

**(x *Triticosecale* Wittm.)**

9521

**Effect of the Environmental Conditions and the Crop Density on Economically Important Indices of Bulgarian Triticale Cultivars (x *Triticosecale* Wittm.)**

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**SUMMARY**

Triticale breeding peculiarities and its amphidiploid nature imposes the necessity of detailed study on the yield components under variable conditions of the environment both in agro climatic and agro-technology aspect. With the aim to determine the effect of different factors on the productivity of triticale, 11 Bulgarian cultivars (Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) were studied in three strongly contrasting harvest years at two crop densities (a whole-surface crop with density 550 germinating seeds/m<sup>2</sup> and a crop with nutrition area 30 x 10 cm).

It was found out that the crop density had an extremely high effect on the productivity-related parameters number of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight; their values were significantly higher on nutrition area 30 x 10 cm, regardless of

cm,

1000

- the investigated genotype.
- 
- The year of growing also had a serious impact on the parameters days to heading and plant height, while the crop density had a lower effect.
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On the other hand, 1000 kernel weight was influenced to a significant degree by the studied genotype, and certain tendencies were outlined between the investigated genotypes, which changed more slightly under different environments. Such data are related to the high plasticity of triticale, which makes it a valuable crop suitable for growing under changeable environmental conditions.

**Key words:** crop density, triticale varieties, conditions of the environment

## INTRODUCTION

- Agricultural production is a dynamic system influenced by multiple factors of different nature (biotic, abiotic, anthropogenic, agronomy practices-related). The main goal of the breeding programs, regardless of the cultural plant, is higher tolerance to the changeable conditions of growing and avoidance of the effects of various stress factors.
- According to data of Boyer (1982), over 70 % of the losses of the yield from the cultural plants is due to abiotic stress related to the effect of the environmental factors and the soil-and-climatic conditions on the growth and development of the plants. Especially high is the effect of such type of stress on the cereals, as supported by a serious number of researches and publications (Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011; Cramer et al., 2011; Arseniuk, 2015).
- 

Boyer (1982) 70%

(Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011; Cramer et al., 2011; Arseniuk, 2015).

- The effect of the abiotic stress factors, however, is also characterized by
-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a possible effect depending on the applied agronomy practices. Kirchev (2005)</li> <li>- reported different yields from Bulgarian triticale varieties achieved according to the applied nitrogen fertilization norms and the agro-climatic peculiarities of the region of their growing. Kabirian et al. (1998) pointed out the importance of the crop density for obtaining optimal yields from the three triticale varieties they studied. The authors pointed out that the yield and its components, apart from the used sowing density, were also significantly affected by the soil type. The use of irrigation is with especially favorable effect on the yield (Ortiz-Monasterio et al., 2002).</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: right;">(Ortiz-Monasterio et al. 2002).</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are a number of other researches showing that the applied agronomy practices are of marked importance for the yield and its components in this crop (Clapham and Fedders, 2008; McKenzie et al., 2007; Shahbazi et al., 2012; Gyssels et al., 2002; Dobрева, 2016; Gerdzhikova et al., 2013; Ivanova and Tsenov, 2014; Dobрева et al., 2018; Kirchev and Muhova, 2018; Kirchev et al., 2016). This fact is especially important because when evaluating the genotype x environment interaction, the component of the applied agronomy practices is often included in the environmental conditions component without distinguishing it from the agro climatic conditions. The used sowing density is of special effect in this respect (Bishnoi and Igbokwe, 1979).</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: right;">(Clapham and Fedders, 2008; McKenzie et al., 2007; Shahbazi et al., 2012; Gyssels et al., 2002; Dobрева, 2016; Gerdzhikova et al., 2013; Ivanova and Tsenov, 2014; Dobрева et al., 2018; Kirchev and Muhova, 2018; Kirchev et al., 2016).</p>	
<p>(Bishnoi and Igbokwe, 1979).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The different nutrition area on which a single plant grows is related to a different regime of nutrition, different water supply and different phytosanitary environment. This makes the sowing density a rather complex factor of key importance for the development of the plants.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a small number of experiments in triticale aimed at determining the effect of the crop density on the expression of yield and its</li> </ul>

Yankov et al. (2013) and Tsvetkov (1989) reported that the optimal density for triticale was 550-600 germinating seeds per m<sup>2</sup> (g.s.), establishing higher sowing norms for the varieties with lower tillering capacity. McKenzie et al. (2007) reported that under the five sowing norms they used (150, 200, 250, 300, 350 germinating seeds per m<sup>2</sup>) the yield varied from 635.2 to 659.4 kg/dca. Gebre-Mariam and Larter (1979) provided similar data; under three sowing densities (140, 280, 420 g.s./m<sup>2</sup>) they observed comparatively weak effects on the yield and the 1000 kernel weight, but significantly higher impact on the number of grains in spike and the number of productive tillers per plant. Sobkowicz (2006) reported higher plants, higher number of productive tillers and higher number of grains in triticale at a lower sowing norm (200 g.s.) as compared to the higher one (400 g.s.); 1000 kernel weight, however, was not affected significantly. Using experimental data for the different geographic locations in the Mediterranean, Bassu et al. (2013) suggested an optimization model of the sowing density for two triticale cultivars. The results from the model showed that higher yields were obtained at optimal densities of 100 to 300 plants per m<sup>2</sup> and under optimal precipitation norms. Such researches from different geographic regions indicate that triticale reacts differently depending on the combination of environmental factors, the crop density and the specific genotype.

The aim of this investigation was to study the effect of the crop density and the conditions of the environment on some economically important parameters of Bulgarian triticale varieties.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

To achieve the above aim, 11 triticale varieties developed at Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute (Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik,

52, (550gs) 10 m<sup>2</sup>, (10-15.10) 550 (30x10) 2 m, 30 m – 10 m. (10-15.10) 20 3 (2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017). ( , 01.01.) ( ) ( cm ) ( , g), 1000 , ( 1000, g) (1):

$$R = A - B$$

A – 550 gs  
 B – 30x10.

Microsoft Excel 2003,  
 – IBM SPSS  
 Statistics 19.

Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) were studied. All varieties were grown in two variants.

This first variant (550gs) was a whole area crop in experimental plots of 10 m<sup>2</sup>, in four replications according to a standard block design within a competitive varietal trial. Sowing was mechanized and was done within the standard dates for triticale (10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October) at density 550 seeds per m<sup>2</sup>.

The second variant (30x10) was sown in plots with 2 m long rows and 30 cm interspacing, the distance between the plants in the row being 10 cm. Sowing was manual within the standard dates for triticale (10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October) with 20 seeds per row.

The experiment was carried out in three successive harvest years (2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017). During the vegetative growth of the plants, the parameters days to heading (DH, number of days from 1<sup>st</sup> January) and plant height (PH) (in cm from the base of the plants to the spike's tip without the awns) were evaluated. Number of grains in spike (NGS), weight of grains in spike (WGS, g), 1000 kernel weight, ( 1000, g) were also determined by variety and variant.

Each of the parameters was summarized and averaged over years, crop density and genotype. ANOVA was carried out for each parameter to determine the effect of the genotype, the year and the crop density. The reduction of the values between the two variants was calculated for each parameter according to formula (1):

$$(1)$$

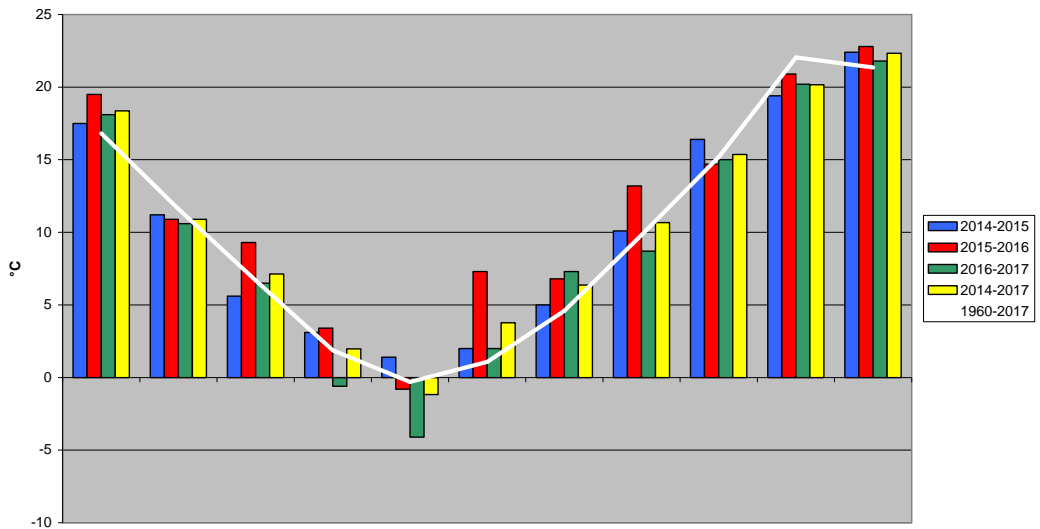
where

A is value of parameter at 550 gs  
 B is value of parameter at 30x10.

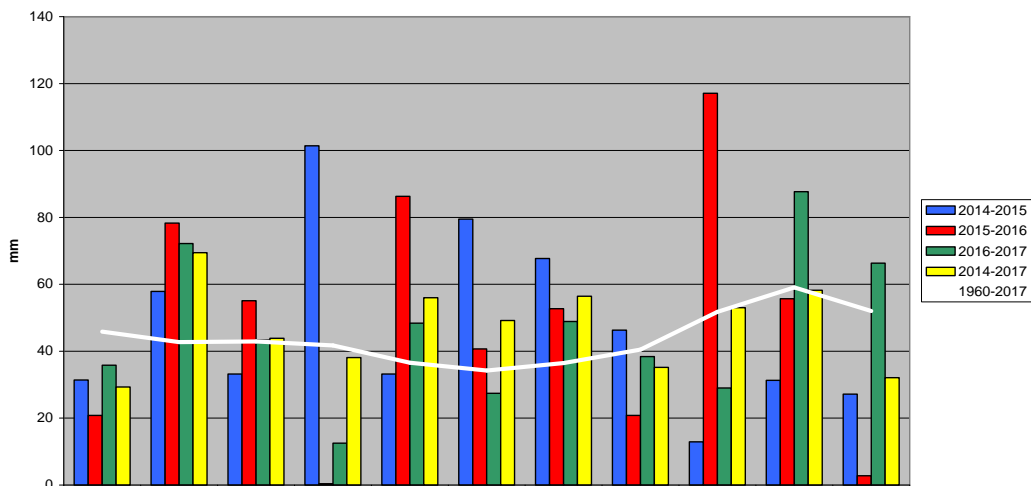
Microsoft Excel 2003 was used for summarizing the data and for variation analysis, and IBM SPSS Statistics 19 – for ANOVA.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The three periods of growing can be characterized as rather contrasting, which can be followed by the meteorological data presented in Figures 1 and 2. Especially strong was the effect of the rainfalls, which determined different water regime for the development of the plants during the separate economic periods. This was related to the difference in the occurrence of the physiological processes in the plants leading to different values of the considered economic parameters.



. 1.  
**Fig. 1. Air temperature dynamics during the studied period**



**2.**  
**Fig. 2. Dynamics of rainfalls during the investigated period**

2015/2016,

Economic year 2015/2016 was the least favorable for the development of the triticale varieties; due to the intensive rainfalls during May - June, lodging was observed on the one hand, and on the other – heavy disturbance in the proper occurrence of the grain nutrition.

2015/2016

Furthermore, the increased amount of rainfalls in May was the reason for the formation of lower number of grains in spike. Since triticale is characterized with a certain percent of cross pollination, the higher atmospheric humidity impeded the proper pollination and fertilization during this stage. Although in all periods of growing suitable temperatures for growing of the crop were available, in 2015/2016 the plants developed considerably earlier due to the higher temperatures in February and March.

