

(*Rubus idaeus*)

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12, 4004

Growing of the primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivar ‘Lyulin’ (*Rubus idaeus*) in lowlands: meteorological conditions, beginning and duration of the major phenological stages in Plovdiv region

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

- In Bulgaria, there is a growing tendency to expand raspberry production to areas with no traditions of cultivating the crop, including to lowlands. The experimental data were collected during the period 2000-2008 from a raspberry plantation of an area of 400 m² with *in vitro* propagated plants of the primocane-fruiting cultivar ‘Lyulin’. In terms of the climatic characteristics, the years of the study covered a wide range of weather conditions from very wet to very dry and from medium to very hot, on the basis of which the results obtained for raspberry cultivation can be considered representative.
- Years of drought and high temperatures during the vegetation season guarantee the objectivity of the assessment of the performance of ‘Lyulin’ cultivar and the

2000-2008 . 400 m²

in-vitro

” ”
 ” ” 75
 234° , – 1100° ,
 – 1337° .
 :

efficiency of its cultivation in lowlands. The average duration of the vigorous growth phenological stage was 75 days. Flowering began in late June and early July and lasted for about a month. Fruits began to ripen in the third decade of July, the phenological stage lasting for about three months. Vigorous growth started when the sum of the effective temperature reached 234°C, flowering – at 1100°C and fruit ripening – at 1337°C.

Key words: raspberry, meteorological conditions, major phenological stages

INTRODUCTION

(Kornov et al., 2016; Manolova, 2005).
 (Ivanov et al., 1981; Gergov, 1982; Hristov et al., 1988; Yaneva, 1990; Stanchev, 1991a, b; Boycheva et al., 1998; Petkov et al., 2002).
 (Dana and Goulart, 1991; Bushway and Pritts, 2008b; Geohring, 2008; Petrovich and Leposavich, 2011; Stanton, 2013).

In recent years, the interest in raspberry cultivation has increased among the Bulgarian producers, as evidenced by the enlarging areas of fruit-bearing plantations and the growth of raspberry fruit production (Kornov et al., 2016; Manolova, 2005). The favorable conditions on the international market and the rapid return on investment has stimulated the expansion of raspberry production towards regions with no traditions of cultivating the crop. More and more plantations have been established in lowland areas. The cultivation technology in Bulgaria has been developed for the mountainous and semi-mountainous conditions, the natural habitat of raspberry (Ivanov et al., 1981; Gergov, 1982; Hristov et al., 1988; Yaneva, 1990; Stanchev, 1991a, b; Boycheva et al., 1998; Petkov et al., 2002). In lowland areas, under typical drought conditions and unfavorable for the crop air temperature and humidity during the summer months, raspberry production is only possible under irrigation (Dana and Goulart, 1991; Bushway and Pritts, 2008b; Geohring, 2008; Petrovich and Leposavich, 2011; Stanton, 2013).
 Even in the natural raspberry habitat, irrigation is a key factor for increasing the quantity and quality of fruit production and

that was noted by all the authors. In lowlands, where the danger of recurrent frosts is greater, primocane-fruiting cultivars are preferable, because during that period the aboveground plant parts are cut off and the soil protects the underground parts from frostbites. Even if the sprouted spring suckers are frostbitten, they will be replaced by others and at most, fruit ripening will be delayed. In lowlands, such an effect would be rather positive, since, due to the higher temperature, the fruits ripen during the hottest months and the efforts of the breeders are to shift the ripening period to the autumn.

The publication presents the meteorological conditions, the beginning and duration of the major phenological stages in the primocane-fruiting raspberry cultivar 'Lyulin' in Plovdiv region. The data were obtained in the frames of an 11-year study of the management practices for the cultivation of raspberries in lowland conditions.

2000-2008 . 400 m²

" " *in-vitro*

1998

18 m

2.30 m

0.50 m.

2000 .

" "

(0)

80 %

(Allen et al., 1998).

that was noted by all the authors. In lowlands, where the danger of recurrent frosts is greater, primocane-fruiting cultivars are preferable, because during that period the aboveground plant parts are cut off and the soil protects the underground parts from frostbites. Even if the sprouted spring suckers are frostbitten, they will be replaced by others and at most, fruit ripening will be delayed. In lowlands, such an effect would be rather positive, since, due to the higher temperature, the fruits ripen during the hottest months and the efforts of the breeders are to shift the ripening period to the autumn.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental data were collected during the period 2000-2008 in a raspberry plantation of an area of 400 m² with *in vitro* propagated plants of the primocane-fruiting cultivar 'Lyulin', produced in the specialized laboratory of the Fruit-Growing Institute - Plovdiv. They were planted in the autumn of 1998 in seven experimental and two border/protective rows, 18 m long, at spacing 2.30 m between the rows x 0.50 m within the row. In the spring of 2000, a drip irrigation system was installed in the experimental site. The optimal irrigation regime was calculated on the basis of evaporation from the water surface, measured by a 'Class A' evaporation pan, with the reference evapotranspiration (ET₀) being assumed to be 80% of the evaporation values (Allen et al., 1998).

An automatic weather station located near

" -3000".
 („ ")
 -19 °
 10 ° 02. V,
 01. .
 10 ° 213 ,
 209 .
 ° 3931 ° ,
 23.6 ° (Katerov et al., 1990).

(734
 mm) (261
 mm) 437 mm (Koleva and Peneva,
 1990; Kumanov et al., 2009), . .

1, 2 3.
 2000 .,
 131 mm,
 95 %.
 10-12 mm,

- the experimental site provided data on the daily average, minimum and maximum temperatures, as well as the minimum and maximum relative air humidity. Rainfall was measured with GGI-3000 rain gauge. Raspberry plants were grown for a single (autumn) harvest.

For Plovdiv region, the average annual absolute-minimum air temperature is -19°C. The average start date of air temperature remaining above 10°C is April 2nd, and the average end date is November 1st. The period with the air temperature above 10°C is 213 days and the frost-free period is 209 days.

The temperature sum for the period with air temperatures remaining above 10°C is 3931°C, and the average daily temperature in the hottest month is 23.6°C (Katerov et al., 1990).

For the period April till September, the difference between the average values for a multi-year period of the reference evapotranspiration (734 mm) and the precipitation (261 mm) is 437 mm (Koleva and Peneva, 1990; Kumanov et al., 2009), i.e. the vegetation season is characterized by water scarcity and irrigation has become an indispensable element of the raspberry cultivation technology.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

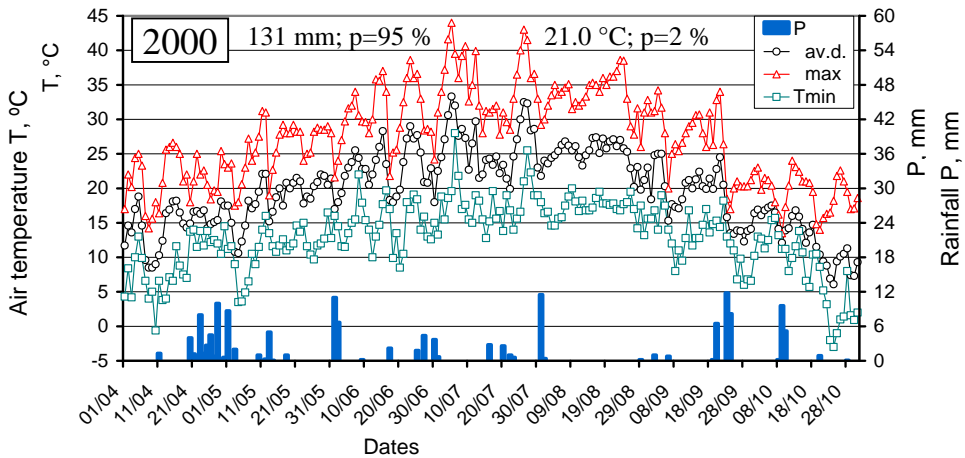
- The collected meteorological information is summarized in Table 1 and illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3.

- The first year of fruit-bearing (2000) was characterized as extremely dry during the vegetation season. The amount of rainfall from April to September was 131 mm, at 95% probability level. Rainfall of less than 10-12 mm is insignificant to the water balance in drip irrigation and water supply of the raspberry plants is entirely dependent on the initial water supply of the soil and the irrigation applied.

