple is grown, the type of plantation, the variety and the duration of the vegetation and the way of irrigation.

- Intense apple orchards are mostly irrigated with drip irrigation systems. Irrigation rates do not differ significantly from those of standard high-stem plants - from 3000 to 3600 to 4200 m³/ha, but the number of irrigations, their size, and irrigation intervals are different.

- During the hottest periods of the summer, irrigation is given twice a week, the size of which is determined of soil moisture content of the layer 0-60 cm (Zhivkov, 2013).

- Mulching is also used to make irrigation water use more efficient. Use of a plastic mulch reduces evaporation, thereby reducing the amount of water used for irrigation.

- It allows uniform distribution of moisture in the soil and the use of black film prevents penetration of sunlight into the soil and the growth of weeds.

- The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of the application of water-saving technology - drip irrigation and mulching - on the growth performance of intensive apple orchard.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- An experiment was carried out on intensive apple trees under drip irrigation in the Chelopechene experimental field of the Institute of soil science, agrotechnologies and plant protection in town of Sofia in 2018.

- The soil in the area is leavened cinnamon forest, formed on delluvial

Chromic Luvisol.

636 mm (Ivanova and Popova, 2014).

2017

106.

2018

0.8 m.

7

602 m²
18 m².

2 m

3 m,

4.5 m.

1 6

V1.

(3; 4; 5)
100%

70%

V2.

2; 6; 7)
100%
70%

deposits. According to the FAO International Classification, this soil is defined as Chromic luvisol. In the area, rainfall is very unevenly distributed, both in seasons and months. Summer is very dry and hot. High average daily temperatures further increase the impact of drought during this time of the year. The annual rainfall for the area is 636 mm (Ivanova and Popova, 2014).

The object of this study is an apple orchard created with annual saplings in the autumn of 2017. The experimental trees are a Florina variety with bench-grafting on rootstock MM106. A pruning was carried out in March 2018, with newly planted trees being cut to a height of 0.8 m.

The experiment was designed by the long plot method with four replications. Experimental trees were planted on 7 rows, covering an area of 602 m² with the size of the experimental plots - 18 m². The distance between the apple trees is 2 m and is consistent with the type of the rootstock and the possible dimensions of the crowns after their final shaping. The spacing between the rows 1 to 6 is 3 m, only the distance between rows 6 and 7 is 4.5 m. The inter-row surface is maintained as black fallow.

The apple orchard was under drip irrigation, irrigation wing was placed to each row of trees and Interlinear strip was mulching with black polyethylene film.

Two variants of the experiment were carried out:

V1. Variant - application of drip irrigation with mulch: 3 rows (row 3; row 4; row 5) were under full irrigation in pre-irrigation soil moisture 70% of the field capacity.

V2. Variant - application of drip irrigation: 4 rows (row 1; row 2; row 6; row 7) were under full irrigation in pre-irrigation soil moisture 70% of the field capacity.

During the growing season, the apple orchard was irrigated with an optimal irrigation rate, since the saplings were young and need watering during the first two years after their planting.

At the end of the vegetation, biometric measurements were performed and the following growth parameters of experimental trees were determined: diameter of the stems of 35 cm above the grafting, tree height in cm, diameter of the crown as mean of two measurements in perpendicular directions in cm, length of the twigs in cm.

Based on the experimental values of these parameters, the following biometric parameters: the cross-sectional area of the stems in cm², crown volume in m³, average length of the twig in cm were determined.

The volume of the crown was defined by a formula corresponding to the respective formation (Westwood, 1978):

$$V = \frac{4}{3} a b^2 \quad (1)$$

where: a is 1/2 of the diameter of the crown recorded in two perpendicular directions; b is 1/2 of the height of the crown.

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At the end of the vegetation, biometric measurements were performed and the following growth parameters of experimental trees were determined: diameter of the stems of 35 cm above the grafting, tree height in cm, diameter of the crown as mean of two measurements in perpendicular directions in cm, length of the twigs in cm.

Based on the experimental values of these parameters, the following biometric parameters: the cross-sectional area of the stems in cm², crown volume in m³, average length of the twig in cm were determined.