2014/2015.

Among the three investigated economic years, 2014/2015 was the most suitable period for growing of triticale. During the heading and the anthesis, high temperatures without rainfalls were

predominant, which favored the formation of a high number of grains. At the same time, from mid-May to the end of June, a good combination of rainfalls and optimal temperatures were observed, and grain nutrition occurred comparatively well. Economic year 2016/2017 was characterized with a relatively colder winter and in spite of the retarded development of the plants during January – February, the warmer March and the rainfalls in April were favorable for the occurrence of the heading stage. The number of productive tillers in this economic year was comparatively lower than in the two preceding periods (Stoyanov, 2018), but the formation of a good number of grains in spike and the grain nutrition were within the normal range of the studied varieties.

The studied parameters and varieties responded differently according to the conditions of the environment and the combination of environmental conditions and crop density. Especially big difference was observed between economic year 2015/2016 and the other two periods with regard to the generative parameters – number of grains in spike, weight of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight. The results over years for the two crop densities (Tables 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) showed that the unfavorable conditions of the environment had a negative effect on the growth and development of the plants; they entered the heading stage too early, accumulated too much biomass (expressed in plant height), their number of grains in spike was low, the formed grains were difficult to fill, all of these resulting in extremely low spike productivity. Nevertheless, the observed results showed that the different crop density related to different response of the individual investigated genotypes during the separate periods. This was an indication that the different nutrition area as a factor was in a complex interaction with both the genotype and the conditions

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- of the environment. This implied that each of the studied parameters should be considered separately with the aim to establish specific effects of the investigated factors and their interactions.

1.

**Table 1. Three-way ANOVA of the parameter days to heading**

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	2
G	850,922	10	85,092	57,545	0,000	5,74
C	1290,566	1	1290,566	872,766	0,000	8,70
E	8850,412	2	4425,206	2992,618	0,000	59,69
G * C	39,422	10	3,942	2,666	0,002	0,27
G * E	429,342	20	21,467	14,517	0,000	2,90
C * E	2752,794	2	1376,397	930,811	0,000	18,57
G * C * E	222,222	20	11,111	7,514	0,000	1,50
/Error	390,379	264	1,479			2,63
/Total	14826,058	329				

G – /Genotype; E – /Environment; C – /Crop density; SS – /Sum of squares; df – /Degrees of freedom; MS – /Mean square; Sig. – /Significance.

2.

**Table 2. Days to heading over cultivars and years**

Cultivars	550gs			30 x 10			550gs	30x10	R
	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017			
/Kolorit	129	117	140	135	130	137	129	134	-5
/Atila	131	128	144	138	134	143	134	138	-4
/Akord	132	122	143	136	136	138	132	136	-4
/Respekt	132	129	144	136	137	142	135	138	-3
/Bumerang	131	127	141	135	133	138	133	135	-2
/Irnik	131	120	141	135	132	137	131	135	-4
/Dobrudzhanets	130	119	141	135	130	138	130	134	-4
/Lovchanets	132	120	144	136	131	139	132	136	-4
52/Doni 52	132	121	142	135	135	138	131	136	-4
/Blagovest	132	120	141	136	133	137	131	135	-4
/Borislav	131	119	139	134	131	136	129	134	-4
/Average	131	122	142	136	133	138	132	136	-4

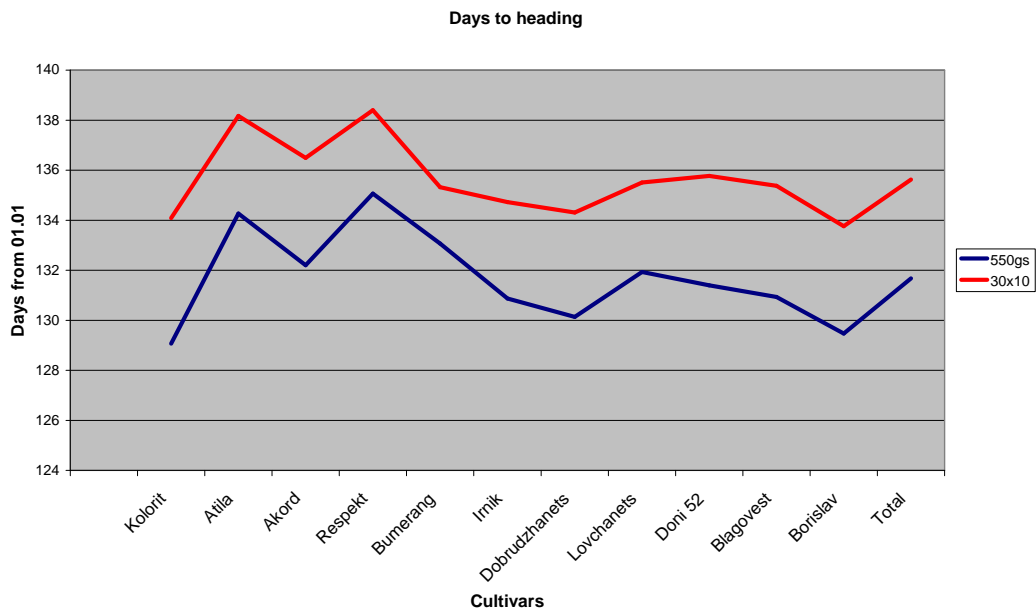
1.

- 1. Days to heading
- Days to heading is a parameter characterized with extremely conservative behavior to the other studied parameters.
- The observed differences between the days to heading of the two investigated

2 5 , 550gs  
 30 10. 11  
 , 8 ( , , -  
 , ) , 52,  
 , ) - 4  
 , , -  
 (2 )  
 (3 ), -  
 (5 ).  
 59,69%  
 18,57%  
 8,70%  
 3.

- crop densities demonstrated that the individual genotypes had a comparatively identical reaction. The margin of the difference, averaged for the three investigated periods, was from 2 to 5 days, the heading of the variant with 550gs being earlier than the heading of the variant 30x10. Among the 11 investigated varieties, 8 (Atlia, Akord, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav) had a date to heading earlier with 4 days, which was an indication that in this parameter the genotype and its interaction with the environment and the crop density should be very low. The lowest difference between two crop densities, averaged for the three years, was observed in variety Bumerang (2 days) and variety Respekt (3 days), while the difference for variety Kolorit was highest (5 days).

- ANOVA confirmed the conservative nature of this parameter. Of the total variation, 59.69 % were due to the conditions of the environment, and 18.57 % were related to the interaction of the environmental conditions with the crop density. The factor crop density determined only 8.70 % of the total variation of the parameter. The effect of the genotype and its interaction with the rest of the factors was also very low. These peculiarities showed that on the one hand the genotypes were extremely similar with regard to the expression of this parameter regardless of the environmental conditions. The differences between the separate genotypes during different periods and at different crop densities remained identical. This was also confirmed by the tendency observed between the separate varieties presented in Figure 3.



. 3.

**Fig. 3. Tendency in the days to heading of the investigated varieties at two crop densities, averaged for three years**

The literature on triticale worldwide does not mention any effect of the crop density on the days to heading of the individual varieties. Such data, however, are especially important, since they give an idea about how the thin crop develops in comparison to the crop with optimal density and distribution of the plants. Very thin crops develop with different dynamics and it is therefore necessary to follow which genotypes have weaker response to such deviations from the normal nutrition regime. In this respect, the best reaction was that of cultivar Bumerang, in which the lowest difference in the days to heading at the two investigated crop densities was observed.

## 2. Plant height

In plant height, a different behavior from that observed for days to heading was determined. It was related to the higher variability of the trait and to the higher reaction to the conditions of the

3) (26,40%)

- 20,34%,

19,47%.

60%

9,66%

4.

- environment. ANOVA (Table 3) showed that the factor conditions of the environment had the highest significance for the variation of the parameter (26.40 %). The interaction of the environmental conditions with the crop density also had a significant effect on the expression of the plant height – 20.34 %, while the independent action of the factor crop density was 19.47 %.

- The action of the two factors and their interaction determined over 60 % of the total variation, which was once again related to the lower genotypic effect on the expression of a qualitative trait. In contrast to days to heading, in plant height the effect of the genotype as a factor determined 9.66 % of the total variation, which was almost twice as high. This showed that between the investigated genotypes there were significant differences with regard to the values of the parameter, as can be seen in Table 4.

### 3.

**Table 3. Three-way ANOVA of the parameter plant height**

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	2
G	3272,488	10	327,249	17,610	,000	9,66
C	6593,995	1	6593,995	354,830	,000	19,47
E	8941,353	2	4470,677	240,572	,000	26,40
G * C	334,672	10	33,467	1,801	,061	0,99
G * E	1916,497	20	95,825	5,156	,000	5,66
C * E	6889,681	2	3444,840	185,370	,000	20,34
G * C * E	1011,534	20	50,577	2,722	,000	2,99
/Error	4906,057	264	18,584			14,49
/Total	33866,277	329				

G – /Genotype; E – /Environment; C – /Crop density; SS – /Sum of squares; df – /Degrees of freedom; MS – /Mean square; Sig. – /Significance.

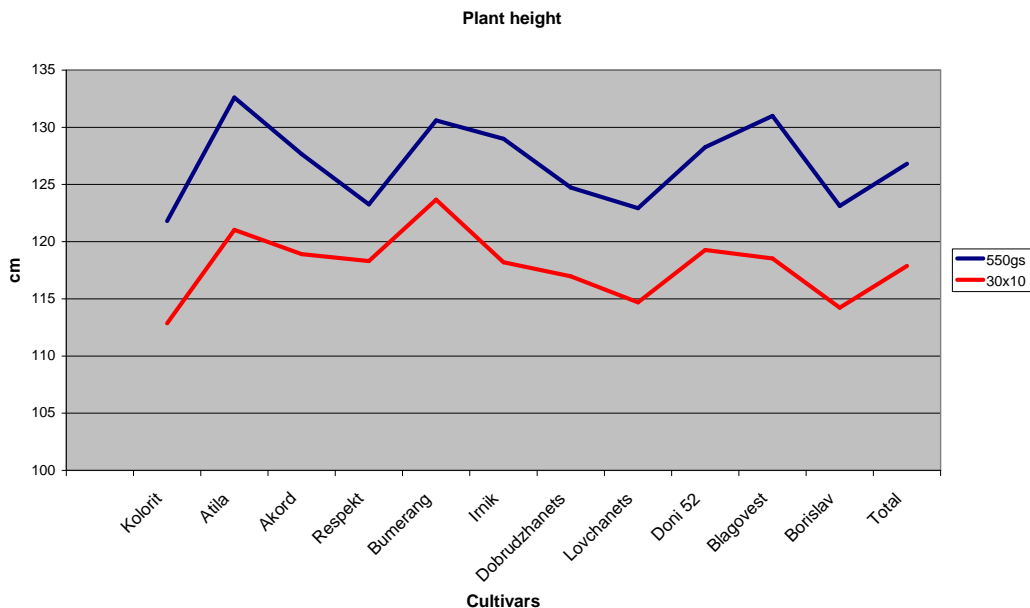
4.

**Table 4. Plant height over cultivars and years**

Cultivars	550gs			30 x 10			550gs	30x10	R
	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017			
/Kolorit	122	136	108	110	116	112	122	113	9
/Atila	132	138	128	115	125	123	133	121	12
/Akord	129	140	114	117	119	121	128	119	9
/Respekt	124	135	112	116	121	118	123	118	5
/Bumerang	129	144	119	118	130	123	131	124	7
/Irnik	128	143	116	110	121	123	129	118	11
/Dobrudzhanets	115	135	124	109	120	122	125	117	8
/Lovchanets	119	131	118	109	115	120	123	115	8
52/Doni 52	126	141	118	113	120	126	128	119	9
/Blagovest	125	146	121	111	121	124	131	119	12
/Borislav	115	139	115	111	115	117	123	114	9
/Average	124	139	118	112	120	121	127	118	9

-  
,  
30 10  
-  
12, 11 12 cm. -  
- 5 7 cm.  
-  
4).  
550gs,  
30 10  
,  
30 10  
-  
550gs.  
-  
.

