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E-mail: *iop_sofia@abv.bg*

EFFECT OF THE BIOMINERAL FERTILIZER PLANTAGRA ON THE GROWTH OF SPRAY-CARNATION

Bistra Atanassova

Institute of Ornamental Plants, 1222 Sofia, Negovan, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

A pot trial with two Bulgarian spray-carnation cultivars – Rusalka and Naslada was carried out at the Institute of Ornamental Plants, Sofia in 2013-2014 in order to study the effect of the biomineral fertilizer Plantagra in case of leaf treatment with 0.1 %, 0.14 % and 0.18 % solutions.

It was found that the eco-friendly fertilizer had a positive effect on plant height, lateral growth and the productivity of cuttings when applied during the initial growth stages of spray-carnation.

The leaf treatment of the plants of both cultivars with the biomineral fertilizer showed the best results with 0.18% solution.

Key words: leaf treatment, biomineral fertilizer, spray carnation, growth, productivity of cuttings

INTRODUCTION

Environmental safety and the concern about human health

2013-2014

0,1 %, 0,14 % 0,18 %.

0,18%

2007; (, 2007).

(, 2007).

(, 1996; 2001; , 2005).

(, 1999; 1999; 2000; , 2008;

impose certain requirements as to the types of the fertilizers and chemicals as well as application rates and terms in view of keeping their residual quantities in the products and soil within the admissible limits of the international standards (Malinova, 2007; Sengalevich, 2007).

A wide range of organic fertilizers have been manufactured and released on the market in the recent years but their effects have not been investigated in all crops (Valchovsky et al., 2007). Flowers need a rational fertilization system that ensures a balanced nutrition during their development (Ivanova and Kadum, 1996; Sapundjieva et al., 2001; Ivanova et al., 2005).

The scientific research of the biological tests of organic fertilizers in flowers is much scarcer than in other crops. The Institute of Ornamental Plants in Sofia has conducted such studies on a number of flower species (spray-carnation, chrysanthemum, liliium, gypsophila, aster and calendula, etc.) in order to establish the effect of the complex mineral fertilizers such as Vege, Lactofol, Crystalon and HortiGrow (Ivanova et al., 1995; Atanassova et al., 1999; Kotopanova et al., 1999; Filipova et al., 1999; Atanassova et al., 2000; Kotopanova and Atanassova, 2008; Atanassova, 2012; tanassova, 2013) as well as the effect of organic fertilizers such as Biostim, Humustim,

2012; tanassova, 2013),
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 (,),
 (, , ,)
 (,)
 ., 2007;
 2008; , 2011 ;
 , 2012; tanassova and
 Nencheva, 2012; Zapryanova and
 tanassova, 2013).

Lumbricol and Baykal in cut flower
 cultures (spray-carnation,
 chrysanthemum and gypsophila),
 flowering pot species (petunia,
 impatiens, miniature roses,
 carnation and chrysanthemum)
 and annual flowers (Atanassova et
 al., 2007; Kotopanova and
 Nencheva, 2008; Atanassova,
 2011 ; Atanassova, 2012;
 tanassova and Nencheva, 2012;
 tanassova and Zapryanova,
 2013; Zapryanova and
 tanassova, 2013).

The objective of this research
 is to study the effect of the
 biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on
 the growth and development of
 spray-carnation and determine the
 optimal concentration for plant
 treatment.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 2013-2014, a pot trial was
 carried out at the Institute of
 Ornamental Plants, Sofia with two
 Bulgarian spray-carnation
 varieties– Rusalka and Naslada
 that studied the effect of the
 biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on
 the initial growth and development
 phases of mother plants for the
 production of cuttings.

Plantagra is essentially a
 biomineral humic product with
 immobilized enzyme systems and
 live cells of fungi, bacteria and
 other microorganisms that are
 beneficial for the plants. The

20
3
5
(15
)
30
ANOVA
* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001),
- ns.

subsequent ones – every 20 days.