The volume of the crown was defined by a formula corresponding to the respective formation (Westwood, 1978):

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the experimental data and the parameters calculated on their basis, characterizing the growth performance of the trees, for each variant the average value of the cross-sectional area, the average height of the tree, the average volume of the crown and the average length of a branch are given and are given in a Table 1. For comparison, data from the year of planting are shown in the same table in 2017. The average values of the growth parameters were compared

2017.

- in the hypothesis for different root mean square deviations of the two experimental data groups.

1.

Table 1. Average growth characteristics of the experimental trees by treatment

Variant	Ave cross-sectional area of stem, m^2		Tree height, cm		Crown volume, m^3		Ave length of twig, cm	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
V1	0.72	2.14	80*	165.5		0.56		82.96
V2	0.72	1.83	80*	175.		0.46		82.69

*

1,

2.14 m^2 ,

1.83 m^2 .

2),

2018

2.54

2.97

3

0.564 m^3 ,

0.46 m^3 .

Analyzing the data in Table 1, one can be estimated how drip irrigation with mulch affects the growth performance of young apple trees. With regard to the cross-sectional area, the experimental trees under drip irrigation with mulch with a mean cross-sectional area of 2.14 m^2 are thicker stems, while the average cross-sectional area of the trees grown without mulching is 1.83 m^2 .

There was a statistically significant difference in the one- and two-sided restriction on this parameter between the variants examined (Table 2).

At the end of the growing season in 2018, the average cross-sectional area of the stems of drip irrigated trees increased 2.54 times on average compared to when they were planted, and of trees in which mulching was applied - 2.97 times or increased almost 3 times.

With regard to the crown volume, it was found that for experimental trees under drip irrigation with mulch, it averaged 0.564 m^3 , while trees grown without mulching had an average crown volume of 0.46 m^3 . Regarding the crown volume parameter, a statistically significant difference was demonstrated with a one-sided restriction between the

1.2

1.2

“

577/17.08.2018 .

- have a better development on this parameter by 1.2 times

- With respect to the other parameter characterizing the growth rate of young trees, crown volume, it was found that when applying drip irrigation with mulch, the experimental trees were 1.2 times better formed crowns.

- During the study period, apple trees under drip irrigation with mulch showed stronger growth. They have thicker stems and better formed crowns.

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Reproductive Opportunities for Plum Cultivar 'Jojo' Cultivated in the Region of Troyan

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SUMMARY

The growth and reproduction characteristics and qualities of plum fruit of 'Jojo' cultivar were studied. Its susceptibility to major economic diseases was found and their manifestation was taken into account. The researches were conducted in two experimental plantations, the first one with plant protection, the second one without. For the conditions of Troyan, the trees have a relatively early bloom, partially coincident with that of 'Stanley' cultivar. Fruit of 'Jojo' reached ripening stage shortly before those of 'Stanley' - the third ten days of August.

The cultivar shows a high susceptibility to early and late brown rot, rust and shot hole disease, in the climatic conditions of the Troyan region, which reduces the productive period of the trees.

When it is grown in good agrotechnics and, above all, appropriate plant protection including the preparations,

100 kg/

81 g.

(Iliev et al., 1977; Mondeshka et al., 2002; Vitanova et al., 2006).
(Monilinia fructigena)
(Monilinia laxa)

(Stoyanova and Minev, 2000),
 (Stoyanova et al., 2013; Stoyanova et al., 2014).
 30%

(Wilson and Ogawa, 1978; Northover and Cerkaukas, 1994; Watt, 1994; Hold, 2004).
(Tranzshelia pruni spinose (Pers.) Deit),

(Polistigma rubrum)
(Stigminia carpophila) (Stoyanova et al., 2013).
 (Minev et al., 2017).

such as Chorus, Topsin-M, Nurele-D and Decis within established time limits and concentrations, it is suitable for cultivation in this region. The cultivar allows a yield of about 100 kg/tree and fruit under good conditions with a weight of up to 81 g.