The highest difference between the two crop densities was observed in cultivars Atila, Irnik and Blagovest, which in the variant 30x10, averaged for the three years, were lower with 12, 11, and 12 cm, respectively. The lowest difference was registered in cultivars Respekt and Bumerang – 5 and 7 cm. In contrast to days to heading, in this parameter a clear tendency with regard to the differences between the varieties at the two variants of crop density could not be outlined (Figure 4). Averaged for the three years, highest were the plants of Blagovest and Irnik under conditions of 550gs, while in the scheme 30x10 – the plants of Bumerang. The lowest plants, respectively, were found in cultivars Kolorit, Borislav and Lovchanets in the two variants of crop density. Regardless of the genotype, however, the height of the plants in the scheme 30x10 was significantly lower than that of the variant 550gs. This was related to the larger nutrition area of the plants at the lower crop density and the lower competitiveness between the individual plants.



. 4.

**Fig. 4. Tendency in plant height of the investigated cultivars at two crop densities, averaged for three years**

Sobkowicz (2006),	-	Sobkowicz (2006) registered lower plants at higher crop density. This tendency did not correspond to our results and was probably related to the greater competitiveness for nutrients in the variety tested by the above author. In contrast to our experiment, in which only winter triticale forms were used, Sobkowicz (2006) used a spring variety, which was planted comparatively late.
(2004)	Giunta and Motzo (Antares Rigel)	Giunta and Motzo (2004), again in two spring types of triticale (Antares Rigel), reported increasing plant height up to a certain limit, then it either did not increase any further, or gradually decreased.
	(50 g.s.)	The authors pointed out that at the lowest density (50 g.s.), plant height varied from 91 to 109 cm during the three periods of investigation, and at the highest crop density (700 g.s.) it was between 94 and 115 cm.
	(700 g.s.)	

3.  
-  
( 5) 88,55%

6.

3. Number of grains in spike  
This parameter was to a highest degree affected by the factors environmental conditions and crop density. With regard to the total variation (Table 5), 88.55 % were related to the crop density, as can be found based on the data on the individual varieties in Table 6.

5.

**Table 5. Three-way ANOVA of the parameter number of grains in spike**

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	2
G	4053,546	10	405,355	6,367	,000	1,06
C	338831,334	1	338831,334	5322,318	,000	88,55
E	8848,838	2	4424,419	69,498	,000	2,31
G * C	4245,686	10	424,569	6,669	,000	1,11
G * E	3545,363	20	177,268	2,785	,000	0,93
C * E	3474,420	2	1737,210	27,288	,000	0,91
G * C * E	2819,069	20	140,953	2,214	,003	0,74
/Error	16806,862	264	63,662			4,39
/Total	382625,117	329				

G – /Genotype; E – /Environment; C – /Crop density; SS – /Sum of squares; df – /Degrees of freedom; MS – /Mean square; Sig. – /Significance.

6.

**Table 6. Number of grains in spike over cultivars and years**

Cultivars	550gs			30 x 10			550gs	30x10	R
	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017			
/Kolorit	25	27	24	102	80	94	25	92	-66
/Atila	25	19	23	88	73	85	22	82	-60
/Akord	25	24	29	95	72	68	26	78	-52
/Respekt	24	17	25	93	76	86	22	85	-63
/Bumerang	23	19	20	104	77	89	20	90	-70
/Irnik	31	21	21	100	81	92	24	91	-67
/Dobrudzhanets	24	16	25	92	69	116	22	92	-71
/Lovchanets	23	13	17	100	75	88	17	88	-70
52/Doni 52	24	21	24	97	79	85	23	87	-64
/Blagovest	24	20	21	107	82	94	22	94	-72
/Borislav	23	22	18	76	65	72	21	71	-50
/Average	25	20	22	96	75	88	22	86	-64

30 10

550 . .

2,31%

2015/2016

550gs

30 10.

104

2015/2016.

2014/2015

77

30 10.

(70),

52 (72) (

(71),

6).

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(50).

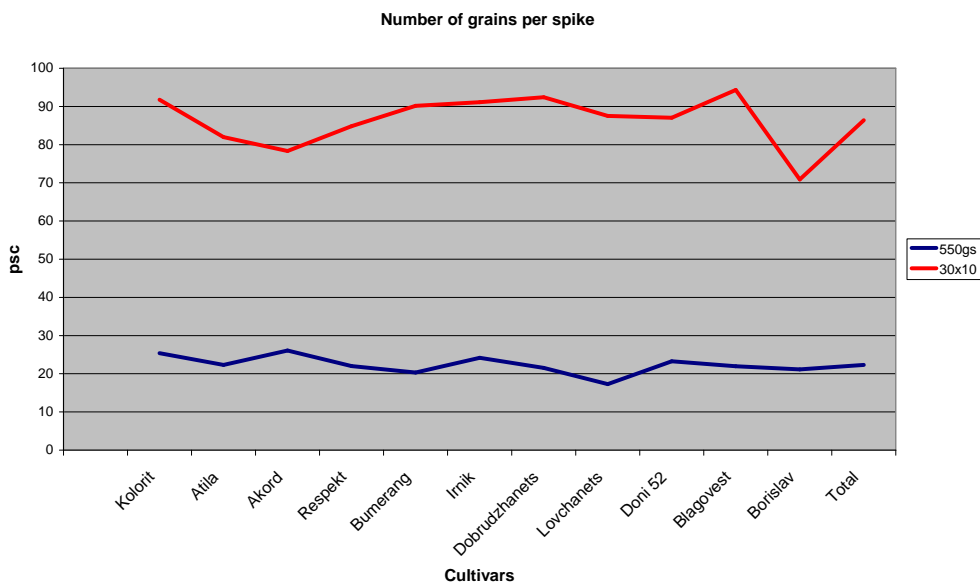
(

5),

The results on the good number of grains in spike at the sowing scheme 30x10 exceeded several times the number of grains in spike determined at density of 550 g.s. standard for triticale. Although the percent of the environmental conditions as a factor was only 2.31 % from the total variation, the weather had a significant effect on the number of grains in spike. During the three years of testing, at the two crop densities, economic year 2015/2016 was characterized with the lowest values of this parameter in all investigated cultivars. Although in the variant 550gs this difference was not as high, the different number of grains in spike during the individual periods can be clearly followed in the scheme 30x10. Clearly outstanding in this variant was cultivar Bumerang, in which, averaged for 2014/2015, the number of grains in spike decreased from 104 to 77 in 2015/2016. In this parameter, the effects of the genotype and of all interactions with the rest of the factors were very low. Nevertheless, the number of grains in spike of the individual varieties differed considerably, and this was most evident in the scheme 30x10.

The highest differences between the two variants of crop density were observed in cultivars Bumerang (70), Dobrudzhanets (71), Lovchanets (70) and Doni 52 (72) (Table 6). The lowest difference between the two variants, respectively, was registered in Akord (52) and Borislav (50). The data obtained for the respective cultivars showed that in the thinner crops, the plants to a large extent compensated for their productivity by sharply increasing the number of grains in spike. However, a clear tendency for triticale could not be determined (Figure 5) since the higher crop density did not lead to proportional increase of the number of grains in spike in the individual investigated genotypes.





. 5.

**Fig. 5. Tendency in number of grains in spike of the investigated cultivars at two crop densities, averaged for three years**

al., 2016)

1000

Kabirian et al. (1998)

- In cultivar Borislav lower results were observed on the number of grains in spike in the scheme 30x10, while in the variant 550gs all other cultivars were almost equal with regard to this parameter. It is a peculiarity of this cultivar (Baychev et al., 2016) to form a lower number of grains in spike in comparison to the rest of the varieties, but with higher values of 1000 kernel weight. Therefore, even under sharp deterioration of the growing conditions, the reduction of the number of grains in spike was less clearly expressed than in the rest of the varieties. Cultivars such as Kolorit and Irnik were respectively characterized with a very high number of grains in spike regardless of the environmental conditions and the crop density.

- Kabirian et al. (1998) obtained results on the three triticale varieties they investigated, which corresponded to the data from our experiment – at the higher crop density the number of grains in spike decreased, although to various degrees in

Gebre-Mariam and Larter (1979),  
(2006)

10

Giunta and Motzo (2004)

(50 (700 . .)),

24 26

- 5

4.

- 71,8% ( 7).

7.

the different varieties. Similar results have been observed also by Gebre-Mariam and Larter (1979), although the differences were not as high as in our case. Sobkowicz (2006), at twice as high density of the investigated cultivar, obtained a difference of only 10 grains in spike between the two crop densities. Giunta and Motzo (2004) pointed out very detailed results like that on the behavior of the two varieties they studied during three different periods. During the first two of the investigated economic years, they obtained results similar to our data about very high differences between the lowest (50 g.s.) and the highest (700 g.s.) crop density, 24 and 26 grains, respectively. In the third studied period, however, the differences were very low – 5 grains in spike. This was due to the spring sowing of the investigated varieties during that period of vegetative growth, while in the first two periods the sowing was in autumn. Such results demonstrate that the growing conditions have a significant effect on the expression of such a parameter as number of grains in spike.

#### 4. Weight of grains in spike

In weight of grains in spike, the crop density was also important for the value of the total variation – 71.8 % (Table 7).

**Table 7. Three-way ANOVA of the parameter weight of grains in spike**

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	2
G	4,993	10	,499	3,648	,000	0,39
C	908,330	1	908,330	6636,561	,000	71,80
E	196,496	2	98,248	717,831	,000	15,53
G * C	6,181	10	,618	4,516	,000	0,49
G * E	7,381	20	,369	2,697	,000	0,58
C * E	100,569	2	50,284	367,394	,000	7,95
G * C * E	5,014	20	,251	1,832	,018	0,40
/Error	36,133	264	,137			2,86
/Total	1265,097	329				

G – /Genotype; E – /Environment; C – /Crop density; SS – /Sum of squares; df – /Degrees of freedom; MS – /Mean square; Sig. – /Significance.

## 8.

Table 8. Weight of grains in spike over years and cultivars

Cultivars	550gs			30 x 10			550gs	30x10	R
	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017			
/Kolorit	1,03	0,81	1,13	5,25	2,78	4,98	0,99	4,34	-3,34
/Atila	1,17	0,74	1,15	5,41	2,41	5,13	1,02	4,32	-3,29
/Akord	1,14	0,71	1,46	5,46	2,07	4,22	1,11	3,92	-2,81
/Respekt	1,04	0,45	1,21	5,11	2,21	5,23	0,90	4,18	-3,28
/Bumerang	1,08	0,55	1,01	6,08	2,59	5,51	0,88	4,73	-3,85
/Irnik	1,25	0,65	0,96	5,26	2,10	5,37	0,95	4,24	-3,29
/Dobrudzhanets	1,00	0,48	1,32	4,99	2,08	5,68	0,93	4,25	-3,31
/Lovchanets	0,90	0,34	0,81	5,21	2,02	4,78	0,68	4,00	-3,32
52/Doni 52	1,01	0,72	1,20	5,06	2,88	5,10	0,98	4,34	-3,37
/Blagovest	1,01	0,64	1,03	5,74	2,79	5,24	0,89	4,59	-3,69
/Borislav	1,22	0,80	0,99	4,78	2,38	4,66	1,00	3,94	-2,94
/Average	1,08	0,63	1,12	5,30	2,39	5,08	0,94	4,26	-3,32

15,53%.