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Table 1. Climatic characteristic of the years 2000 to 2008 according to the sum of precipitation and average daily temperature for the period April-September; the values in brackets are after deduction of heavy rainfall events with little contribution to the water supply of the raspberry plantation

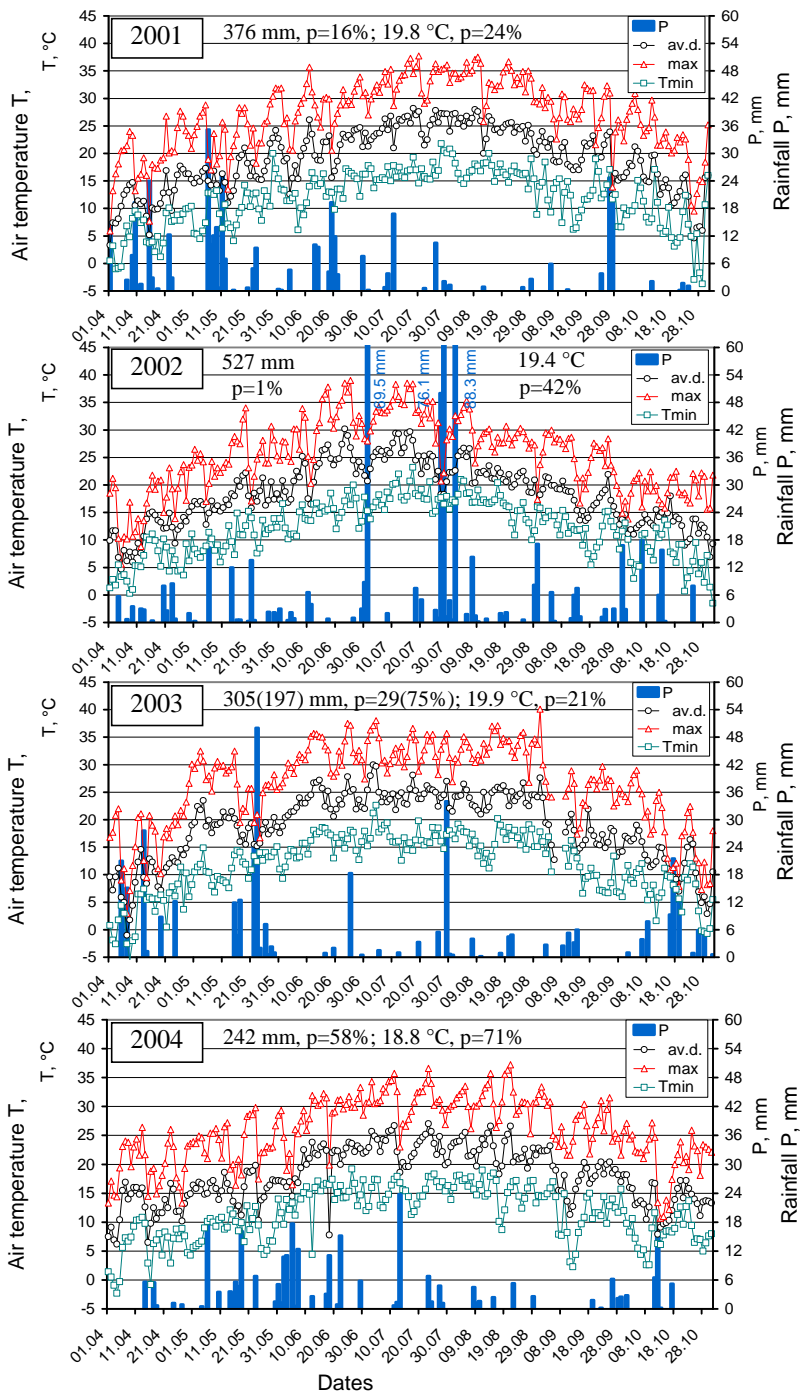
Year	Rainfall			Temperature		
	Sum mm	Probability %	Type	Daily °	Probability %	Type
2000	131	95	very dry	21.0	2	very hot
2001	376	16	wet	19.8	24	moderately hot
2002	527	1	very wet	19.4	42	moderate
2003	305 (197)	29 (75)	moderately wet (moderately dry)	19.9	21	moderately hot
2004	242	58	moderate	18.8	71	moderately cool
2005	600	0.7	very wet	18.8	71	moderately cool
2006	348 (242)	21 (58)	moderately wet (moderate)	19.5	38	moderately hot
2007	619	0.7	very wet	20.0	18	hot
2008	293	35	moderate- moderately wet	20.0	18	hot



. 1

2000

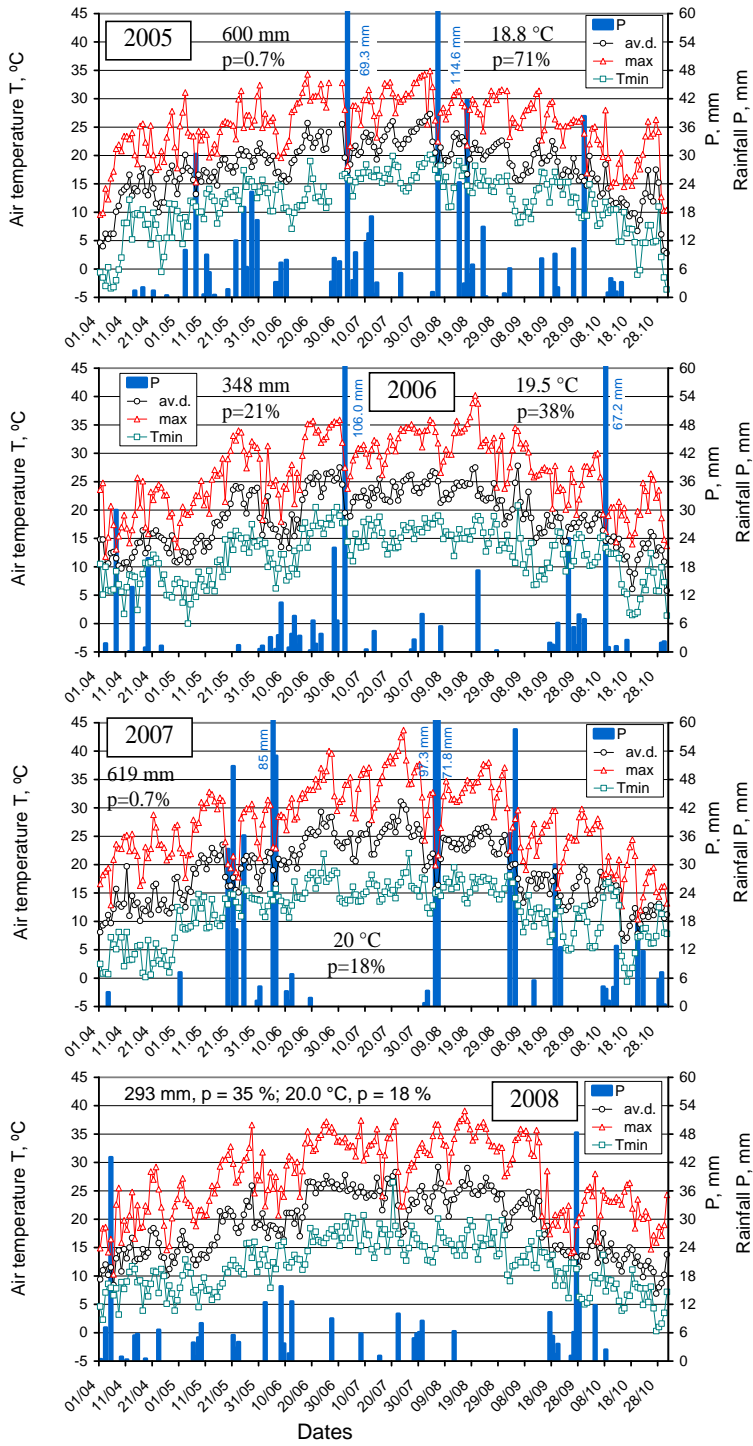
Fig. 1. Rainfall and average daily, minimum and maximum temperatures during the period April - September 2000



. 2

2001, 2002 2003 2004

Fig. 2. Rainfall and average daily, minimum and maximum temperatures during the period April - September 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004



3.

2005, 2006 2007 2008

Fig. 3. Rainfall and average daily, minimum and maximum temperatures during the period April - September 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

	2001	376 mm	16 %
	2002	527 mm,	1 %
2003	305 mm	29%	22-23
	2003	197 mm	75 %
	2004	242 mm	58 %
3.)	2005	600 mm	0.7 %

In 2001, the total rainfall for the six-month period (April - September) was 376 mm, at 16% probability, characterizing the period as wet. That was mainly due to four rainfall events in May, June and September, respectively. However, due to the frequent drip irrigation and the local root uptake of water by the raspberry plants, the contribution of those rainfall events for the water supply was comparatively small. That significantly increased the share of irrigation in the total water balance.

In 2002, the total amount of rainfall during the same period was 527 mm, at 1% probability level, which characterized the vegetation season as extremely wet. Frequent and heavy rainfall events decreased the effect of the studied variants, reducing the contribution of irrigation to evapotranspiration and eventually washing out the fertilizers below the root zone.

For the period April - September 2003, the rainfall was 305 mm, at probability level of 29%, characterizing the season as moderately wet. However, that amount included two heavy rainfall events on May 22-23 and July 29, respectively, which also did not significantly contribute to the water supply of the raspberry plants due to the localized water supply in drip irrigation. If those rainfall events were excluded, the vegetation period of 2003 could be considered moderately dry, with a total rainfall of 197 mm and 75% probability.

In 2004, the vegetation period can be characterized as moderate, tending to dry, with a rainfall of 242 mm and 58% probability.

The sum of precipitation during the period April - September 2005 (Figure 3) was 600 mm at 0.7% probability, which characterized the vegetation season as extremely wet. Frequent and heavy rainfall events decreased the effect of the

2006 . 348 mm 21 %,

620 mm 2007 . 58%.

100 0.7 %,

293 mm, 2008 . 35

%, 10 mm,

21.0° (- 2 % 2000)

35°

44° .