The purpose of the present research is to study the growth and reproductive performance and quality of fruit of 'Jojo' and its susceptibility to the major economic diseases.

Key words: plum, cultivars, diseases, agrotechnics

INTRODUCTION

Plum is traditional for Bulgarian fruit growing (Iliev et al., 1977; Mondeshka et al., 2002; Vitanova et al., 2006). The late brown rot (*Monilinia fructigena*) together with the early brown rot (*Monilinia laxa*) cause great damage to the plum production in Bulgaria, as the main cultivar of 'Stanley' is highly susceptible (Stoyanova and Minev, 2000), as well as the recently established 'Jojo' cultivar (Stoyanova et al., 2013; Stoyanova et al., 2014). In cases of warm and humid weather, about 30% of the blossoms become infected, as the infection is still spreading until harvest and after harvest (Wilson and Ogawa, 1978; Northover and Cerkaukas, 1994; Watt, 1994; Hold, 2004).

Severe damage by rust (*Tranzshelia pruni spinose* (Pers.) Deit) has been found in 'Stanley' cultivar in recent years, as a result of a late infection. 'Jojo' plum cultivar is slightly susceptible to rust. It is slightly susceptible to red leaf spot (*Polistigma rubrum*) and shot hole disease (*Stigminia carpophila*) (Stoyanova et al., 2013). 'Jojo' is immune to sharka (Plum pox virus), with good growth and development under the conditions of the Troyan region (Minev et al., 2017).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The growth and reproduction characteristics and qualities of plum fruit of 'Jojo' cultivars were studied. Its susceptibility to major economic diseases was found and their manifestation was taken into account. It was imported from Germany for testing in 2002.

2002

- The studies were carried out in orchards grown with different technologies, differing mainly in their plant protection. In the first plantation with plant protection, the soil surface is maintained with a round-stem plowing and the trees are fed annually with 50 kg of manure and 200 g of combined fertilizer. In the second plantation, the trees are grown with cultivation of the row spacing without any plant protection and fertilizing.

200 g

50 kg

The tree height and the average crown diameter, the period of blossoming and ripening of fruits were determined. The weight, size, quality and chemical composition of the fruit were determined. Some diseases were studied, such as *Monillinia laxa*, *Monillinia fructigena*, *Stigminta carpophila* and rust (*Tranzschselia pruni spinosae*).

Monillinia laxa, *Monillinia fructigena*,
(*Stigminta carpophila*)
(*Tranzschselia pruni spinosae*).

The studies were performed according to the Methodology for Studying of Plant Resources in Fruit Species (Nedev et al., 1979).

(Nedev et al., 1979).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

'Jojo' plum cultivar, which is grown under plant protection on light gray forest soils, predominant for the Troyan region in plantations established with the appropriate pre-plantin preparation of the area, has a very good performance in its growth and fruit bearing. For the conditions of Troyan, the trees have a relatively early bloom, partially coincident with that of 'Stanley' cultivar. Its fruit reached ripening stage shortly before those of 'Stanley' - the third ten days of August.

In the first planting of the

14- 1, 5,70 m
5,30 m
62 cm.
2016-2018
108, 100 119 kg.
81 g (2).

- experiment, using plant protection including the preparations and treatment periods listed in Table 1, the trees were viable and with good growth and development. Over a 14-year period, the trees reached a height of 5.70 m, an average crown diameter of 5.30 m and a trunk circumference of 62 cm. They had good fertility, with the average tree yield for 2016-2018 period was 108, 100 and 119 kg, respectively. The fruits were large, with good appearance. Their weight was 81 g (Table 2).

1.

Table 1. Preparations and periods for plant protection for 'Jojo' cultivar

Number of treatments	Period	Preparations	Concentrations
First spraying	White button stage	50 /Horus 50VP / Nurele-D	0,05 0,07
Second spraying	Beginning of blossoming	50 /Chorus 50VP / Nurele-D	0,05 0,07
Third spraying	70% 70% of fallen petals	50 /Chorus 50VP / Nurele-D	0,05 0,07
Fourth spraying	10-12 After 10-12 days	/Sistan Ecozom / Nurele-D	0,05 0,07
Fifth spraying	The end of June	70 /Topsin-M 70 VDG 2,5 /Decis 2,5 EC 5 /Nisoran 5 EC	0,12 0,03 0,05
Sixth spraying	(20)/ Before harvesting (about 20 days)	70 /Topsin-M 70 VDG 2,5 / Decis 2,5 EC	0,12 0,03

2.