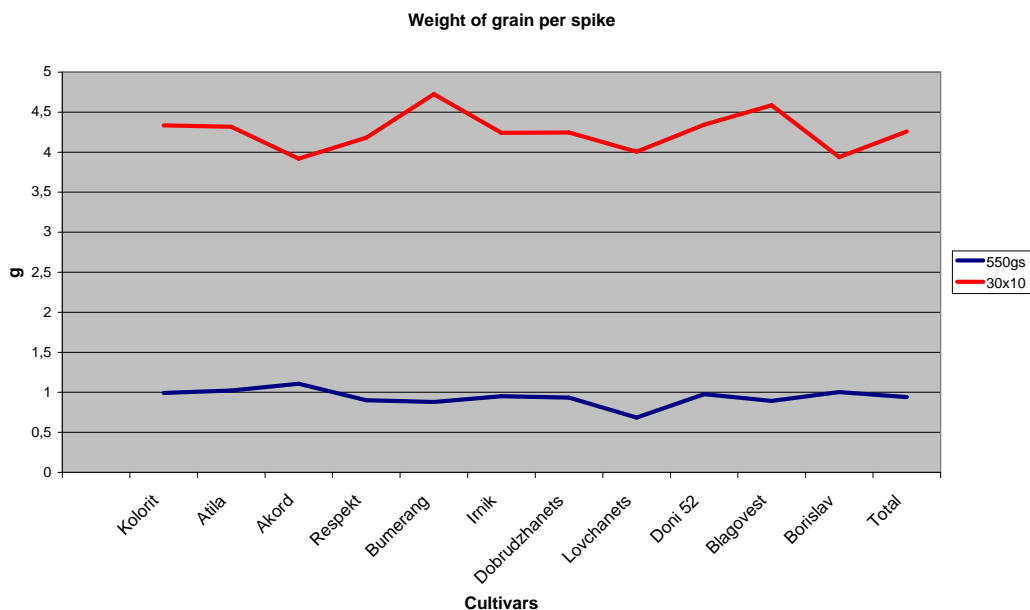
- 1%.

- 7,95%.

( + )

Unlike number of grains in spike, however, in this case the factor environmental conditions was factor important – 15.53 %. The factor genotype and all its interactions with the other two factors had an insignificant effect of less than 1 %. The interaction between the conditions of the environment and the crop density also had certain impact on the total variation of the parameter – 7.95 %. These results showed that in general the growing conditions (environment + agronomy practices) had a much higher significance for the formation of a qualitative parameter such as number of grains in spike than the potential of the individual cultivars.

The effect of the interaction of the three studied factors was insignificant, showing that a clear tendency of the response of the individual cultivars with regard to the impact of the crop density and the environmental conditions on them could not be followed.



. 6.

**Fig. 6. Tendency in weight of grains in spike of the investigated cultivars at two crop densities, averaged for three years**

Concerning the individual cultivars, a certain similarity was observed according to their response for the parameter number of grains in spike. This was related to the fact that the number of grains in spike was the main component of the yield from the investigated cultivars (with the exception of Borislav) (Stoyanov, 2018). Highest was the difference between the two studied crop densities for weight of grains in spike in cultivars Bumerang (3.85 g), Doni 52 (3.37 g) and Blagovest (3.69g). The lowest differences was reported for the two crop densities in Akord (2.81g) and Borislav (2.94g). Nevertheless, the difference was rather high in all investigated cultivars – over 2g, averaged for the three studied periods. This was an indication that triticale, at strong thinning of the crop, was capable of enhancing the productivity of the spike several times. Therefore, cultivars such as Bumerang are extremely valuable, because besides their high productivity,

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 (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

5. 1000  
1000

(Stoyanov, 2018).

75%

8,95%.

– 5,75%.

2,05%,

- they also possess considerable plasticity, which in this case was related to the possibility for a higher spike productivity on a larger nutrition area. On the other hand, although this cultivar was characterized as plastic, the yields from it did not show high stability under strongly deteriorated conditions of the environment (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016). The behavior of cultivar Akord was the opposite, which, although with lower plasticity, was characterized with a very high degree of stability of yield and its components (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

- There are no references in literature about the response of the trait weight of grain in spike to different densities for growing of triticale. Nevertheless, we observed a tendency in the investigated cultivars similar to the tendency noticed for the parameter number of grains in spike. The obtained results, however, emphasize the fact that the spike productivity is a complex trait, which is considerably variable according to the conditions of the environment (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016).

#### 5. Thousand kernel weight

- Thousand kernel weight is a parameter, which to a large extent is affected by the conditions of the environment, especially under unfavorable conditions of growing (Stoyanov, 2018). The ANOVA results showed that the conditions of the environment accounted for 75 % of the total variation; the effect of the crop density was only 8.95 % in contrast to the other parameters. The genotype also had a higher effect on the expression of this parameter – 5.75 %. The interactions of the genotype with the rest of the parameters were again very low. The interactions, however, of the genotype with the environmental conditions in this parameter was 2.05 %, which is rather typical for triticale as a crop. The interaction of the environmental conditions with the crop density was also significant

4,51%.

90%

( 10).

9.

1000

- 4.51 %. On the whole, the effect of the conditions of the environment and the crop density accounted for approximately 90% of the total variation. This was an indication that although determined by the genotype, the parameter was also considerably influenced by the conditions of the environment. The presence of certain genotype effects were indicative for the tendency observed between the separate cultivars to remain comparatively the same over years (Table 10).

**Table 9. Three-way ANOVA for the parameter 1000 kernel weight**

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.	2
G	2481,184	10	248,118	58,889	,000	5,75
C	3864,308	1	3864,308	917,164	,000	8,95
E	32365,845	2	16182,922	3840,895	,000	75,00
G * C	96,553	10	9,655	2,292	,014	0,22
G * E	885,213	20	44,261	10,505	,000	2,05
C * E	1945,828	2	972,914	230,914	,000	4,51
G * C * E	404,561	20	20,228	4,801	,000	0,94
/Error	1112,317	264	4,213			2,58
/Total	43155,808	329				

G – /Genotype; E – /Environment; C – /Crop density; SS – /Sum of squares; df – /Degrees of freedom; MS – /Mean square; Sig. – /Significance.

10. 1000

**Table 10. 1000 kernel weight over cultivars and years**

Cultivars	550gs			30 x 10			550gs	30x10	R
	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017			
/Kolorit	42,1	30,1	46,2	51,5	34,1	53,1	39,4	46,2	-6,8
/Atila	46,9	38,1	51,2	61,3	32,7	60,2	45,4	51,4	-6,0
/Akord	45,4	29,6	50,2	57,3	28,5	62,3	41,7	49,4	-7,6
/Respekt	43,7	26,5	48,5	54,7	29,4	61,0	39,6	48,4	-8,8
/Bumerang	48,0	29,5	51,0	58,2	33,4	61,6	42,8	51,1	-8,3
/Irnik	40,1	31,1	46,6	51,9	25,2	58,1	39,3	45,1	-5,8
/Dobrudzhanets	41,8	31,0	52,4	53,7	29,6	57,7	41,7	47,0	-5,3
/Lovchanets	40,0	27,1	48,5	52,1	26,7	53,9	38,6	44,3	-5,7
52/Doni 52	41,4	34,1	49,7	51,6	35,9	59,9	41,7	49,1	-7,4
/Blagovest	41,2	31,9	48,1	53,2	33,7	55,8	40,4	47,6	-7,2
/Borislav	51,9	35,6	56,5	62,4	36,7	64,4	48,0	54,5	-6,5
/Average	43,9	31,3	49,9	55,3	31,5	58,9	41,7	48,5	-6,8

52.  
8,8  
8,3g.  
7.

Among the investigated cultivars, Respekt and Bumerang were with the highest difference between 1000 kernel weight at the two crop densities – 8.8 and 8.3, respectively. Lowest were the differences in cultivars Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets and Doni 52, respectively. The observed differences, averaged for the three investigated periods, showed that the different genotypes responded in a comparatively similar way and with small differences between them. The outlined tendency finds support in Figure 7.



**Fig. 7. Tendency in 1000 kernel weight of the investigated cultivars at two crop densities, averaged for three years**

1000

Among the investigated cultivars, a tendency was observed in cultivar Bumerang, the differences in the parameters number of grains in spike, weight of grains in spike and 1000 kernel weight were comparatively high. This demonstrated that the cultivar responded strongly to the change of the nutrition area by increasing its spike productivity. This would be very important in regions, where

- certain unfavorable conditions cause thinning of the crops. Cultivar Bumerang compensated for its productivity both by increasing the number of grains in spike and by increasing 1000 kernel weight. This makes the cultivar applicable for production in different regions since it possesses high productivity along with plasticity, but also a good combination of drought tolerance and cold resistance (Stoyanov, 2018).

Concerning 1000 kernel weight, the observed reaction with regard to the investigated crop densities has been reported by other authors as well, for other genotypes. Kabirian et al. (1998) demonstrated that 1000 kernel weight also decreased with the higher crop densities in different cultivars, but to different degrees. Gebre-Mariam and Larter (1979) obtained the same data as well, and Sobkowicz (2006) reported the absence of a significant change in this parameter at twice as high crop density - at 200 g.s. it was 41.8 g, and at 400 g.s. - 41.7 g. In practice, a tendency for 1000 kernel weight was absent in the data reported by Giuna and Motzo (2004).

At the lowest crop density during the two winter periods of investigation, the parameter had values 52.8g and 48.8g. At higher crop density, 1000 kernel weight initially decreased, then increased at crop density 300 g.s., then again decreased at 700 g.s. These results demonstrated the importance of the genotype as a factor, which influenced the filling of the grains and the formation of the parameter.

The obtained results showed that the crop density actually had a rather complex effect on the individual genotypes and was in complex interaction with the conditions of the environment. The data on the separate cultivars gave an idea about those varieties, which exhibited various responses under changeable environments at different crop



densities. Cultivars characterized as more stable, such as Akord, showed lower differences under the different conditions of the environment and crop densities. Cultivars such as Bumerang and Dobrudzhanets revealed greater differences between the two crop densities under different conditions of the environment. This showed that besides being high-yielding, these cultivars also possessed good plasticity to changeable conditions of growing, which makes them valuable cultivars suitable for the agro-climatic conditions of Bulgaria.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the obtained results, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. A high effect of the crop density on the productivity related parameters – number of grains in spike and weight of grains in spike, was determined; the values of these parameters were significantly higher on nutrition area 30 x 10 cm, regardless of the studied genotype.
2. The year of growing also had a serious effect on these parameters.
3. The year had a strong influence on the parameters days to heading and plant height, while crop density had a lower impact on them.
4. On the other hand, 1000 kernel weight was significantly influenced by the studied genotype, and a tendency was outlined between the investigated genotypes, which changed less under different conditions of the environment.
5. Such data are related to the high plasticity of triticale, which makes it a valuable crop suitable for growing under changeable environments.

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## Energy Nutritional Value of Grass Mixtures with Different Ratio of Components

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Original scientific paper

2016-2019

5 m<sup>2</sup>.

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+ e (50:50);  
+ (50:50);  
+ (50:50);  
+ (25:25:25:25).

(147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ). -

(75.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB),

(18.3 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ) -  
(2.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ).

### SUMMARY

The experiment was carried out during the period 2016-2019 on light gray pseudo-podzolic soil in the experimental field of RIMSA - Troyan by the block method with the size of the harvest area 5 m<sup>2</sup>. The main chemical composition and nutritional value of the following grass mixtures were monitored by variants: bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass (25: 25: 25: 25).

It was found that the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue had the highest crude protein content (147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in DM). The lower levels of ADL in the grassland with a mixture of the bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (75.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) provide for higher digestibility of the fiber components in the composition of the feed. The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass had the highest calcium content (18.3 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in DM) and the lowest of phosphorus (2.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> in DM). Feed units for milk and

( $r=0.9845$ ).

- growth had the highest positive correlation ( $r = 0.9845$ ).