- 2001 .

studied variants, reducing the contribution of irrigation to evapotranspiration and washing out the fertilizers below the root zone.

Rainfall in the same period in 2006 was 348 mm at 21% probability, which characterized the vegetation season as moderately wet. A heavy rainfall in early July contributed to the high rainfall amount. However, due to frequent drip irrigation and the local root uptake of water by the raspberry plants, the contribution of the precipitation to evapotranspiration was relatively small. If that rainfall was excluded, the vegetation season could be considered moderate, at 58% probability.

In 2007 the precipitation amount was 620 mm at less than 0.7% probability, which characterized the vegetation season as extremely wet, i.e. such a wet year happens once over a 100-year period. On the other hand, the hottest summer months coincided with drought spells lasting for two months in June-July and one month in August.

The sum of vegetative rainfall of 293 mm characterized 2008 as moderately wet at 35% probability, which means that two out of three years have less rainfall. Rainfall was relatively evenly distributed during vegetation but rarely exceeded 10 mm, which reduced rainfall contribution to evapotranspiration of the plantation.

The average daily temperature of 21.0°C during vegetation (April-September) at 2% probability level, characterized 2000 as very hot. The maximum daily temperature remained above 35°C for long periods of time, the highest temperature reached being 44°C.

With regard to the average daily temperature for the period April – September, the year 2001 was moderately hot with average air

19.8° (24 %)
 35° ,
 18° .
 27° ,
 30°
 37.7° .
 2002
 30° ,
 23° .
 39.0° .
 42 %.
 19.4°
 2003 .
 30°
 35°
 40.1° ,
 25° .
 19.9° 21 %
 2004 ,
 18.8° 71 %
 37.2° .
 2005 .
 , 18.8° 71 % ,

temperature of 19.8°C (24% probability). Frequent rainfall events during the first half of the vegetation period caused significant temperature fluctuations. From the end of June rainfall decreased and almost stopped, which resulted in maximum temperatures exceeding 35°C, an average temperature of around 27°C and minimum temperatures of around 18°C. The drought spell of weather continued until the end of vegetation, with maximum temperatures above 30°C being measured even in the first decade of October. The highest maximum temperature was 37.7°C.

The vegetation season of the next year 2002 began in the same way, but heavy rainfall events in early July and especially in late July and early August, significantly reduced the air temperature and in result of that the maximum temperature did not exceed 30°C after the first decade of August and in October the temperature was below 23°C. The maximum temperature reached 39.0°C. In terms of temperature, the year was characterized as moderate with an average daily temperature of 19.4°C and 42% probability.

In 2003 air temperatures remained consistently high for three months – June, July and August, the maximum temperature ranging from 30°C to 35°C, sometimes reaching 40.1°C and the average daily temperature was about 25°C. During that hot period, the photosynthetic activity of the plants was probably reduced, which resulted in some decrease in growth and yield. The year was moderately hot with an average temperature of 19.9°C at 21% probability.

Although there were no heavy rainfall events in 2004, the year was moderately cool with an average daily temperature of 18.8°C, at 71% probability level. The highest value of the maximum temperature was 37.2°C.

In terms of average daily temperature, 2005 was moderately cool, with 18.8°C at 71% probability level, the maximum temperature exceeding 30°C

30°	,	2006	.	34.9°	.
	,				
30°		25°	,	35°	,
				40.2°	.
19.5°				38 %	,
		2007		2008	,
		-		20°	,
		18 %	,		
2007	.	25°		30°	,
				35°	,
				43.7°	.
				2008	
39.1°	.	25	,		

only for short periods in June and July, the maximum reaching 34.9°C.

In 2006, the air temperature remained high for long periods, the average daily being around 25°C and the maximum varying from 30°C to 35°C, reaching 40.2°C in mid-August. The average temperature during the vegetation season was 19.5°C at 38% probability, which characterized the year as average to moderately hot.

The years 2007 and 2008 were the same, with an average temperature of 20°C at 18% probability for the period April - September, i.e. the two years were medium hot. In dry periods in 2007 the average temperature ranged from 25°C to 30°C and maximum temperature remained above 35°C for a long time, reaching 43.7°C. The more evenly distributed rainfall events during the same period of 2008 maintained an average temperature of about 25°C and the maximum reached 39.1°C.

The data presented show that during the experimental period there were three very wet years, one wet, one moderate to moderately wet, two moderate, one moderately dry and one very dry. In terms of temperature, one year was very hot, two were hot, three were moderately hot, one was moderate and two were moderately cool. It should be noted that most of the wet years were cool, but also moderate or hot. Regarding the climatic characteristics, the years of the study covered a wide range of very wet to very dry and moderate to very hot years, on the basis of which the results obtained concerning the evapotranspiration of the raspberry crop can be considered representative.

Moreover, the years of drought spells and high temperatures during vegetation guaranteed objectivity of the assessment of the performance of 'Lyulin' raspberry cultivar and the efficiency of its cultivation

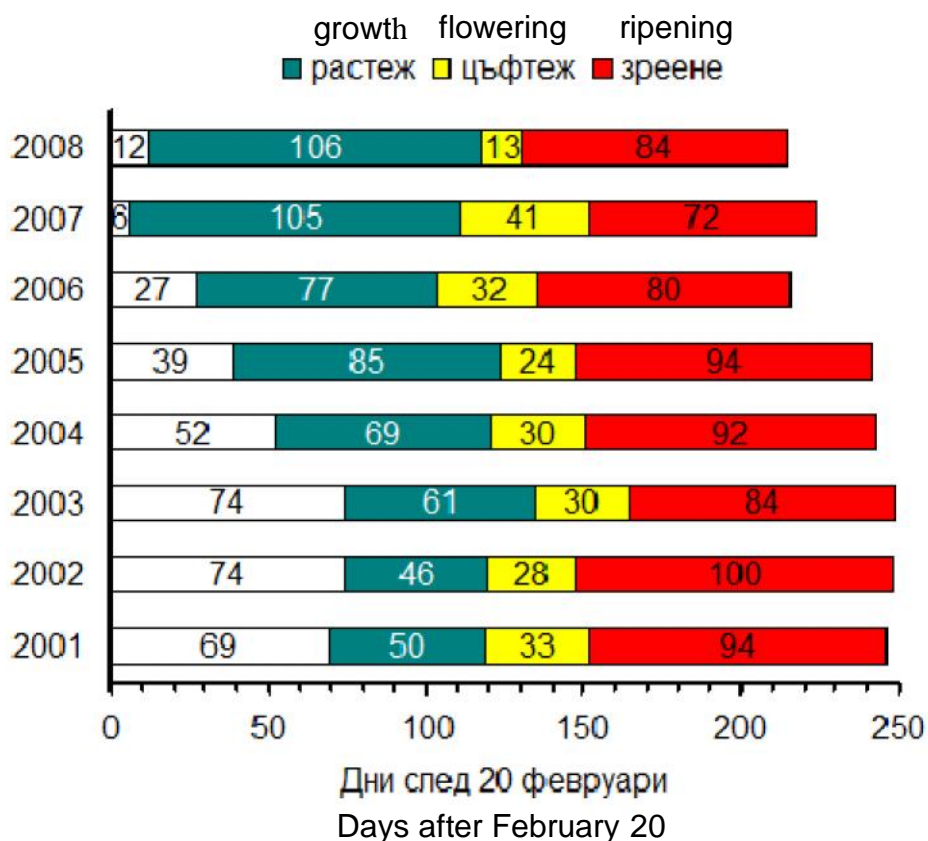
2001-2008 4.
 2
 ” ” 75
 2001-2003
 2007-2008
 105-106 45-50

in lowlands.
 Plant development during
 - vegetation is also closely related to
 - climate. The terms and duration of the
 major phenological stages in 2001-2008
 are presented in Table 2 and illustrated in
 Figure 4. The average duration of the
 vigorous growth stage was 75 days.
 - There was an obviously expressed
 - tendency for the vegetation season to
 start earlier with the advancement of the
 years, starting from the first days of May
 in 2001-2003 to the first days of March in
 2007-2008. That was compensated by the
 period of intensive growth, which
 - extended from 45-50 days to 105-106
 days, respectively. Probably the reasons
 are related to the weather conditions, but
 the meteorological data did not provide a
 clear evidence for earlier weather
 warming in the last years of the
 experiment. It may also be influenced by
 - the age of the plantation or other biotic
 - and abiotic factors such as the plant
 health status.

2. 2001-2008

Table 2. Terms and duration of the major phenological stages in 2001-2008

Year	Intensive growth			Flowering			Fruit ripening		
	beginning	end	days	beginning	end	days	beginning	end	days
2001	01.05	19.06	50	20.06	22.07	33	23.07	25.10	94
2002	07.05	21.06	46	22.06	19.07	28	20.07	27.10	100
2003	07.05	06.07	61	07.07	04.08	30	05.08	27.10	84
2004	13.04	20.06	69	21.06	20.07	30	21.07	20.10	92
2005	01.04	24.06	85	25.06	18.07	24	19.07	20.10	94
2006	20.03	04.06	77	05.06	06.07	32	07.07	30.09	80
2007	26.02	10.06	105	11.06	20.07	41	21.07	30.09	72
2008	04.03	18.06	106	19.06	01.07	13	02.07	24.09	84
Average	-	-	75	-	-	29	-	-	88



. 4.