The cuttings were harvested 3 times, first on July 5 (15 days after the first treatment) and the subsequent ones – every 30 days.

Statistical data processing was done with ANOVA test. The significant difference between the control and variants was presented as * (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001) and the non-significant – as ns.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 presents the results of the effect of the biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on plant height. The foliar treatment with Plantagra in all the tested concentrations produced a positive effect in both spray-carnation varieties.

The height growth rate in all concentrations (variants) exceeded the control and varied within 24.1% – 25.9% in cv. Rusalka and 14.0% – 36.8% in cv. Naslada. The differences with the control were very well proved at P 0.001, except for variant II of cv. Naslada (P 0.01).

The highest plants in both spray-carnation varieties were reported for the treatment with 0.14% Plantagra solution.

1
()
24,1% – 25,9%
14,0% - 36,8%
P 0.001,
(P 0.01).
0,14%

1.

Table 1. Effect of foliar treatment with biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on the height of spray carnation

Variant	Plant height								Total growth	
	20.06.	30.06.	20.07.		10.08.		cm	%	% vs. C	
	initial,cm	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%			
cv. Rusalka										
– untreated plants (C)	()	14,8	17,7	100,0	18,9	100,0	20,2	100,0	5,4	100,0
– 0,1% foliar treatment with 0,1%		14,8	18,3	103,4	20,6	109,0	21,5	106,4	6,7	124,1
– 0,14% foliar treatment with 0,14%		14,8	17,9	101,1	18,3	96,8	21,6	106,9	6,8	125,9
V – 0,18% foliar treatment with 0,18%		14,8	18,1	102,2	19,9	105,3	21,4	105,9	6,6	124,2
cv. Naslada										
– untreated plants (C)	()	14,2	16,8	100,0	17,3	100,0	19,9	100,0	5,7	100,0
– 0,1% foliar treatment with 0,1%		14,2	17,0	101,2	17,6	101,7	20,7	104,0	6,5	114,0
– 0,14% foliar treatment with 0,14%		14,2	16,5	98,2	17,1	98,8	22,0	110,6	7,8	136,8
V – 0,18% foliar treatment with 0,18%		14,2	16,9	100,6	17,9	103,5	21,3	107,0	7,1	124,6

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001),

– ns

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001), non-significant – ns

The biomineral fertilizer had a positive effect of the index of the number of lateral branches as well but it was expressed to a smaller degree, compared to the height (Table 2).

The growth rate of the lateral branches of the plants, treated with different concentrations, was within the range of 9.5% - 38.1% for cv. Rusalka and 5.0% - 20.0% for cv. Naslada. The following tendency was observed – the increase of the concentration lead to the increase of the number of lateral branches.

The best results in terms of

0,18%
-
-
,
(ns).
0,14% (ns).

growth rate were reported for the concentration of 0.18% Plantagra solution. The differences vs. the control were significant for both of the highest concentrations with the exception of 0.14% in cv. Naslada (ns).

2.

Table 2. Effect of foliar treatment with biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on the lateral branches of spray carnation

Variant	1								Total growth	
	20.06		30.06.		20.07.		10.08.		no.	%
	Initial no.		%		%		%			
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	% vs. C	
cv. Rusalka										
– untreated plants (C)	()	3,1	4,1	100,0	4,9	100,0	5,2	100,0	2,1	100,0
– foliar treatment with 0,1%		3,1	4,0	97,6	4,6	93,9	5,4	103,8	2,3	109,5
– foliar treatment with 0,14%		3,1	4,2	102,4	4,6	93,9	5,8	111,5	2,7	128,6
V – foliar treatment with 0,18%		3,1	5,0	121,9	5,4	110,2	6,0	115,4	2,9	138,1
cv. Naslada										
– untreated plants (C)	()	2,8	3,8	100,0	4,2	100,0	4,8	100,0	2,0	100,0
– foliar treatment with 0,1%		2,8	4,3	113,2	4,6	109,5	4,9	102,1	2,1	105,0
– foliar treatment with 0,14%		2,8	4,6	121,0	4,8	114,3	5,0	104,2	2,2	110,0
V – foliar treatment with 0,18%		2,8	4,8	126,3	5,0	119,0	5,2	108,3	2,4	120,0