**Key words:** grass mixtures, chemical composition, energy nutritional value, correlations

## INTRODUCTION

The energy nutritional value of grass mixtures is a major factor that determines the quality of feed to meet the needs of animals for food and production of products of animal origin (Zemenchik et al., 2002; Waghorn, and Clark, 2004; Naydenova et al., 2015).

(Zemenchik et al., 2002; Waghorn, and Clark, 2004; Naydenova et al., 2015).

(Goranova and Mitev, 2008; Sanderson et al., 2012),

In mixed crops, complex relationships are created between the different species (Goranova and Mitev, 2008; Sanderson et al., 2012), and the percentage of legumes and grasses in the mixtures affects the quality and nutritional value of the feed (Vasileva and Ilieva, 2009).

(Vasileva and Ilieva, 2009).

- Their ability to combine, as well as their competitiveness, are important factors in maintaining dynamic stability in grassland.

The uptake and assimilation of feed by animals depends to a large extent on the percentage of crude protein in the dry matter, the content of water-soluble carbohydrates and the digestibility of the cell contents in plant cells (Simili da Silva et al., 2013).

(Simili da Silva et al., 2013).

- The development phase in forage crops (Bélanger et al., 2018) affects the content of components in the composition of plant cell walls (Kicheva and Angelova, 2006). As the age of the plant increases, there are changes in the content of crude protein and crude fiber, which accompany the intensity of stem growth in height and the accumulation of mechanical sclerenchyma tissue (Bozhanska, 2017).

(Bélanger et al., 2018),  
(Kicheva and Angelova, 2006).

(Bozhanska, 2017).

- Crude protein decreases from the beginning of the growing season to the end, and the content of crude fiber

(Eitzinger et al., 2010; Lelièvre et al., 2010; Bozhanska, 2020).

(Lobell and Field, 2007). In vitro

(Springer et al., 2001).

(Slavov and Georgiev, 2002)

2016-2019

1), ( „Ryder”), ( „Loke”) ( „Erecta”).  
 : (100% - );  
 + e (50:50);  
 + (50:50);

increases with increasing plant height.

Climate change requires the adaptation of fodder crops and mixtures to the changed conditions (Eitzinger et al., 2010; Lelièvre et al., 2010; Bozhanska, 2020). More drought-resistant or drought-tolerant components are currently being sought. Species that can ensure their self-sowing and be present in grassland for a long time are of greater importance for the practice (Lobell and Field, 2007). In vitro digestibility of legumes and grasses is a determining indicator of their selection and participation in the composition of grassland in warm climates (Springer et al., 2001).

In Bulgaria, a number of authors (Slavov and Georgiev, 2002) believe that warming will significantly extend the growing season of perennial grasses and will require a new approach in the selection, cultivation and use in the changed environmental conditions in the country.

Although the majority of feed production in Bulgaria consists of grass mixtures, there aren't enough studies that identify the best suitable species in feed mixtures.

The aim of the present study was to determine the energy nutritional value of mixed grasses at different ratios of components.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in the period 2016-2019 on light gray pseudo-podzolic soil in the experimental field of RIMSA - Troyan. Sowing was conducted with bird's-foot-trefoil (cultivar 'Targovishte 1') and red fescue ('Ryder'), cock's foot ('Loke') and Timothy grass ('Erecta'). The following variants were tested: bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control); bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil+ red fescue (50:50); bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50);

+ (50:50);  
 +  
 (25:25:25:25).

60° ,  
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Weende ,  
 :  
 ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) Kjeldahl ( /ISO-5983);  
 ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) ( /ISO-6492) -  
 Soxhlet; (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) -  
 ( /ISO-5984)

550° ; - ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) -  
 % ;  
 = 100 - ( , % + , % + , % +  
 , % + , %)  
 g kg<sup>-1</sup>; ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) -  
 ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) -  
 ( , g kg<sup>-1</sup>) -

(Agilent 8453 UV -  
 visible Spectroscopy System),  
 425 m.

( )  
 ( ),  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,

Todorov (2010):  
 MJ/kg CB) = 0,0242\* + 0,0366\* +

+ bird's-foot-trefoil+ cock's foot + red fescue  
 + + Timothy grass (25: 25: 25: 25).

- The grassland was harvested twice  
 - a year in the bud-formation phase -  
 - beginning of flowering of bird's-foot-trefoil.

- The chemical analysis on the  
 - composition of entirely dry matter was  
 - performed on an average sample of each  
 - variant and each replication. The plant  
 - materials were dried under natural  
 - conditions, and immediately before  
 - grinding, the samples were placed in a  
 - laboratory dryer at a temperature of 60°C,  
 - in order to facilitate grinding. The grinding  
 - was performed in a laboratory mill to a  
 - particle size of 1.0 mm.

- The basic chemical composition of  
 - the dry fodder mass was performed  
 - according to the Weende analysis, which  
 - includes the following indicators: Crude  
 - protein (CP, g kg<sup>-1</sup>) according to Kjeldahl  
 - (according to BDS/ISO-5983); Crude fiber  
 - (CFr, g kg<sup>-1</sup>); Crude fats (CF, g kg<sup>-1</sup>)  
 - (according to BDS/ISO-6492) - by  
 - extraction in a Soxhlet type extractor; Ash  
 - (g kg<sup>-1</sup>) - (according to BDS/ISO-5984)  
 - decomposition of organic matter by  
 - gradual combustion of the sample in a  
 - muffle furnace at 550°C; Dry matter (DM,  
 - g kg<sup>-1</sup>) - empirically calculated from % of  
 - moisture; NFE = 100 - (CP, % + CFr, % +  
 - CF, % + Ash, % + Moisture, %) converted  
 - to g kg<sup>-1</sup>; Calcium (Ca, g kg<sup>-1</sup>) - according  
 - to Schottz (complexometric) and  
 - Phosphorus (P, g kg<sup>-1</sup>) - by vanadate-  
 - molybdate by the method of Guericke and  
 - Curmis - spectrophotometer (Agilent 8453  
 - UV - visible Spectroscopy System),  
 - measuring in the range 425 m.

- The nutritional value of the feed  
 - was estimated according to the Bulgarian  
 - system as Feed units for milk (FUM) and  
 - Feed units for growth (FUG), and  
 - calculated on the basis of equations,  
 - according to the experimental values of  
 - CP, CFr, CF and NFE, recalculated by the  
 - coefficients for digestibility according to  
 - Todorov (2010): Gross energy (GE, MJ/kg  
 - DM) = 0.0242 \* CP + 0.0366 \* CF +

$$0,0209^* + 0,017^* - 0,0007^*Zx$$

$$( \quad , \text{ MJ/kg CB} ) =$$

$$0,0152^* + 0,0342^* + 0,0128^* +$$

$$0,0159^* - 0,0007^*Zx.$$

(ANOVA).

( 1 ) , -  
 (164.27 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB). -  
 (147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB)  
 -  
 120,57 164,27 g kg<sup>-1</sup>  
 139,18 g kg<sup>-1</sup>  
 CB,  
 (VC= 13.76%).

$$0.0209 * CFr + 0.017 * NFE - 0.0007 * Zx$$

$$\text{and Exchange energy (EE, MJ/kg DM) =}$$

$$0.0152 * DP + 0.0342* CF + 0.0128 * DF$$

$$+ 0.0159 * DNFE - 0.0007 * Zx.$$

Variation analysis (ANOVA) was used for statistical data processing.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data from the chemical analysis (Table 1) show that the highest values of the crude protein were in the feed of bird's-foot-trefoil as a pure crop (164.27 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM). The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil - red fescue (147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup>DM) produced the highest crude protein content. Its values are from 120.57 to 164.27 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM at an average value of 139.18 g kg<sup>-1</sup>DM, and the variation according to the coefficient of variation had an average degree of variability (VC = 13.76%).

1. (g kg<sup>-1</sup> ) 2016-2019 .  
**Table 1. Basic chemical composition of perennial grass-legume mixtures (g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) on average for the period 2016-2019**

Variants	Crude protein	Crude fats	Crude fibers	sh	NFE	Calcium	Phosphorus
(100% - ) bird's-foot-trefoil (100% - control)	164.27	29.3	318.9	52.5	349.8	16.4	4.5
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot (50:50)	122.53	23.2	369.7	51.5	339.7	11.2	4.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue (50:50)	147.87	24.7	372.2	54.5	306.3	17.2	4.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (50:50)	140.67	24.1	332.0	54.1	348.2	16.9	3.7
+ + + bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass (25:25:25:25)	120.57	29.9	357.5	46.9	349.2	18.3	2.5
X	139.18	26.24	350.06	51.90	338.64	16.00	3.74
SD	18.24	3.12	23.60	3.05	18.54	2.77	0.75
VC	13.11	11.89	6.74	5.87	5.47	17.33	20.06
MIN	120.57	23.20	318.90	46.90	306.30	11.20	2.50
MAX	164.27	29.90	372.20	54.50	349.80	18.30	4.50



122.53 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB  
 ( .2) 147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB ( .3).

23.2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB ( +  
 ) 29.9 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB ( +  
 +  
 ),  
 26,24 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB.

(332.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ).  
 (372.2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> ),

350,06 g kg<sup>-1</sup> .

e .

(54.5 51.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB).

The relatively high values can be explained by the fact that the yield is formed mainly by the high relative share of bird's-foot-trefoil in the grassland. The established levels of the indicator varied from 122.53 g kg<sup>-1</sup>DM (var. 2) to 147.87 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM (var. 3). The lower values for the crude protein in the double mixtures of bird's-foot-trefoil with cock's foot and Timothy grass and its multicomponent mixture with cock's foot, red fescue and Timothy grass are due to the higher share of grasses in the grassland and respectively in the cut fodder mass.

The content of crude fat in the dry matter varied from 23.2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM (bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot) to 29.9 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM (bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass), and the reported average value was 26.24 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM.

The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with Timothy grass formed the lowest amount of crude fiber in the feed matter (332.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup>DM). Maximum values of crude fiber were reported in the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue (372.2 g kg<sup>-1</sup>DM), and the average value for this indicator was 350.06 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM.

The obtained values are related to the type of grass component and its share in the grassland, as well as to the dry matter content in the mowed biomass from the mixed grasslands. Red fescue is more competitive than Timothy grass compared to bird's-foot-trefoil and in combination with its slower development contributes to the higher content of crude fiber in plant biomass. Red fescue predominated in grassland in the third and fourth years and had a significantly higher presence than bird's-foot-trefoil.

The mineral content in the dry matter had similar values in the double mixtures of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue and Timothy grass (54.5 and 51.5 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM). The lowest amount of ash was

	+ e	+	found in the variant of bird's-foot-trefoil +
	+	-	cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass
		(46.9 g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	(46.9 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM).
CB).		-	In this case, a dependence was observed,
,		-	in which the content of ash in the grass
			biomass decreased with increasing the
			amount of components in the grassland.
		+	The mixed grassland of bird's-foot-
	+	+	trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue +
	-		Timothy grass and the pure crop of bird's-
			foot-trefoil had the highest content of
	(349.8	349.2 g kg <sup>-1</sup>	nitrogen-free extracts in the dry matter
CB),	(306.3 g kg <sup>-1</sup> CB)	-	(349.8 and 349.2 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM), while the
		-	lowest content was found in the grassland
			of bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue ( 306.3
			g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM).
			According to the coefficient of
	(11,89%) -	:	variation, the degree of variability in the
	(6,74%),	(5,87%),	respective indicators is: low for crude fats
		(5,47%) -	(11.89%), and very low for crude fiber
			(6.74%), ash (5.87%), nitrogen-free
			extract substances (5.47%).
		11.2 g kg <sup>-1</sup> CB	Calcium varied from 11.2 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM
(	+	) 18.3 g kg <sup>-1</sup>	(bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot) to 18.3 g
CB (	+ e	+	kg <sup>-1</sup> DM (bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot +
	+		red fescue + Timothy grass).
	).		The spectrophotometric measure-
			ment showed a maximum phosphorus
			content in the dry matter of bird's-foot-
		(4.5 g	trefoil as a pure crop (4.5 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM) and a
kg <sup>-1</sup> CB)			minimum in the mixture of bird's-foot-
	+	+	trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue +
	+		Timothy grass mixture and an average
	3,74 g kg <sup>-1</sup> CB.		value 3.74 g kg <sup>-1</sup> DM. The degree of
	(VC=17,33%)		variability of calcium (VC =17.33%) and
	(20.06%)		phosphorus was high (20.06%) according
			to the values of the coefficient of variation.
		(	The fiber components (NDF and
			ADF) of plant cell walls determining their
			structure, polysides hemicellulose and
			cellulose, natural polymer lignin and
			complexes between them, are key
			indicators of feed quality, due to the fact
			that during their decomposition they are
			food and energy source for ruminants.
			The plant biomass of the grassland
			with bird's-foot-trefoil and cock's foot

( 2)  
 (621.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB) (376.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB)  
 ( =545,52 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB)  
 (279,44 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB),  
 (VC=14,27) -  
 (VC=56,14) -  
 (418.9),  
 50:50  
 (539.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB),  
 (325.4 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB).