Fig. 4. Beginning and duration of the phenological stages during the years of the study based on the calendar distribution

Flowering started in late June and early July and lasted about a month.

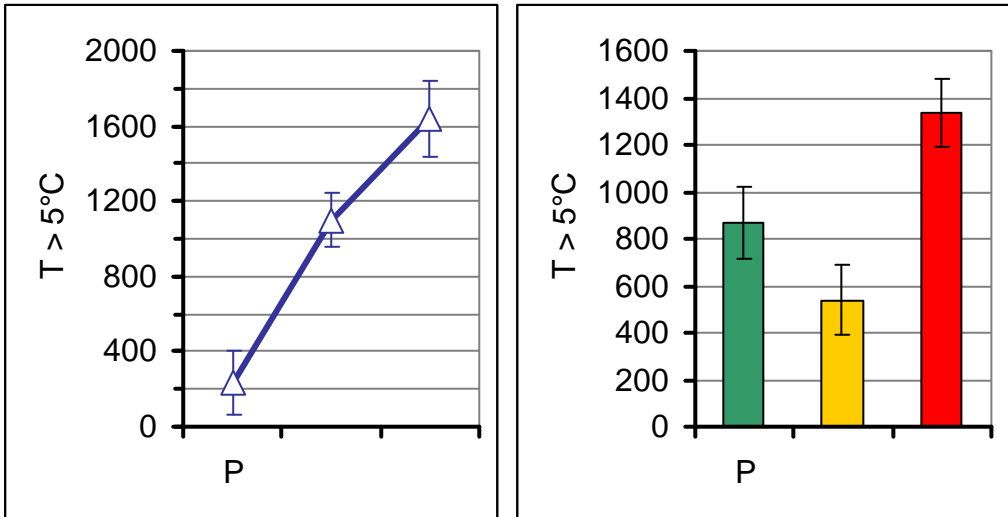
- Fruits began to ripen in the third decade of July and the phenological stage lasted for an average of three months. In that case, just like the beginning of vegetation, fruit ripening stage continued until the second decade of October in the period 2001-2005, while in 2006-2008 it ended as early as late September.

The beginning of the phenological stages and their duration, depending on the growing degree days (GDD) for $(T > 5^{\circ}\text{C})$, are presented in Figure 5, but some

2001-2008 .
 1100° ,
 1337° .
 234° ,
 865° , 538°
 1337°

variation is also observed with respect to that characteristic.

On average for the period 2001-2008, the intensive growth stage started when GDD reached 234°C, flowering at GDD of 1100°C and fruit ripening at GDD of 1337°C. The average GDD value during the stage of intensive growth was 865°C, during flowering – 538°C and during fruit ripening – 1337°C.



. 5.

(a)

(b)

Fig. 5. Beginning (a) and duration (b) of the phenological stages depending on the GDD; – Growth, – Flowering and – Fruit ripening

CONCLUSIONS

The years of the study covered a wide range of weather conditions from very wet to very dry and from moderately to very hot years, on the basis of which the results obtained for raspberry cultivation in lowlands in general and in the region of Plovdiv in particular, can be considered representative.

The average duration of the intensive-growth phenological stage was two and a half months, the flowering stage

”	” –	– one month, and the fruit ripening stage
”	” –	– three months.
(–5°),	234° ,	The intensive-growth stage began
1100° ,	–	at GDD, (T > 5°C), of 234°C, flowering –
1337° .	–	at 1100°C and fruit ripening – at 1337°C.
	865° , 538°	The average GDD value during the stage
	1337°	of intensive growth was 865°C, during
		flowering – 538°C and during fruit ripening –
		1337°C.

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1*, 2, 2,
, 3,
1, 6015,
2, 5600,
3, 1331,

Content of Minerals in Leaves of Raspberry Cultivar ‘Samodiva’ and a Candidate Cultivar ‘Magdalena’

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The present study observed the content of mineral elements in raspberry leaves in various stages of agrotechnics. The study was conducted during the period 2018-2019 in a collection plantation of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan on raspberry cultivars of ‘Samodiva’ and a candidate cultivar ‘Magdalena’. The field experiment was set at intra-row spacings between plants (0.30 m and 0.50 m) and inter-row spacings of 3.00 m. The content of mineral elements in the leaves was found during the phenophases: full blossoming and fruit harvesting. The results show that ‘Samodiva’ cultivar had the highest nitrogen content in the leaf samples, at a variant of 0.30 m (3.17%) in 2019 at full

2019 . 0,30 m (3,17%)

0,30% (0,50 m) 0,29% (0,30 m)

– 0,30 m (0,70%) 2018 .

(Dresler et al., 2015).

(Chaplin and Martin, 1980; Prive and Sullivan, 1994; Hargreaves et al., 2008; Koumanov et al., 2009; Dresler et al., 2015).

blossoming phenophase.

- The highest amount of phosphorus was registered in the variants with 'Magdalena' candidate cultivar with 0.30% (0.50 m) and 0.29% (0.30 m) during the period of the same phenophase in the first experimental year. A significant content of potassium was found during fruit harvesting in 'Samodiva' and 'Magdalena' candidate cultivar at 0.30 m (0.70%) in 2018.

Key words: raspberries, cultivars, agrotechnics, soils, mineral content in leaves

INTRODUCTION

- Raspberry is a fruit species that is widespread on almost all continents because of its plasticity and taste qualities. It is widely used in the foothills and mountainous regions of Bulgaria, where soil and climatic conditions are largely favourable for its development.

- But on the other hand, these regions are characterized by poorly productive, acidic soils, poor in nutrients. In these cases, it is important to determine the content of nutrients in both the soil and the leaves.

- Leaf diagnostics determines the actual level of crop nutrition (Dresler et al., 2015).

- It is possible to determine early the deficiency of an element and the possibility to take timely measures before disturbing the normal physiological state of the plants associated with reduced yields.

- The concentration of mineral elements in the leaves largely depends on the growing conditions, abiotic or biotic stress, the content of minerals in the soil and the agronomic methods of cultivation (Chaplin and Martin, 1980; Prive and Sullivan, 1994; Hargreaves et al., 2008; Koumanov et al., 2009; Dresler et al., 2015).

Moreover, the concentration of nutrients in

(John et al., 1976).
 (Reickenberg and Pritts, 1996),
 et al., 1976)
 (Dresler et al., 2015).
 (N) (K).
 (P) (Kowalenko, 2005; Buskiene
 and Uselis, 2008).
 Gorbanov (2018)
 0,3-0,5% 2,8 3,5%,
 2,0-2,5%.

- the leaf tissues may change during
 vegetation (John et al., 1976).

Previous studies have shown that nitrogen
 accumulation in raspberries depends on
 nitrogen fertilization (Reickenberg and
 Pritts, 1996), sampling period (John et al.,
 1976) and meteorological conditions
 (Dresler et al., 2015).

- The most important mineral nutrients
 stimulating yields of raspberry are
 nitrogen (N) and potassium (K). Nitrogen
 determines vegetative growth, while
 potassium increases the cold tolerance
 and drought resistance of plants. The
 average content of both elements is
 usually at a similar level and can be even
 eight times higher than the content of
 phosphorus (P) (Kowalenko, 2005;
 Buskiene and Uselis, 2008).

- According to Gorbanov (2018), the
 optimal values for the content of the three
 nutrients are the following, for nitrogen in
 the range of 2.8 to 3.5%, phosphorus with
 0.3-0.5% and potassium with 2.0-2.5 %.

The present study observed the
 content of mineral elements in raspberry
 leaves in various stages of agrotechnics.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2018-2019

The study was conducted during
 the period 2018-2019 in a collection
 plantation of the Research Institute of
 Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture
 in Troyan. The Bulgarian cultivar
 'Samodiva' and the candidate cultivar
 'Magdalena' were chosen as the objective
 of the present experiment. 'Samodiva' is
 characterized by good fruitfulness,
 resistance to abiotic and biotic stress
 factors and the ability to grow without a
 supporting structure. Candidate cultivar
 'Magdalena' is a promising one, which is
 selected in RIMSA Troyan and is
 characterized by moderate to strong
 vegetative growth and very good

fruitfulness. The area is maintained in black fallow in the row spacing and with naturally grassed row spacing Fertilization was carried out in the intra-row area to achieve optimal values of the individual nutrients for raspberry shoots. The plants are grown with drip irrigation.

The experiment has the following variants:

I variant - planting at 0.30 m intra-row area;

II variant - planting at 0.50 m intra-row area.

In both variants the row-spacing is 3.00 m. Leaf samples were taken during the phenophases of full blossoming and fruit harvesting. The leaf samples were naturally dried, ground and prepared for analysis. The following was laboratory tested:

- nitrogen content (Kjeldahl method, BDS - EN ISO 5983);
- phosphorus content (Colorimetric method of Gericke and Kurmis, 2007);
- potassium content (Atomic absorption spectroscopy method, AOAC, 2007).