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001),

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001), non-significant – ns

– ns

The results with reference to the effect of the biomineral fertilizer on the yield of cuttings in both tested Bulgarian spray-carnation varieties proved the tendency, observed for the lateral branches, i.e. the increase of the number of cuttings with the

(3). - increase of the concentration (Table 3).
 (ns). , The differences in the yield were significant for all variants for both varieties, except for variant II in cv. Naslada (ns). The highest production of cuttings in both spray-carnation varieties was reported for 0.18% concentration of the Plantagra solution and exceeded that of the untreated plants with 30.8% in cv. Rusalka and 21.9% in cv. Naslada.

0,18% ,
 30,8% -
 21,9% -

3.

Table 3. Effect of the number of treatments with biomineral fertilizer Plantagra Foliar on cutting yield in spray carnation

Variant	Total number of cuttings		Number of cuttings in % by harvest (%)						
	./ number/ variant	% % vs. C	05.07.		05.08.		05.09.		
			no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	
cv. Rusalka									
- untreated plants (C)	()	39	100,0	14	35,9	10	25,6	15	38,5
- foliar treatment with 0,1%		40 ns	102,6	15	37,5	11	27,5	14	35,0
- foliar treatment with 0,14%		48 ***	123,1	17	35,4	13	27,1	18	37,5
V - foliar treatment with 0,18%		51 ***	130,8	20	39,2	12	23,5	19	37,3
cv. Naslada									
- untreated plants (C)	()	32	100,0	15	46,9	7	21,9	10	31,2
- foliar treatment with 0,1%		36 *	112,5	19	52,8	7	19,4	10	27,8
- foliar treatment with 0,14%		38 **	118,8	17	44,7	10	26,4	11	28,9
V - foliar treatment with 0,18%		39 ***	121,9	17	43,6	12	30,8	10	25,6

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001),

- ns

* (P 0.05), ** (P 0.01), *** (P 0.001), non-significant - ns

The positive results of the foliar treatment of spray-carnation with Plantagra came from the total functional effect of the microbial complex on plant development that stimulated the root system, improved the plant habitus and increased the yield of cuttings.

The good results from the application of the new organic and mineral fertilizers were due to the balanced formulas with rich content of organic matter, macro and micro elements, vitamins, humic acids and hormones, on the one hand and the easily assimilated form of the nutrients, on the other.

Our investigations on the biomineral fertilizer Plantagra once again confirmed the advantages of the modern organic and mineral fertilizers.

The application of the organic fertilizers Humustim and Lumbricol, tested in gypsophila, potted (carnation and chrysanthemum) and annual flowers (petunia and impatiens) also showed a positive effect on plant growth and development (Kotopanova and Nencheva, 2008; tanassova and Nencheva, 2012; tanassova and Zapryanova, 2013; Zapryanova and tanassova, 2013). The study of the new complex mineral fertilizer HortiGrow also showed a positive

(, 2008; tanassova and Nencheva, 2012; tanassova and Zapryanova, 2013; Zapryanova and tanassova, 2013).

(, 2012;
, 2001; tanassova, 2013).

effect on the total habitus and the separated phases of the development of spray-carnation, cyclamen and gypsophila (Atanassova, 2012; Sapundjieva et al., 2001; tanassova, 2013).

The positive effect of the organic fertilizers on flowering cultures is a solid proof of the improved plant growth and development, environmental safety and human health protection.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study on the effect of the biomineral fertilizer Plantagra on the Bulgarian spray-carnation varieties Rusalka and Naslada lead to the following conclusions:

➤ The foliar treatment of spray-carnation with Plantagra had a positive effect on the height, lateral growth and cutting yield.