(Table 2) registered a relatively high content of neutral (621.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) and acidic (376.7 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) detergent fibers.

The mean value of NDF (X = 545.52 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) significantly exceeded that of ADF (279.44 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM), and the lowest degree of variability according to the coefficient of variation was found for NDF (VC = 14.27) and the highest for ADF (VC = 56.14) of all indicators characterizing the structural fiber components. The lowest level of NDF was found in bird's-foot-trefoil as a pure crop (418.9), and with the addition of the grass component the content of NDF and ADF also increased. The most favorable amount of NDF was found in the ratio between bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue (50:50) (539.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM), while in terms of ADF in the grassland with bird's-foot-trefoil and Timothy grass (325.4 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM)

2.

(g kg<sup>-1</sup> )

**Table 2. Structural fiber components of perennial grass-legume mixtures (g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) average for the period**

Variants	NDF	ADF	ADL	Hemicellulose	Cellulose	Lignification degree
( ) bird's-foot-trefoil (control)	418.9	286.7	79.5	132.3	207.2	190.0
+ e bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot	621.7	376.7	145.7	244.9	141.1	215.6
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue	539.0	348.6	178.7	190.5	169.5	330.0
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass	593.4	325.4	75.0	178.2	250.3	154.7
+ + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass / bird's-foot-trefoil +	554.6	345.8	163.8	208.8	182.0	275.3
X	545,52	279,44	128,54	190,94	190,02	233,12
SD	77,87	156,89	48,28	41,33	41,25	69,79
VC	14,27	56,14	37,56	21,64	21,71	29,94
MIN	418,90	0,70	75,00	132,30	141,10	154,70
MAX	621,70	376,70	178,70	244,90	250,30	330,00

(132.3 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB 244.9 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB)

Hemicellulose is a polysaccharide completely digestible, easily assimilated by animals and a major component in the plant cell. The amount of hemicellulose polyoside has a high degree of variation, which is evident from the maximum (132.3 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM and 244.9 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) and

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 190,94 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB.} \\
 &(330.0 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB}), \\
 &\quad (154.7 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB}). \\
 &233,12 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB} \\
 &\quad (VC = 29,94). \\
 &\quad + \\
 &(75.0 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB}), \\
 &\quad 128,54 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ CB,} \\
 &\quad (VC = 37,56).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(\quad 3), \\
 &(\quad - 0.78 \text{ kg CB}) \\
 &0.71 \text{ kg CB) } +
 \end{aligned}$$

minimum values, at an average value of  $X = 190.94 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$ . The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue ( $330.0 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$ ) had the highest degree of lignification, and the lowest one was found in Timothy grass ( $154.7 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$ ). The average value of the degree of lignification of all tested grass mixtures is  $233.12 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$  and showed a high coefficient of variation ( $VC = 29.94$ ).

The lower levels of ADL in the grassland with a mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass ( $75.0 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$ ) provide for higher digestibility of the fiber components in the feed composition. The reported mean value was  $128,54 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ DM}$ , and the variation had a high degree of variability according to the variation coefficient ( $VC = 37,56$ ).

The feed mass of both the pure crop of bird's-foot-trefoil and mixed grasslands did not differ in content of the amount of gross and exchange energy (Table 3), which regulates the metabolic processes in the animal organism.

The highest content of feed units for milk (FUM – 0.78 in kg DM) and growth (FUG – 0.71 in kg DM) were found in the pure crop of bird's-foot-trefoil and the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass. The nutritional value of feed depends on the prevailing botanical composition of the grassland. The high share of bird's-foot-trefoil in the grassland had an impact on the energy nutritional value of the grassland, as it raised its main indicators proportionately. The analysis of the data by variants shows that there wasn't any significant difference in the content of milk and growth units in the feed mass of the mixed grasslands. The same trend has been observed in terms of gross and exchange energy.

3.

(MJ/kg CB)

**Table 3. Energy nutritional value of mixed grasslands of legumes-grass meadow grasses (MJ/kg DM)**

Variants	/GE	/EE	/FUM	/FUG
( ) bird's-foot-trefoil (control)	19,43	8,45	0,78	0,71
+ e bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot	18,99	7,98	0,73	0,66
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + red fescue	19,19	7,96	0,73	0,65
+ bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass	18,89	8,15	0,75	0,68
+ + + bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's-foot + red fescue + Timothy grass	19,18	8,14	0,74	0,67
X	19,14	8,14	0,75	0,67
SD	0,21	0,20	0,02	0,02
VC	1,09	2,41	2,78	3,42
MIN	18,89	7,96	0,73	0,65
MAX	19,43	8,45	0,78	0,71

(r=0,9501)

(r=-0,9037)

(r=0,9140) (r=0,9224)

(r=0,9243) (r=0,9145).

(r=0,7469).

(r= 0,8509),

In the mixtures, the crude protein content of the harvested biomass demonstrated the highest positive correlation with the weight percentage of leguminous crops (r=0.9501) and in contrast the highest negative correlation with hemicellulose (r=-0.9037) (Table 4).

The effective use of mixed grasslands and their nutritional value are closely related to the analysis of the basic chemical composition and composition of cell wall components. The quantity of crude fiber indicates a relatively good positive correlation with the values of ADF (r=0.9140) and ADL (r=0.9224) in dry matter. The percentage share of grasses in the grassland also determines their high correlation dependencies with NDF (r=0.9243) and the hemicellulose content (r=0.9145).

The percentage share of legumes is only in a higher correlation with feed units for milk (r=0.7469).

Acid detergent fibers are in positive correlation with neutral detergent fibers (r= 0.8509) and hemicellulose is in high

(r= 0,9776).

(r=0,6379)  
(r= -0,7809)  
(r= -0,7916)  
(r= -0,8258).  
(r= 0,5799)  
(r=0,5764 ).  
- r=0,9845,

- positive correlation with acid detergent fibers (r= 0.9776).
- Acid detergent lignin is positively correlated with hemicellulose (r=0.6379) and negative with cellulose (r= -0.7809) and feed units for milk (r= -0.7916) and growth (r= -0.8258). Cellulose is positively dependent on feed units for milk (r= 0.5799) and growth (r=0.5764). The number of milk and growth units recorded a significant dependence on each other, expressed with a high correlation coefficient – r=0.9845, which is highest than all other indicators.

1), 4. (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>)  
(g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) (%) g kg<sup>-1</sup>  
DM

**Table 4. Correlations between yield indicators (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), share of sown grasses (%) and the content and nutritional value (g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) of perennial grass-legume mixtures**

Indicators	dry mass yield	CP	CFr	legumes	grasses	NDF	ADF	ADL	Hemicellulose	Cellulose	FUM
dry mass yield	1										
/CP	-0,7213	1									
/CFr	0,8412	-0,6282	1								
%, weigh % legumes	-0,6596	0,9501	-0,5585	1							
%, weight % grasses	0,8481	-0,8195	0,8526	-0,8693	1						
/NDF	0,7930	-0,8096	0,6121	-0,9125	0,9243	1					
/ADF	0,9581	-0,8230	0,9140	-0,7870	0,9516	0,8509	1				
/ADL	0,6001	-0,5156	0,9224	-0,3929	0,6585	0,3289	0,7234	1			
Hemicellulose	0,9466	-0,9037	0,8304	-0,8458	0,9145	0,8616	0,9776	0,6379	1		
Cellulose	-0,7505	0,4340	-0,7956	0,2060	-0,4610	-0,2300	-0,6928	-0,7809	-0,6671	1	
/FUM	-0,8472	0,7258	-0,9423	0,7469	-0,9725	-0,8179	-0,9505	-0,7916	-0,8776	0,5799	1
/FUG	-0,7873	0,6020	-0,9506	0,6310	-0,9229	-0,7276	-0,8951	-0,8258	-0,7893	0,5764	0,9845

## CONCLUSIONS

- Of the mixed crops, the mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil with red fescue had the highest content of crude protein and calcium. The lower levels of ADL in the

(75.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> CB), + -  
 + +  
 - -  
 -  
 g kg<sup>-1</sup>  
 (r=0,9845).

grassland with a mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + Timothy grass (75.0 g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM) provide for higher digestibility of the fiber components in the feed composition. The mixture of bird's-foot-trefoil + cock's foot + red fescue + Timothy grass had the highest calcium content and the lowest of phosphorus. Feed units for milk and growth in g kg<sup>-1</sup> DM had the highest positive correlation (r = 0.9845).

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## Statistical Evaluation of the Yield of Hybrids Kn-517 and Kn-613 Depending on the Mineral Fertilization and the Sowing Density

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Original scientific paper

### SUMMARY

2014-2016 .  
 - . .  
 -517,  
 500 – 600 5500 /da  
 6000 /da; -613 600  
 5200 /da 5700 /da.  
 -  
 0 –  
 : 1 – N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>; T<sub>2</sub> –  
 N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>.  
 -  
 -517  
 -613. -  
 $\bar{x}$  = 896,00 kg/da -517  
 6000 /da  
 N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>.  
 2016 .  
 -  
 Max=965,00 kg/da.  
 - CV = 4,82% 2014 . 5500  
 /da - CV = 15,22% 2016 .

The study was conducted in 2014-2016 in the experimental field of the Maize Research Institute - Knezha. The hybrids Kn-517 group 500 – 600 according to FAO and densities 5500 n/da and 6000 n/da were studied; Kn-613 from group over 600 according to FAO and a densities 5200 n/da and 5700 n/da. Maize is grown in control variant T<sub>0</sub> - without fertilization and two levels of fertilization: T<sub>1</sub> - N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> – N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>. The agrotechnics adopted for the region is applied. The aim of the study is to make a statistical assessment of the yield of hybrids Kn-517 and Kn-613. The highest average yield of  $\bar{x}$  = 896.00 kg/da, from hybrid Kn-517 was obtained at a density of 6000 n/da and a fertilizer rate N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>. In the same variant and in the 2016 from the studied hybrid the highest potential Max = 965.00 kg/da was reported. In this hybrid the coefficient of variation is the lowest CV = 4.82% for 2014 and 5500 p/da and the highest

6000 /da. -613  
 -  
 5700 /da  
 $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$   
 $\bar{x} = 784,00$  kg/da.  
 Max = 871,00  
 2015 .  
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$   
 -613 - CV =  
 7,66% 2014 . 5200 /da -  
 CV = 17,00% 2015 . 5700  
 /da.  
 , , ,

CV=15.22% for 2016 and density of 6000 n/da. Hybrid Kn-613 is characterized by the highest productivity at a density of 5700 n/da and fertilization with  $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$ . The average yield realized by this variant is  $\bar{x} = 784.00$  kg/da. Maximum result Max = 871.00 kg/da was obtained in 2015 and using the dose of fertilizer  $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ . The coefficient of variation in the yield of hybrid Kn-613 hybrid is the lowest CV = 7.66% in 2014 and 5200 n/da and the highest CV = 17.00% in 2015 and 5700 n/da.