The experiment was conducted according to the methodology for studying plant resources in fruit plants (Nedev et al., 1979). Data processing was performed by the methods of variation-statistical and two-factor analysis of variance (Lidanski, 1988), using the software product MS Excel-2010.

I
0,30 m

II
0,50 m

3,00 m.

(K
, 2007);

A
, 2007).

(Nedev et al., 1979).

(Lidanski, 1988),
MS Excel-2010.

(%
(1,12%)
(
0,90-0,92%

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the first experimental year, the nitrogen content (%) in the raspberry leaves during the period of full blossoming had approximately the same values in the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' (1.12%) in both planting variants (Table 1). For 'Samodiva' cultivar, the element was in the range of 0.90-0.92% in both variants. The different levels of nitrogen content in the leaves between the cultivars and the variants are statistically unproven.

Kessel (2003) Methodology
 (2010) -
 2,0-3,5%, Horuz
 et al. (2013), e
 2,75%, -
 - 2-3 -
 0,25% ((%)
 m) 0,24% 0,50
 0,30% -
 m. 0,29% 0,30
 (P<0,05;
 LSD = 0,05), Kessel (2003),
 0,30%. -
 -
 0,50 m -
 0,40% -
 (0,50 m) -
 0,30% (0,30 m) -
 (P <0,05; LSD = 0,10). Kessel ,
 1,0-2,0%.

According to Kessel (2003) and Methodology (2010), the critical nitrogen level in raspberry leaves is 2.0-3.5%, and according to Horuz et al. (2013), the optimal element content recommended for this species is 2.75%. Our research shows that 'Samodiva' and the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' contain insufficient amounts of nitrogen - 2-3 times lower than necessary.

The phosphorus content (%) reached 0.25% in 'Samodiva' (0.50 m) and 0.24% in the same cultivar of the other variant. In the case of 'Magdalena' candidate cultivar, it was 0.30% at the greater planting distance and 0.29% at 0.30 m. The difference between the cultivars in terms of phosphorus content in the leaves was statistically significant (P <0.05; LSD = 0.05), it was unproven between different agricultural techniques. According to Kessel (2003), the optimal level of phosphorus in raspberry leaves is 0.30%. It is noteworthy that only candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' in the second variant at 0.50 m had optimal phosphorus content.

The content of potassium in the leaves was 0.40% in both variants of 'Samodiva' and in the second variant (0.50 m) of candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' and respectively 0.30% in the first one (0.30 m) of the same cultivar. The difference between the cultivars in terms of potassium content in the leaves was statistically significant (P <0.05; LSD = 0.05). Kessel claims that the optimal level of potassium in raspberry leaves is between 1,0-2,0%. These values indicate that symptoms of potassium deficiency have been observed.

1.

2018 .

Table 1. Mineral content of raspberry leaves in 2018 in the full blossoming period

/ Cultivars/indicators	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)
/'Samodiva' 0,30 m	0,92	0,24	0,40
- /'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0,30 m	1,12	0,29	0,30
/'Samodiva' 0,50 m	0,90	0,25	0,40
- /'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0,50 m	1,12	0,30	0,40
x ± SE	0,03	0,01	0,04
St. Dev	0,10	0,03	0,10
VC %	9,71	13,33	23,11
Minimum	0,90	0,24	0,30
Maximum	1,12	0,30	0,40
LSD /among variants (0,05)	n.s	n.s	n.s
LSD /among cultivars (0,05)	n.s	0,05	0,10

2.

2018 .

Table 2. Mineral content of raspberry leaves in 2018 in fruit harvesting period

/ Cultivars/indicators	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)
/'Samodiva' 0,30 m	1,13	0,25	0,70
- -0,30 m	1,07	0,21	0,70
/'Samodiva' 0,50 m	1,45	0,22	0,67
- /'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0,50 m	1,15	0,23	0,53
x ± SE	0,07	0,01	0,02
St. Dev	0,19	0,02	0,06
VC %	17,95	9,62	9,85
Minimum	1,07	0,21	0,53
Maximum	1,45	0,25	0,70
LSD /among variants (0,05)	n.s	n.s	0,07
LSD /among cultivars (0,05)	0,21	0,02	n.s

2

-

(1,45%)

-

- 1,07%.

(P <0,05; LSD = 0,21).

Table 2 presents the results of nutrients in leaf samples from the fruit harvesting period. Data show that the nitrogen content was significantly higher in the variants of 'Samodiva' in the full blossoming period and had the highest value (1.45%) in the second variant. In 'Magdalena', a more significant decrease in nitrogen level than the first variant was observed, with a value of 1.07%. In the statistical data processing, it became clear that in terms of nitrogen content in the leaves the differences between both cultivars were significant (P <0.05; LSD = 0.21).

A decrease in the phosphorus content was found in leaves during the

0,25%
 0,21%
 0,30 m
 (P <0,05; LSD = 0,02).

(0,70%).
 (P <0,05; LSD = 0,07),

2,01% - a
 0,30 m 3,17%
 (3).
 (P<0,05;
 LSD=0,40).

(0,17%)
 (0,30 m) – 0,06%.
 (0,30 m) – 0,35%,
 0,31%.

- phenophase of fruit harvesting, with the
 - exception of 'Samodiva' in the shorter
 - planting distance variant. Its values varied
 - from 0.21% for the candidate cultivar
 - 'Magdalena' at 0.30 m to 0.25% for
 - Samodiva from the same variant. The
 - difference between the cultivars was
 - statistically proven (P <0.05; LSD = 0.02).

- During the fruit harvesting period,
 - the potassium content in leaves increased
 - by almost twice in the variants than during
 - the period of full blossoming and was the
 - highest at the shorter planting distances
 - of the plants in both genotypes (0.70 %).

The difference between the cultivars in
 potassium content in the leaves was
 statistically significant (P <0.05;
 LSD = 0.05).

In the second experimental year, a
 nitrogen content of 2.01% was reported in
 the leaf samples at the full blossoming
 phenophase for the candidate cultivar
 'Magdalena' at a planting distance of 0.30
 m to 3.17% in 'Samodiva' from the same
 variant (Table 3). In all variants of
 genotypes, nitrogen was in higher
 quantities compared to the previous year
 of the same phenophase. Mathematically,
 differences were demonstrated between
 cultivars (P <0.05; LSD = 0.40).

- The highest phosphorus content
 - was found in the variants of the candidate
 - cultivar 'Magdalena' (0.17%) and was
 - significantly lower in 'Samodiva' (0.30 m) –
 - 0.06%. The potassium amounts had
 - approximately the same values in both
 - genotypes and variants. The highest level
 - was observed in the candidate cultivar
 - 'Magdalena' (0.30 m) with 0.35%, while
 - the lowest content was found in
 - 'Samodiva' in the other variant (0.31%).
 - Statistically, the differences among the
 - variants and the cultivars are unproven.

Table 3. Mineral content of raspberry leaves in 2019 in the full blossoming period

/	Cultivars/indicators	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)
	/'Samodiva' 0,30 m	3,17	0,06	0,34
-	/'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0,30 m	2,01	0,17	0,35
	/Samodiva 0,50 m	3,16	0,13	0,31
-	/'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0.50 m	2,34	0,17	0,34
x ± SE		0,16	0,02	0,01
St. Dev		0,46	0,04	0,02
VC %		16,2	31,34	6,42
Minimum		2,01	0,06	0,31
Maximum		3,17	0,17	0,35
LSD	/among variants (0.05)	n.s	n.s	n.s
LSD	/ among cultivars (0.05)	0,40	n.s	n.s

	(4).
	-	.
	2,55%	2,62%
	- 0,30 m	
	- 0,50 m.	
		(%)
	- 0,50 m	0,14%
	-	0,17%
	0,20%	
0,17%		
		0,34%,
	0,35%.	

The content of mineral elements in raspberry leaves during the fruit harvesting phenophase is presented in (Table 4). There was a significant decrease in nitrogen in the variants of 'Samodiva' and its increase in the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena'. In general, the presence of the element has approximately similar values, which varied from 2.55% for candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' at a planting distance of 0.30 m to 2.62% for 'Samodiva' at 0.50 m. Mathematical differences in nitrogen content among cultivars and variants in terms are unproven.

The phosphorus content (%) in raspberry leaves was 0.14% in 'Samodiva' at 0.50 m and higher 0.17% in the other variant of the cultivar. The highest values were observed in the first variant of candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' with 0.20% and 0.17% in the second variant. The different levels of phosphorus content in the leaves among the cultivars and the variants are statistically unproven.

The potassium amounts were slightly higher at short planting distances and were respectively 0.34% for 'Samodiva' and 0.35% for 'Magdalena'. During the phenophase of fruit harvesting, there is no mathematical proof between the genotypes and variants regarding the potassium content in raspberry leaves.

Table 4. Mineral content of raspberry leaves in 2019 in fruit harvesting period

/ Cultivars/indicators	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)
/'Samodiva' 0.30 m	2,61	0,17	0,34
- /'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0.30 m	2,55	0,20	0,35
/'Samodiva' 0.50 m	2,62	0,14	0,30
- /'Magdalena' candidate cultivar 0.50 m	2,56	0,17	0,34
x ± SE	0,09	0,01	0,01
St. Dev	0,27	0,03	0,02
VC %	10,92	17,42	7,02
Minimum	2,55	0,14	0,30
Maximum	2,62	0,20	0,35
LSD /among variants (0.05)	n.s	n.s	n.s
LSD / among cultivars (0.05)	n.s	n.s	n.s

CONCLUSIONS

A study was conducted on the dynamics in the values of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in raspberry leaf samples of 'Samodiva' and the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena'.