(2018)

Table 2. Sizes and weight of fruits and fruit stones (2018)

/Fruit		/Weight, g	/Fruit stone
/Height, mm	/Sizes, mm		/Weight, g
63,00	46,00/52,00	81,00	3.00

10,90 mg% (3).

The total sugar content of fruit was 10.90 mg% (Table 3).

3.

(2018)

Table 3. Chemical composition of fresh plum fruit of 'Jojo' (2018)

Re Dry matter in Re %	Total sugars %	Inverted sugar %	Sucrose %	Acids %	Vitamin C mg%	Tannins %	Anthocyanins mg%
17,50	10,90	8,20	2,60	0,40	5,30	0,145	13,20

2017 2018
 (4).
 2018

The damage from the studied diseases for 'Jojo' varied during the experimental period, depending on the specific climatic conditions (Table 4).

The diseases in 2017 and 2018 had a stronger performance in 2018, due to the more favourable conditions for their development in that year and heavy rainfall in the period of their infection.

4. (%) *Tranzschselia pruni spinozae*, *Stigmia carpophila*, *Monillinia fructigena* (2016-2018)

Table 4. Index of infestation (%) of *Tranzschselia pruni spinozae*, *Stigmia carpophila*, *Monillinia fructigena* (2016-2018) for 'Jojo' plum cultivar

/Disease	2016	2017	2018
<i>Tranzschselia pruni spinozae</i>	23,20	8,30	27,20
<i>Stigmia carpophila</i>	20,60	25,60	32,70
<i>Monillinia fructigena</i>	23,00	21,70	26,00

2003
 28-36 g.
 15-
 3,40 m
 3,20 m
 41 cm.

In the establishment of the second plantation of the experiment in 2003, the trees were grown without plant protection. At the time of initial fruit bearing, the trees were of good fertility. The fruit weight varied from 28 to 36 g over the years. At the age of 15, the trees reached the following dimensions: 3.40 m high and an average crown diameter of 3.20 m and a trunk circumference of 41 cm.

2018
 (5).

Due to the lack of plant protection in the studied trees, a very strong manifestation of the studied diseases was reported over the years. In 2018 their performance was (Table 5).

5. (%) *Tranzschselia pruni spinozae*, *Stigmia carpophila*, *Monillinia fructigena* (2016-2018)

Table 5. Index of infestation (%) of *Tranzschselia pruni spinozae*, *Stigmia carpophila*, *Monillinia fructigena* (2016-2018) for 'Jojo' plum cultivar

/Diseases	2016	2017	2018
<i>Tranzschselia pruni spinozae</i>	47,20	11,20	45,20
<i>Stigmia carpophila</i>	45,60	33,30	48,70
<i>Monillinia fructigena</i>	43,00	-	-

Over the last few years, trees had very poor growth and development due to the severe disease damage. The blossoming was weak, carried out on the young twigs and no fruit was formed. Whole skeletal branches and parts of the crowns dried up.

CONCLUSIONS

'Jojo' plum cultivar is suitable for growing in the region of Troyan when is cultivated under appropriate agrotechniques and mostly using plant protection. The cultivar allows a yield of about 100 kg/tree and fruit weight up to 81 g under favourable conditions.

It is highly susceptibility to early and late brown rot, rust and shot hole disease under the climatic conditions of the Troyan region. If it is grown without any plant protection, due to high infestation index of diseases in the plantation, the yield are low, the trees are of reduced vigour and at the age of 14-15 years whole parts of the crowns die.

When the trees were treated six times in the mentioned periods with Horus 50 VP, Sistan Ecozom, Topsin-M 70 VDG, Nurele-D and Decis 2.5 EC at the specified concentrations they are protected against fungal diseases.

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