**Key words:** maize, hybrids, yield, density, fertilization

## INTRODUCTION

Maize is the main grain and fodder crop for the country. In terms of area and importance among cereals it ranks second after wheat.

To the conditions of the external environment maize is exacting in terms of heat and moisture. In our country for a large part of the country the temperature conditions are favorable for its cultivation but the limiting factor is usually the precipitation, which is why they are crucial (Zarkov, 2001; Koteva and Varlev, 2003).

The presence of large set of hybrids that science offers in practice with different vegetation periods allows for their most effective use by combining them in a varietal structure depending on soil and agronomic factors for different regions of the country (Berchev, 1988; Angelov, 1994; Angelov and Valchinkov, 2009; Angelov and Glogova, 2010).

Maize is characterized by a very high genetically determined productivity the realization of which is influenced by the area with the characteristic soil-climatic conditions and the applied agro-technical measures.

Tillage and fertilization are essential and are key elements in the complex of

Zarkov, 2001; Koteva, and Varlev, 2003).

(Berchev, 1988; Angelov, 1994; Angelov and Valchinkov, 2009; Angelov and Glogova, 2010).

(Nankov, 2006; Bazitov and Gospodinov, 2007; Glogova, 2018).

-517 -613,

agronomic measures that affect yield and quality (Nankov, 2006; Bazitov and Gospodinov, 2007; Glogova, 2018).

The aim of the study is to make a statistical assessment of the yield of hybrids Kn-517 and Kn-613 depending on the mineral fertilization and crop density.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the period 2014-2016 in the experimental field of the Maize Institute - Knezha. The following maize hybrids are the subject of research: Kn-517 group 500-600 according to FAO and densities 5500n/da and 6000 n/da; Kn-613 from a group over 600 according to FAO and densities 5200n/da and 5700 n/da. Maize was group in control variant  $T_0$  (without fertilization) and two levels of fertilization:  $T_1 - N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ ;  $T_2 - N_{17} P_{10,8} K_{12,8}$ . The main tillage of the soil has been deep plowing at 23-25 cm. In the spring double cultivation with harrowing at 10-12 cm and 6-8 cm. During the vegetation double hoeing. Spraying with herbicides against deciduous wheaten weeds with Gardoprim plus gold-400 ml/da after sowing before crop emergence. Use of Maton during the vegetation in phase 5-6 leaves – 110 ml/da. Use of fungicides and insecticides against economically important diseases and pests if necessary. The mathematical processing of the data is according to (Genchev et al., 1975).

The following indicators were studied: average yield ( $\bar{x}$  kg/da average for the period under options ( $T_0, T_1$  and  $T_2$ ) and average yield from the three options ( $T_0, T_1$  and  $T_2$ ) by years and average for the period 2014-2016; minimum (Min) and maximum (Max) yield on average for the period by variants ( $T_0, T_1$  and  $T_2$ ) and of the three variants  $T_0, T_1$  and  $T_2$  by years and on average for the period; amplitude ( $D=Max-Min$ ) yield; standard deviation

2014-2016 .  
 : -517, 500 –  
 600 5500 /da 6000  
 /da; -613 600  
 5200 /da 5700 /da. -  
 $T_0$  ( )  
 $T_1 - N_{8,5} P_{5,4} K_{6,4}$ ;  $T_2 - N_{17} P_{10,8} K_{12,8}$ .  
 23-25 cm.  
 10-12 cm 6-8 cm.  
 400ml/da  
 ml/da. 5-6 - 110  
 Genchev et al., 1975.  
 $(\bar{x})$  kg/da  
 $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$   
 $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$   
 $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$   
 2014-2016 ; (Min)  
 (Max)  
 $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$   
 $(x_0, x_1, x_2)$   
 ; (D=Max-Min)  
 ;

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{\sum x - (x)^2}{n - 1}}$$

: | coefficient variation

$$CV\% = \frac{S \cdot 100}{\bar{x}}$$

: | average error

$$S_{\bar{x}} = \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}$$

: | and the relative value of the mean error

$$S_{\bar{x}\%} = \frac{S_{\bar{x}}}{\bar{x}} 100$$

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

-517	5500 /da	-
665,67 kg/da	842,00 kg/da	,
2 ( 1).		-
S = 16,54 kg/da		-
	S = 99,07 kg/da	-
	N <sub>8,5</sub> P <sub>5,4</sub> K <sub>6,4</sub> .	-
S $\bar{x}$ = 9,56 kg/da	0 57,26 kg/da	-
1.		-
S $\bar{x}$ % = 1,44	S $\bar{x}$ % = 6,81	-
		-
	-517	-
	643,00 kg/da	-
	- 721,00 kg/da	-
2.		-
682,00 kg/da		-

When growing maize hybrid Kn-517 at a density of 5500 n/da, an average yield was realized which varied from 665,67 kg/da to 842,00 kg/da, for the variant using a double dose of fertilizer T<sub>2</sub> (Table 1). The value of the standard deviation is the lowest S=16,54 kg/da when growing maize in natural conditions without the use of mineral fertilizer. The highest numerical expression of S=99,07 kg/da is when fertilizing with N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub>. The same pattern of change is observed in the value of the standard error. Its result varies from S $\bar{x}$ =9,56 kg/da for T<sub>0</sub> to S $\bar{x}$ =57,26 kg/da for T<sub>1</sub>. Its relative value has a similar change and ranges from S $\bar{x}$ %=1,44 for the control to S $\bar{x}$ % = 6,81 for the single dose of fertilizer. The data presented in the table convincingly show that the minimum yield obtained from the hybrid Kn-517 has the lowest numerical expression 643,00 kg/da for the variant without fertilization and the highest 721,00 kg/da it is when using double fertilizer T<sub>2</sub>.

Regarding the maximum yield the minimum value of 682,00kg/da is obtained from growing maize under natural conditions.

1.

(kg/da)

-517

-613

2014-2016 .

Table 1. Statistical analysis of grain yield (kg/da) of maize hybrids Kn-517 and Kn-613 average for the period 2014-2016

Variants	/ Statistical magnitudes							
	$\bar{X}$	S	$S\bar{X}$	$S\bar{X}\%$	Min	Max	D	CV%
-517 0	665,67	16,54	9,56	1,44	643,00	682,00	39,00	2,48
5500 /da 1	840,33	99,07	57,26	6,81	702,00	932,00	230,00	11,79
2	842,00	85,56	49,46	5,87	721,00	903,00	182,00	10,16
-517 0	687,00	20,41	11,80	1,72	662,00	712,00	50,00	2,97
6000 /da 1	896,00	56,34	32,57	3,63	827,00	965,00	138,00	6,29
2	871,00	1,63	0,94	0,11	869,00	873,00	4,00	0,19
-613 0	571,67	55,86	32,29	5,64	494,00	623,00	129,00	9,77
5200 /da 1	760,00	115,97	67,03	8,82	596,00	843,00	247,00	15,26
2	750,33	136,05	78,64	10,48	558,00	851,00	293,00	18,13
-613 0	584,00	34,76	20,09	3,44	540,00	625,00	85,00	5,95
5700 /da 1	784,00	90,38	52,24	6,67	657,00	860,00	203,00	11,53
2	764,00	112,82	65,21	8,53	608,00	871,00	263,00	14,76

0 - N<sub>0</sub>P<sub>0</sub>K<sub>0</sub> -1 - N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>T<sub>2</sub> - N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>

kg/da 932,00 -

1. -

D = 39,00

kg/da D = 230,00 kg/da, -

0 1. -

CV = 2,48% -

-517 -

N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>, -

CV = 11,79%. -

-517 -

6000 /da -

687,00 kg/da. -

N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>, -

30,42%, -

N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>, -

26,78%. -

1,36 kg/da -

2 S = 56,34 kg/da -

S $\bar{X}$  = 0,94 kg/da -

S $\bar{X}$  = 32,57 -

kg/da N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>. -

A maximum result of 932,00 kg/da was obtained by using the single dose of T<sub>1</sub> fertilizer. A similar pattern, is observed for the value of the range, which varies from D=230,00 kg/da respectively for variants T<sub>0</sub> and T<sub>1</sub>.

The coefficient of variation is the lowest CV=2,48 for growing the maize hybrid Kn-517, under natural conditions. This indicator is highest when fertilizing with N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>, respectively CV=11,79%. An average yield of 687,00 kg/da was obtained from the hybrid Kn-517 grown in natural conditions and density 6000 n/da. After use of mineral fertilizer in a dose of N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub> the yield increases by 30,42% and when doubling the fertilizer rate N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub> respectively by 26,78%. The standard deviation for the individual variants varies in the range from 1,36 kg/da for fertilization with the double dose of T<sub>2</sub> fertilizer to S=56,34 kg/da for the single fertilizer rate. The standard error has the lowest value of S $\bar{X}$ =0,94 kg/da for use of double amount of fertilizer and the highest S $\bar{X}$ =32,57 kg/da for fertilization N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>. The relative value of the specified value follows the same trend

$S\bar{x} = 0,11$   
 $S\bar{x}\% = 3,63$   
 662,00 kg/da  
 869,00 kg/da  
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$   
 Max = 712,00 kg/da  
 kg/da  
 $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$   
 D = 138,00 kg/da  
 $CV = 0,19\%$   
 $CV = 6,29\%$   
 -613,  
 5200 /da  
 571,67 kg/da.  
 $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$   
 32,94%.  
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$   
 31,19%  
 $S = 55,86$  kg/da  
 $S = 136,05$  kg/da  
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$   
 $S\bar{x} = 32,29$   
 kg/da  
 $S\bar{x} = 78,64$  kg/da  
 $S\bar{x}\% = 5,64$   
 $S\bar{x}\% = 10,48$ .  
 Min = 596,00 kg/da  
 $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$   
 Max = 851,00 kg/da  
 $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$

respectively  $S\bar{x}\%=0,11$  for option  $T_2$  to  $S\bar{x}\%=3,63$  for  $T_1$ . The data in the table show that the obtained minimum yield is the lowest 662,00 kg/da for the control and the highest 869,00 kg/da for fertilization with mineral fertilizer in the ratio  $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ .

Regarding the maximum yield the lowest result was obtained again in the variant without fertilization respectively Max=712,00 kg/da. The maximum value of this value Max=965,00 kg/da is established by the action of the fertilizer norm  $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$ . When using the same dose of fertilizer the highest numerical value of the range D=138,00kg/da is observed. The data in the table convincingly show that the coefficient of variation varies in the range from CV=0,19% for  $T_2$  to CV=6,29% for  $T_1$ .

From the hybrid Kn-613 grown at a density of 5200 n/da and natural soil stock an average yield of 571,67 kg/da was realized. When fertilizing maize with mineral fertilizer at a dose of  $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$  the yield increased by 32,94%. When using twice the amount of fertilizer  $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$  the productivity of the studied hybrid increased by 31,19% compared to the control.

The standard deviation for the individual variants varies in the range from S=55,86 kg/da for growing maize without fertilization to S=136,05 kg/da for use at  $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ . A similar trend of variation is observed for the standard error, respectively S=32,29 kg/da for  $T_0$  to  $S\bar{x}=78,64$  kg/da for  $T_2$ . Expressed as a percentage, the specified value has values of  $S\bar{x}\%=5,64$  and  $S\bar{x}\%=10,48$ .