The results of the study show that 'Samodiva' and the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' contain an insufficient amount of nitrogen that was 2-3 times lower than the optimal values in the first year. In the second year, the content of the element, due to the applied fertilization, was significantly higher in the variants of both genotypes at both phenophases. Nitrogen reached optimal values in 'Samodiva' in the period of full blossoming with 3.17% of the first and 3.16% of the second variant.

The phosphorus amount reached the required reference values for the candidate cultivar 'Magdalena' at 0.50 m (0.30%) in the first year during the full blossoming period.

The highest potassium content was reported during the period of fruit harvesting in the variants with the shorter planting distance in both genotypes in the first experimental year. In general, the values of the element are low.

During the two-year period, a

- higher percentage of statistical difference
- between the values of the nutrients was reported between the cultivars. An exception is observed in the potassium
- content among the variants in the first
- year during the fruit harvesting phenophase.

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Study on the Effect of Biopesticides in Schemes for Sustainable Production of Cherries and Sour Cherries

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The study was conducted in the period 2017-2019 in RIMSA Troyan. The occurrence and susceptibility of cherry cultivar 'Octavia' and sour cherry cultivars 'Carneol' and 'Oblachinska' to the fungal diseases shot hole disease (*Stigmina carpophila*) and Cyndrosporiosis (*Blumeriella jaapii*) (Rehm) were studied, and variants were set with biologically certified fungicidal products of Green Smile such as: Amynelos, Grafox, Myel complex, Kuore Cristal, Demolution, Gescen, Alud and Molek and treatments with copper-containing fungicide and treatments using conventional pesticides to control the possibility of using biological pesticides to control the main fungi diseases of cherries and sour cherries, to obtain healthy fruit production.

It was found that during the three years of the study, in the studied fungal diseases, the lowest infestation index was found in the treatments using biological

2), (1
 Green Smile
 (Holb and Schnabel, 2005).
 (Taseva et al., 2007).
 Valiushkaite (2002)
B. Jaapii,
 ($r = +0,89$),
 15-20 °C,
 $0 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$
 70%
 Ivanová et al. (2012)
Stigmina carpophila ()

fungicides (variants 1 and 2), compared to the nontreated control.

The organic certified products of Green Smile in the developed scheme for sustainable production control the occurrence and development of fungal diseases and can successfully replace conventional preparations for healthy fruit production.

Key words: cherries, sour cherries, diseases, sustainable production, biopesticides

INTRODUCTION

The demand for organic fruits, including cherries and sour cherries, is growing in Europe and the United States, but the limited disease management tools have not been studied in detail (Holb and Schnabel, 2005).

The literature reports that this fungus infects peaches, apricots and plums. Its rapid spread and the strong damage to the leaf mass that it causes define cylindrosporiosis as an economically very important disease in cherries in Bulgaria (Taseva et al., 2007).

Valiushkaite (2002) characterized the pathogen *B. Jaapii* as a highly developed parasite, studying the peculiarities of the development of the fungus in sterile culture and natural conditions. It establishes the degree of correlation depending on the environment ($r = +0.89$), under optimal conditions for the spread of the disease T 15-20 °C, relative humidity and precipitation, influencing the maturation of ascomycetes and the disposal of ascospores. Microscopic analysis of leaves shows that when they were warmed up and the average temperature is about $0 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and the relative humidity is higher than 70%, it is possible to detect mature ascomycetes and conidia.

Ivanová et al. (2012) reported a winter infection with *Stigmina carpophila* (shot hole disease) under the same

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - optimal atmospheric conditions created in the spring and summer of 2009-2010. - Symptoms appeared on the leaves, activating the germination of brown, smooth-walled, fusion conidia, with a truncated base and a rounded tip measuring 16 to 20 μm with dimensions of 8-10 μm.
20 μm	8-10 μm .	16	
(MSU)	1983		The State University of Michigan (MSU) launched a Cherry Selection Program in 1983 to provide producers and processors with alternatives to 'Montmorency' cultivars that are just as productive, with superior fruit quality but more resistant to cylandrosporiosis (<i>Blumeriella jaapii</i> syn. <i>Coccomyces hiemalis</i>) (Lezzoni, 1998).
„Montmorency“	e,		
	(<i>Blumeriella jaapii</i> syn. <i>Coccomyces hiemalis</i>) (Lezzoni, 1998).		
			The main way to control is the chemical method. The most commonly used fungicides are based on Dodin, Benzimidazole and Triazole. Frequent application of these fungicidal groups leads to the development of resistant forms of the pathogen to their active substances (Seliga et al., 2016). They found in 2012-2015, through a test for the germination of spores on agar medium, the occurrence of resistant forms of <i>B. jaapii</i> to Dodin and Benzimidazoles, in 33 selected cherry orchards in central Poland.
Te	(Seliga et al., 2016). 2012-2015		
	<i>B. jaapii</i> 33		
Arx.,	<i>Blumeriella jaapii</i> (Rehm)		
	(<i>P. cerasus</i> L.) (Gruber et al., 2010).		
„Montmorency“			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copper-based fungicides are effective in combating cylandrosporiosis <i>Blumeriella jaapii</i> (Rehm) Arx., but their application has been associated with bronze discoloration of cherry leaves (<i>P. cerasus</i> L.) (Gruber et al., 2010). The effects of foliar application of copper-containing fungicide on the quantity and quality of yield in 'Montmorency' trees were studied, by synthetic fungicides, - integrated with a copper-based fungicide or not treated, in relation to the number and weight of fresh fruit and the concentration of soluble solids, as no dependence on the harvesting period has been established.
			The benefits of fungicide resistance

management and disease control achieved through an integrated program are likely to outweigh the minimal effects of copper sulphate-based fungicides on sour cherry quality.

To prevent all leaf diseases in cherries, Ili i et al. (2019) recommend applying two autumn sprays with copper fungicides to reduce the infectious potential and the epiphytic population, as well as one spraying in early spring before blossoming.

Two to three pre-treatments and three to five post-harvest treatments are required, especially if spring and summer are rainy. The affected trees become more susceptible to frost and low winter temperatures, which increases tree mortality. Therefore, timely and correct identification of the pathogen is needed.

Zal t al., (2008) studied the efficacy of Alcupral 50 PU (copper oxychloride) and Captan 50 PU (captan) in 0.3% each against *S. carpophila* and found that the application of a fungicide during November was crucial as it can reduce the incidence of the disease by up to 20%.

The aim of the present study is to establish the possibility of using biological pesticides that can successfully replace conventional plant protection to control major fungal diseases, such as shot hole disease (*Stigmina carpophila*) and Cylindrosporiosis (*Blumeriella jaapii*) (*Rehm*) in cherries and sour cherries, to obtain healthy fruit production.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the period 2017-2019, in RIMSA Troyan, with cherry cultivar 'Octavia' and sour cherry cultivars 'Carneol' and 'Oblachinska'. The trees are grown on light gray forest soil, under a 5x4m scheme and non-irrigated conditions, without plant protection

Kenney (1923).

Mc

diseases was calculated according to the formula adopted in phytopathology by Mc Kenney (1923). The results of the first and second treatments were compared with the chemical variant and the control.

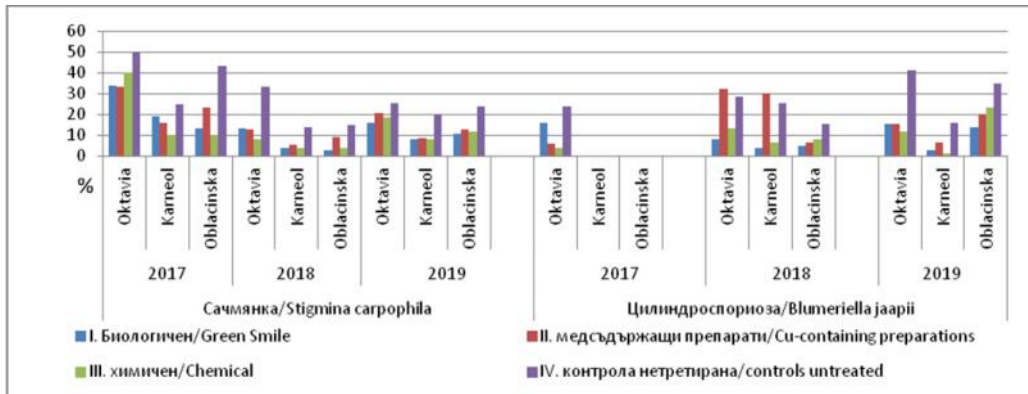
Microsoft Excel, Data analysis, Analysis tools 95%.

The results were processed with Microsoft Excel, Data analysis, Analysis tools at a confidence level of 95%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The fight against economically important diseases is a key element of the technology for growing and preserving cherries and sour cherries. The results of the experiments performed to determine the biological effectiveness of the studied biological products for the control of shot hole disease (*Stigmina carpophila*) and Cylindrosporiosis (*Blumeriella jaapii*) (Rehm) are presented in Figure 1.

(*Stigmina carpophila*)
(*Blumeriella jaapii*)
(Rehm) 1.



1. (%) (*Stigmina carpophila*)
(*Blumeriella jaapii*) (Rehm) (2017-2019)

Fig. 1. Infestation index (%) of shot hole disease (*Stigmina carpophila*) and Cylindrosporiosis (*Blumeriella jaapii*) (Rehm) (2017-2019)

Green Smile
2017
(133, 1 mm),
34% (Green

For the years of the study, the lowest degree of attack by shot hole disease in the cherry cultivar 'Octavia' was found in the treatments of Green Smile and the copper-containing preparation. For 2017 the index was higher due to the large amount of precipitation in April and May (133,1 mm), combined with high humidity and moderate temperature, respectively 34%

Smile) 33,30% (),
 (50%)
 40%.
 2018 2019
 -
 (1
 2) (13,30-12,66%
 (2018); 16,0-20,67% (2019).
 33,33% (2018); 25,33% (2019).
 3 -
 (1 Green Smile)
 (16,00%-8,00%-15,33%),
 (24,00%-28,67%-41,33%).
 - 2017 .
 -
 (19,00% ; 13,30%
),
 (24,70% ; 43,30%
).
 2018 2019,
 Green Smile
 (

(Green Smile) and 33.30% (for copper),
 - which were low compared to the control
 - variant (above 50%) and with
 - conventional preparations with an
 infestation index of 40%.

- In 2018 and 2019, lower values for
 - the infestation index of shot hole disease
 - were reported, as again the treatments
 - with biological preparations (1 and 2) had
 similar values (13.30-12.66% (2018);
 - 16.0- 20.67% (2019). The highest values
 - were reported for the control variant
 33.33% (2018); 25.33% (2019).

- The lowest infestation index was
 reported for cylindrosporiosis in 'Octavia'
 cultivar for the 3-year experimental period
 in the chemical treatment (with
 conventional preparations). There were
 relatively low values (16.00% -8.00% -
 15.33%) in the biological treatment (1
 Green Smile), which were significantly
 - lower than the control (24.00% -28.67% -
 - 41, 33%).

- In the wetter 2017, the lowest
 values of infestation index of shot hole
 disease in cherry cultivars 'Carneol' and
 'Oblachinska' were found in the treatment
 with conventional preparations. In the
 variants using biological means the index
 was slightly higher (19.00% 'Carneol';
 13.30% 'Oblachinska'), but this does not
 - have a significant effect on the yield and
 - quality of the fruit. The highest infestation
 - index was found in the nontreated control
 (24.70% 'Carneol'; 43.30% for
 'Oblachinska').

- For this year there was no infection
 - of cylindrosporiosis in 'Carneol' and
 'Oblachinska'.

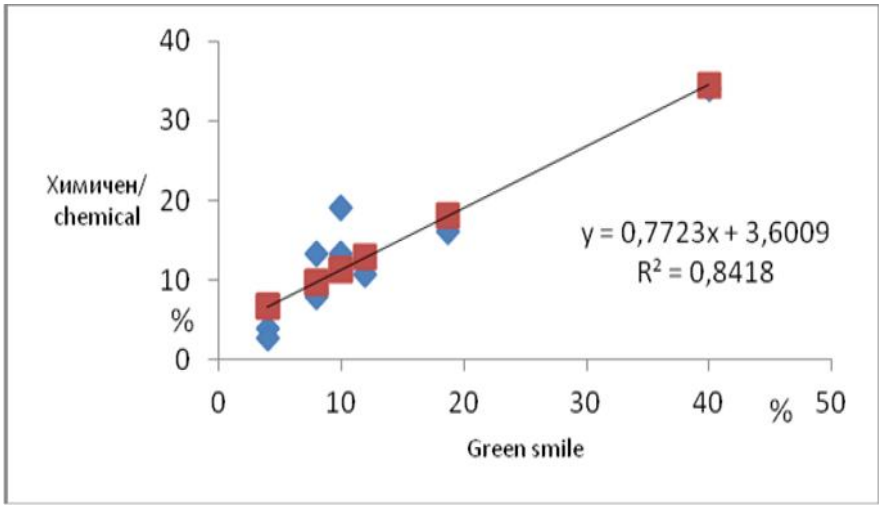
- Over the next two years in 2018
 and 2019, the infestation index of shot
 - hole disease and cylindrosporiosis
 - followed the same trend. The treatment
 with application of Green Smile organic
 - products had the lowest values. Slightly
 - higher values are found in the third
 - treatment (conventional means), followed
 - by the copper treatment The differences
 between them are within 1%. The highest

($r=0,9174$)
 $(R^2=0,8418)$
 (2).

- infestation index was found in the nontreated control variants.

- There is a high correlation ($r=0.9174$) and regression ($R^2=0.8418$) dependence between the values for the infestation index of shot hole disease in biopesticides and conventional chemicals (Figure 2). Using the obtained equation, it is practically possible to make a mathematical model to predict the effect of the chemicals.

- No dependence has been found in cylindrosporiosis.



2. (Green smile) (%)

Fig. 2. Regression dependence between biopesticides (Green smile) and chemicals for infestation index of shot hole disease (%)

CONCLUSIONS

-
-

Green Smile

- Biologically certified preparations showed a very good effect in the fight against diseases, compared to nontreated control.
- In all three years of the study, in the studied fungal diseases, the lowest infestation index was found in the treatments using biological fungicides of Green Smile or was close to the treatment using chemical preparations.

- Green Smile
 - Green Smile
 -
- The results of the study are a prerequisite for the inclusion of the studied biological products of Green Smile in the development of plant protection technologies for the control of fungal diseases of cherries and sour cherries.
 - Organically certified Green Smile products in the developed scheme for plant protection can successfully replace conventional preparations for organic fruit production.
 - The existing high correlation and regression dependence between biopesticides and chemicals is an opportunity to practically reduce the impact and use of chemicals compared to the use of biological fungicides.

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***Stelidota geminata* (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae)**

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***Stelidota geminata* (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in the Area of the IASS “Obraztsov chiflik” - Rousse, Bulgaria**

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

Stelidota geminata (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) -
-
(pitfall traps)
2018 .
Dundee Precious Metals Inc.
- -
2019 .
” - ,
” - ,
Say, 1825.
: *Stelidota geminata*,
,

The strawberry sap beetle *Stelidota geminata* (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) is native to the North America. Established for the first time in Europe in the 1980s and it was caught for the first time in Bulgaria using pitfall traps in 2018 to the Chelopech area at biodiversity study in the buffer zones of Dundee Precious Metals Inc.

In the months of May-June-July 2019, damage was observed on various fruits in a private farm from the village of Chervena Voda, in the area of the IASS “Obraztsov chiflik” - Rousse. The pest was identified as *Stelidota geminata* Say, 1825.

Key wards: *Stelidota geminata*, strawberry sap beetle, Bulgaria

INTRODUCTION

Stelidota geminata (Say, 1825) -
Stelidota (Erichson,
Nitidulide (Latreille,
Coleoptera (Linnaeus,
1758).
(strawberry sap beetle).

Stelidota geminata (Say, 1825) belongs to the genus *Stelidota* (Erichson, 1843), the family Nitidulide (Latreille, 1802), the order Coleoptera (Linnaeus, 1758). The species is known as strawberry sap beetle. It comes from the

(Melsheimer, 1853).

et al., 2016).

80-

(Israelson, 1985; EPPO, 2010),

(Coulon, 1994),

1995 2009 (Pansa et al., 2014),

(Schuh et al., 2006),

(Callot, 2007), (Bensusan et al., 2008),

(Köhler, 2009),

(Merkl et al., 2009), (Spasi et al., 2011),

(Vávra et al., 2012),

(Tsinkevich and Solodovnikov, 2014),

(Jelínek, 2014), (Avgin et al., 2015),

(Stan, 2019).

2018 .

Dundee

Precious Metals Inc. (Gueorguiev, 2018).

”

continental United States and Mexico (Melsheimer, 1853). It has geographical distribution in Europe, Asia, North America, Central America and the Caribbean and South America.

The species is defined as invasive and expanding its range due to the possibility of acclimatization and trade globalization (EPPO, 2010; Jelinek et al., 2016). It was first established in Europe in the 1980s in the Azores (Portugal) (Israelson, 1985; EPPO, 2010) and subsequently in Belgium (Coulon, 1994), Italy in 1995 and 2009 (Pansa et al., 2014), Austria (Schuh et al., 2006), France (Callot, 2007), Spain (Bensusan et al., 2008), Germany (Köhler, 2009), Hungary (Merkl et al., 2009), Serbia (Spasi et al., 2011), Czech Republic (Vávra et al., 2012), Russia (Tsinkevich and Solodovnikov, 2014), Slovakia (Jelínek, 2014), Turkey (Avgin et al., 2015), Romania (Stan, 2019).

In Bulgaria, the species is for the first time identified in the summer of 2018 in pitfall traps for biodiversity research in Dundee Precious Metals Inc. buffer zones near Chelopech (Gueorguiev, 2018). The author states that the specimen is trapped near a strawberry field.