The data in Table 1 show that the highest minimum yield Min=596,00 kg/da was obtained using the fertilizer rate of  $N_{8,5}P_{5,4}K_{6,4}$  and the maximum Max=851,00 kg/da when fertilizing with  $N_{17}P_{10,8}K_{12,8}$ . When using the same amount of fertilizer, the largest difference between the maximum

- and minimum yield was obtained respectively D=293,00 kg/da.

The coefficient of variation is characterized by the lowest value CV=9,77% for the T<sub>0</sub> control and the highest CV=18,13% for the T<sub>2</sub> variant. The highest average yield  $\bar{x}$  = 784,00 kg/da of hybrid Kn-613 was realized with fertilization with N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub> and sowing density of 5700n/da and the numerical value of the standard deviation is the lowest S=34,76 kg/da for variant T<sub>0</sub> and highest S=112,82 kg/da for T<sub>2</sub>. A similar trend is observed for the result of the average error. It is the lowest for the control and the highest for fertilization with N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub> respectively  $S\bar{x}$ =20,09 kg/da and  $S\bar{x}$ =65,21 kg/da. The relative value of this quantity follow the same pattern of change  $S\bar{x}\%$ =3,44 and  $S\bar{x}\%$ =8,53. The highest minimum yield of Min=657,00 kg/da was established by the action of the fertilizer norm N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub> and the maximum Max=871,00 kg/da by doubling the dose of fertilizer N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub>. The numerical value of the range is the lowest D=85,00 kg/da for the control T<sub>0</sub> and the highest D=263,00 kg/da for variant T<sub>2</sub>. On average for the study period the coefficient of variation varies from CV=5,95% for growing maize without fertilization to CV=14,76% for use at N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub>.

From the hybrid Kn-517 grown at a density of 5500 n/da the highest average yield  $\bar{x}$  = 835,87 kg/da was obtained in the third year of the study (Table2). Almost equally result for the indicated value  $\bar{x}$  = 833,33 kg/da was obtained in density 6000 n/da. The highest minimum yield Min=712,00 kg/da was established in 2015 at a higher density. The most favorable for the studied hybrid was 2016. At the first density the maximum yield is Max=932,00 kg/da and at the second Max=965,00 kg/da.

The same regularity is observed with

D = 293,00 kg/da.

CV = 9,77%

CV = 18,13%

$\bar{x}$  = 784,00

kg/da -613

N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>

5700 /da,

S = 34,76 kg/da

S = 112,82 kg/da

N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>,

$S\bar{x}$  = 20,09 kg/da  $S\bar{x}$  = 65,21 kg/da.

$S\bar{x}\%$  = 3,44  $S\bar{x}\%$  = 8,53.

Min = 657,00

kg/da

N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>,

Max = 871,00 kg/da

N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>.

D = 85,00 kg/da

D = 263,00 kg/da

CV = 5,95%

CV = 14,76%

N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>.

-517

5500 /da

$\bar{x}$  = 835,67 kg/da

( 2).

$\bar{x}$  = 833,33 kg/da

6000 /da.

Min = 712,00

kg/da 2015 .

2016 .

Max = 932,00 kg/da,

Max = 965,00 kg/da.

and minimum yield was obtained respectively D=293,00 kg/da.

The coefficient of variation is characterized by the lowest value CV=9,77% for the T<sub>0</sub> control and the highest CV=18,13% for the T<sub>2</sub> variant. The highest average yield  $\bar{x}$  = 784,00 kg/da of hybrid Kn-613 was realized with fertilization with N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub> and sowing density of 5700n/da and the numerical value of the standard deviation is the lowest S=34,76 kg/da for variant T<sub>0</sub> and highest S=112,82 kg/da for T<sub>2</sub>. A similar trend is observed for the result of the average error. It is the lowest for the control and the highest for fertilization with N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub> respectively  $S\bar{x}$ =20,09 kg/da and  $S\bar{x}$ =65,21 kg/da. The relative value of this quantity follow the same pattern of change  $S\bar{x}\%$ =3,44 and  $S\bar{x}\%$ =8,53. The highest minimum yield of Min=657,00 kg/da was established by the action of the fertilizer norm N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub> and the maximum Max=871,00 kg/da by doubling the dose of fertilizer N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub>. The numerical value of the range is the lowest D=85,00 kg/da for the control T<sub>0</sub> and the highest D=263,00 kg/da for variant T<sub>2</sub>. On average for the study period the coefficient of variation varies from CV=5,95% for growing maize without fertilization to CV=14,76% for use at N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub>.

From the hybrid Kn-517 grown at a density of 5500 n/da the highest average yield  $\bar{x}$  = 835,87 kg/da was obtained in the third year of the study (Table2). Almost equally result for the indicated value  $\bar{x}$  = 833,33 kg/da was obtained in density 6000 n/da. The highest minimum yield Min=712,00 kg/da was established in 2015 at a higher density. The most favorable for the studied hybrid was 2016. At the first density the maximum yield is Max=932,00 kg/da and at the second Max=965,00 kg/da.

The same regularity is observed with

$D = 260,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $D = 303,0 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $517 (x_0 + x_1 + x_2)$   
 $CV = 4,82\%$   
 $5500 \text{ n/da}$   
 $CV=14,02\%$   
 $6000 \text{ n/da}$   
 $CV = 9,82\%$   
 $2015 \text{ CV} = 15,22\%$

- regard to the amplitude, whose values are respectively  $D=260,00 \text{ kg/da}$  and  $D=303,00 \text{ kg/da}$ . On average of the three variants of cultivation of hybrid Kn-517 ( $T_0+T_1+T_2$ ) the deviation of the yield is at least  $CV=4,82\%$  for the first year of the experiment and sowing density  $5500\text{n/da}$  and the highest  $CV=14,02\%$  for the third. At a density of  $6000 \text{ n/da}$  the variation of the yield changes in the range from  $CV=9,82\%$  for 2015 to  $CV=15,22\%$  for 2016.

**2. (kg/da) -517**  
**2014-2016 .**

**Table 2. Statistical analysis of grain yield (kg/da) of maize hybrid Kn-517 for the period 2014-2016**

Statistical magnitudes	5500 n/da				6000 n/da			
	/years				/years			
	2014	2015	2016	average	2014	2015	2016	average
$\bar{x}$	688,67	822,67	835,67	782,34	795,00	825,67	833,33	818,00
S	33,21	99,74	117,17	83,37	78,45	81,13	126,84	95,47
$S\bar{x}$	19,20	57,65	67,73	48,19	45,35	46,89	73,32	55,19
$S\bar{x}\%$	2,79	7,01	8,10	5,97	5,70	5,68	8,80	6,73
Min	643,00	682,00	672,00	665,67	687,00	712,00	662,00	687,00
Max	721,00	902,00	932,00	851,67	871,00	896,00	965,00	910,67
D	78,00	220,00	260,00	186,00	184,00	184,00	303,00	223,67
CV%	4,82	12,12	14,02	10,66	9,86	9,82	15,22	11,67

$-613$   
 $\bar{x} = 769,33 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $\bar{x} = 772,67 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $5700 \text{ n/da}$   
 $5200 \text{ n/da}$   
 $3)$   
 $Min = 494,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $Min = 623,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $Min = 540,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $Min = 625,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $-613$   
 $2015$   
 $Max = 851,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $Max = 871,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $D = 102,00$   
 $kg/da$   
 $D = 220,00 \text{ kg/da}$   
 $2014$   
 $2016$   
 $D = 117,00 \text{ kg/da}$

Regarding the hybrid Kn-613 the highest average yield was obtained in the third experimental year  $S\bar{x}=769,33 \text{ kg/da}$  for a density of  $5200 \text{ n/da}$  and  $S\bar{x}=772,67 \text{ kg/da}$  in the second year and a density of  $5700\text{n/da}$  (Table3). At the lower density the minimum yield varies by years from  $Min=494,00 \text{ kg/da}$  to  $Min=623,00 \text{ kg/da}$  and at the higher from  $Min=540,00 \text{ kg/da}$  to  $Min=625,00 \text{ kg/da}$ .

In both the first and the second density of hybrid Kn-613 maximum productivity was established in 2015 respectively  $Max=851,00 \text{ kg/da}$  and  $Max=871,00 \text{ kg/da}$ . For the first density the value of the amplitude is in the range from  $D=102,00 \text{ kg/da}$  to  $D=220,00 \text{ kg/da}$  respectively for 2014 and 2016 of the experiment. At  $5700 \text{ n/da}$  the same value varies in the range from  $D=117,00 \text{ kg/da}$  for the first to



D = 284,00 kg/da

CV = 7,66% (2014 + 2015 + 2016),  
 CV = 15,32%  
 CV = 7,97%  
 CV = 17,00%

D=284,00 kg/da for the second year of the study. The coefficient of variation compared to the average yield of the tested variants (T<sub>0</sub>+T<sub>1</sub>+T<sub>2</sub>) varies from CV=7,66% for 2014 to CV=15,32% for 2015 and density 5200 n/da. At 5700 n/da the same value has value from CV=7,97% for the first to CV=17,00% for the second experimental year.

3. 2014-2016

(kg/da) -613

Table 3. Statistical analysis of grain yield (kg/da) of maize hybrid Kn-613 for the period 2014-2016

Statistical magnitudes	5200 /da				5700 /da			
	/years				/years			
	2014	2015	2016	average	2014	2015	2016	average
$\bar{x}$	549,33	763,33	769,33	694,00	601,67	772,67	757,67	710,67
S	42,09	116,98	103,47	87,51	47,97	131,36	94,24	91,19
S $\bar{x}$	24,33	67,62	59,81	50,59	27,73	75,93	54,47	52,71
S $\bar{x}$ %	4,42	8,86	7,77	7,02	4,61	9,83	7,19	7,21
Min	494,00	598,00	623,00	571,67	540,00	587,00	625,00	584,00
Max	596,00	851,00	843,00	763,33	657,00	871,00	835,00	787,67
D	102,00	253,00	220,00	191,67	117,00	284,00	210,00	203,67
CV%	7,66	15,32	13,45	12,61	7,97	17,00	12,44	12,83

CONCLUSIONS

1.  $\bar{x}$  = 896,00 kg/da  
 -517  
 6000 /da  
 N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>.  
 2016 .  
 Max = 965,00 kg/da.  
 CV = 4,82% 2014 . 5500 /da  
 CV = 15,22% 2016 .  
 6000 /da.  
 2. -613  
 5700 /da N<sub>8,5</sub>P<sub>5,4</sub>K<sub>6,4</sub>.  
 $\bar{x}$  = 784,00 kg/da.  
 Max = 871,00 kg/da  
 2015 .  
 N<sub>17</sub>P<sub>10,8</sub>K<sub>12,8</sub>.  
 -613  
 CV = 7,66% 2014 . 5200 /da  
 CV = 17,00% 2015 .  
 5700 /da.

1. With the highest average yield  $\bar{x}$  = 896,00 kg/da a hybrid Kn-517 is a characterize at a density of 6000 n/da and a fertilizer rate of N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub>. In the same variant and in 2016 from the studied hybrid the highest potential Max=965,00 kg/da was reported. In this hybrid the coefficient of variation of the yield is the lowest CV=4,82% for 2014 and density 5500 n/da and the highest CV=15,22% for 2016 and density 6000n/da.  
 2. Hybrid Kn-613 is characterized by the highest productivity at a density of 5700 n/da and fertilization with N<sub>8,5</sub> P<sub>5,4</sub> K<sub>6,4</sub>. The average yield realized by this variant is  $\bar{x}$  = 784,00 kg/da. Maximum result Max=871,00 kg/da was obtained in 2015 and using the dose of fertilizer N<sub>17</sub> P<sub>10,8</sub> K<sub>12,8</sub>. The coefficient of variation of the yield of hybrid Kn-613 is the lowest CV=7,66% and 5200 n/da and the highest CV=17,00% in 2015 and 5700 n/da.

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