The aim of this study is to identify a pest of strawberry plantations in the area of IASS "Obraztsov Chiflik" - Rousse and to monitor the morphology, development cycle and damage it causes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

From the end of May to the middle of June 2019, biological material - strawberries damaged by an unknown pest - has been repeatedly submitted to the entomological laboratory of the IASS "Obraztsov chiflik" - Rousse. The origin of the samples is from a private farm in the village of Chervena Voda (5 km from Obraztsov Chiflik neighborhood). Strawberry planting material was purchased from the

. Coleoptera.

farmer in previous years and originating in Italy.

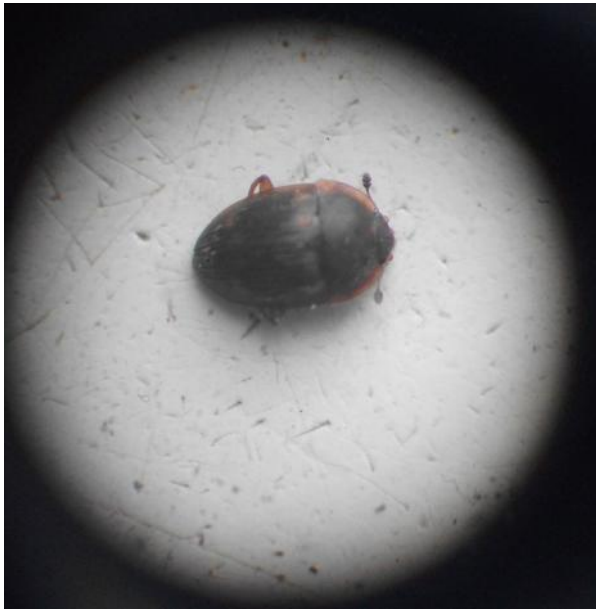
Samples were processed by cutting and microscope, and in them have established adult specimens of one species of order Coleoptera.

In the same private farm, in the beginning of July, specimens of the established species were found in damaged fruit of apricots and tomatoes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Beetles have been identified as *Stelidota geminata* Say, 1825.

Stelidota geminata Say, 1825.



1. *Stelidota geminata* Say, 1825 -
Fig. 1. *Stelidota geminata* Say, 1825 - imago

12.06.2019 .

- On 12.06.2019, the samples of the
- insects were sent to the Central Laboratory
for Plant Quarantine to the Bulgarian
Food Safety Agency - Sofia, where on
19.06.2019 was received confirmation of
the identification of the species.

19.06.2019 .

- The observed picture of the damage
- is expressed in various size holes and
moves over the surface and depth of fruit
(strawberries, apricots and tomatoes).

).

A similar picture of damage was

(Weber and Connell, 1975); (Armstrong, 1976), (Merkl et al., 2009; Stan, 2019); (Pansa et al., 2014); (USDA, 1967); (Douglas, 1941; Hagstrum and Subramanyam, 2009); (Moennich, 1941). (Payne and King, 1970) (Shubeck et al., 1977). (Spasi et al., 2011).

e

1,5 mm X-

0,75 mm,

(Loughner and Loeb, 2009). *Stelidota geminata*

23 °

Stelidota geminata

(USDA, 1968).

- observed in ripe strawberries and peaches (Weber and Connell, 1975); decaying oranges (Armstrong, 1976), fallen and decaying apples and pears (Merkl et al., 2009; Stan, 2019); raspberries, blueberries, peaches, cherries and melons (Pansa et al., 2014); tomatoes (USDA, 1967); stored peanuts and rice (Douglas, 1941; Hagstrum and Subramanyam, 2009); different types of mushrooms (Moennich, 1941). The species has been found even in pig carrion (Payne and King, 1970) and decaying wood residues (Shubeck et al., 1977). Adults and larvae of the pest are fed in the same place, causing the same damage, but the main damage is done by the adults, because during the harmful activity of the larvae the fruits are already damaged and decomposed (Spasi et al., 2011).

- Adult individuals are mainly found at the location of the damage, but when disturbed, they leave the fruit quickly by flying or crawling.

- Beetles are about 1.5 mm in length and are brown with a lighter colored X-shaped strip of elitrans. Sexual dimorphism is expressed in the width of the prothorax, and is larger in male individuals. The eggs are about 0.75 mm long, milky white, oblong. The larva is dirty white in color with a light brown head. The pupa is initially pale cream in color, subsequently the eyes darken and the wings turn gray (Loughner and Loeb, 2009).

- *Stelidota geminata* has two generations per year. The first generation develops on fruits of the strawberries. The optimum temperature for the development of the insect is about 23 °C. The smell of ripen fruits attract adults from the various hidden overwintering places. Migration of *Stelidota geminata* in spring from woodland to strawberry fields has been reported (USDA, 1968). It occurs by a series of short flights or walks (Williams et

(Williams et al., 1996).	-	al., 1996).
350	-	Each female lays about 350 eggs in moist
/	-	crevices near/on food sources. Hatching
2-3	-	is observed after 2-3 days. After hatching,
,	-	the larvae begin to search for food,
,	-	preferring a fruit that touches the ground.
5-6	-	The larvae spends 5-6 days feeding, one
,	-	day wandering and two days making a
,	-	pupal cell (1.5 cm deep in the soil) and
(-	passes through three instars.
)	-	1,5 cm
.	-	The beetles emerge from the soil in about
,	-	a week, and the females leave cells
-	-	earlier than the males. The life cycle is
.	-	completed in 20 days average. The adult
.	-	life span is 58 days average and the sex
58	-	ratio is 1:1. Sexual maturity occurs 4 days
- 1:1.	-	after eclosion and oviposition 5 days later.
4	-	The second generation develops on fruits
- 5	-	of many cultures (Spasi et al., 2011).
,	-	Only the adults overwintered (Weber and
(Spasi et	-	Connell, 1975).
al., 2011).	-	
(Weber and Connell, 1975).	-	Because the harvesting and
,	-	marketing of damaged and decomposed
,	-	fruits is impossible, economic losses are
(Spasi et al., 2011). <i>Stelidota</i>	-	high (Spasi et al., 2011). <i>Stelidota</i>
<i>geminata</i>	-	<i>geminata</i> is also a disease vector
(Loughner and Loeb, 2009),	-	(Loughner and Loeb, 2009), and caused
.	-	damage to fruits predispose to attack by
.	-	other insects eg. <i>Drosophila</i> spp. (Potter
. <i>Drosophila</i> spp.	-	et al., 2013).
(Potter et al., 2013).	-	
:	-	The pest control is difficult for
,	-	several reasons: at the same time, the
,	-	fruits are ripe for consumption; leaves
;	-	makes it difficult for insecticides to fall on
(Williams	-	the fruit (Williams et al., 1996); in
et al., 1996);	-	laboratory conditions the tested
,	-	insecticides have shown high efficacy, but
,	-	when applied in the field it varies greatly
,	-	due to insufficient contact with the beetles
,	-	that feed inside the damaged fruit.
.	-	
.	-	It is recommended that insecticides be
.	-	used against adult insects before egg-
.	-	laying. In the United States, organo-

(USDA, 1968),
 (Pritts and
 Bushway, 2003).

- phosphorus insecticides (USDA, 1968),
 synthetic pyrethroids (Pritts and Bushway,
 2003) have been used over the years.

Sanitary practices are
 recommended - timely picking of ripe
 fruits; removal and destruction of overripe
 fruits; the use of varieties of strawberries
 with erected habit, where the contact of
 the fruit with the soil surface is minimal;
 spatial isolation of strawberry fields from
 forest belts (Loughner and Loeb, 2009);
 immediate renovation of the fields after
 the strawberry harvest; laying poisonous
 baits in the areas where the migrations of
 beetles pass before entering the
 strawberry fields, and the chemical control
 products to be applied on-board in the
 spring during the migration of insects
 (Loughner et al., 2008).

Sanitary practices are recommended - timely picking of ripe fruits; removal and destruction of overripe fruits; the use of varieties of strawberries with erected habit, where the contact of the fruit with the soil surface is minimal; spatial isolation of strawberry fields from forest belts (Loughner and Loeb, 2009); immediate renovation of the fields after the strawberry harvest; laying poisonous baits in the areas where the migrations of beetles pass before entering the strawberry fields, and the chemical control products to be applied on-board in the spring during the migration of insects (Loughner et al., 2008).

(Loughner et al., 2008).
Neoaplectana carpocapsae Weiser
Microctonus nitidulidis Loan
 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae)
Stelidota geminata (Weiss,
 1979).

The nematode *Neoaplectana carpocapsae* Weiser and the wasp *Microctonus nitidulidis* Loan (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) parasites on the *Stelidota geminata* imago (Weiss, 1979) have been reported as possibilities for biological control.

Stelidota geminata
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CONCLUSIONS
Stelidota geminata is a major strawberry pest in the US, causing severe economic losses. After its accidental transfer and subsequent expansion into Europe, it becomes a serious problem in Serbia as well. Its appearance in our country is a challenge for fruit producers (as the enemy attacks not only strawberries, but many other fruits), as well as for researchers (looking for methods to reduce losses to acceptable levels). It is expected to be a problem in strawberry production for years to come.

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