➤ The optimal concentration for the foliar treatment of plants with the biomineral preparation was a 0.18% solution.

➤ The effect of the biomineral fertilizer Plantagra was variety specific as the foliar treatment had a better effect in cv. Rusalka.

0,18%

11. 2005. ”
12. , L, 6, 477-482. 1999. “ ”
- /Calendula officinalis/* V - ”
13. 2008. V
320. - ” , 315-
14. 2008. ”
15. . 2007. ”
- 99 , 27-28. ”
16. 2001. ”
- Cyclamen persicum*. ”
17. „80 . 2007. XLVI, 4, 157-162. ”
- 99 ”
18. 1999. V
- ” , L V, 3, 79-86.
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/TAGETES PATULA/

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E-mail: nadejda_zapryanova@abv.bg

**STUDY OF THE WATER DEFICIT EFFECTS ON THE BIOMETRICAL,
PHYSIOLOGICAL AND ORNAMENTAL INDICATORS OF MARIGOLD
/TAGETES PATULA/, VARIETY “USMIVKA”**

Nadejda Zapryanova

Institute of Ornamental Plants, 1222 Sofia, Negovan, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

The ongoing worldwide climate changes enforced multiple studies of how the plants react towards them. One of the main components of the drought is the water deficit, an abiotic factor that causes multiple morphological and physiological changes in the plants that reduce their quality and economic value.

The marigold is a popular and widely used plant in parks and gardens and is often exposed to drought.

The research was focused on studying the drought effects, caused by various stress factors (high temperature, low air humidity, reduced irrigation) over the growth, development, ornamental and physiological indicators of plants of the Bulgarian variety of marigold – “Usmivka”.

The results, obtained from the simulated drought conditions using marigold plants, have shown general reduce in the growth and development of

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 (Alexandrov and Genev, 2004).

the test plants in both laboratory settings /beds and pots/. The test samples, planted in pots have shown higher reaction towards drought than the samples, planted in beds. The negative effect caused by the drought is mostly visible in the number and size of inflorescences. The phenological observations have shown minor deviations in the development phases of the tagetes plants. The reduced irrigation causes changes in the cell membranes, leading to high levels of electrolyte leakage. The relative water content in the plant tissues is reduced depending on the irrigation frequency.

Key words: Marigold, tagetes, water deficit, growth, relative water content, conductivity

INTRODUCTION

Water deficiency is the major component of drought that causes a range of morphological and physiological changes in the plants, leading to the deterioration of their productivity and economic parameters.

The weather forecasts for Southeast Europe in the 21st century, the Balkan Peninsula included, predict increase of rain and snowfalls in winter and their decrease during the warm half of the year. This increases the risk of all types of drought – atmospheric, soil, soil and atmospheric, hydrological and socio-economic (Alexandrov and Genev, 2004).

The climatic changes impose the necessity to study the response of cultivated plants to them.

Tagetes as a species that is widely used in park flower

(Chyli ski & Łukaszewska, 2008).

arrangements is subjected to drought effects (Chyli ski, & Łukaszewska, 2008).

(Dhihdsa et al., 1981).

One of the consequences of soil and atmospheric water deficiency are the irreversible changes of the physical and chemical properties of protoplasm as well as the biochemical processes in the cells. Any disruption of membrane organization and composition results in electrolyte leakage that can be established by means of conductometric measurements (Dhihdsa et al., 1981).

(Georgieva et al., 2004; Lawlor and Cornic, 2002).

The relative water content (RWC) is a suitable indicator of the water status of the plants as there is a correlation between its reported values and the level of stress (Georgieva et al., 2004; Lawlor and Cornic, 2002).

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The objective of the study was to establish the effect of water deficiency, triggered by a complex of stress factors (high atmospheric temperature, low air humidity and reduced watering) on the growth, development, ornamental properties and physiological condition of tagetes.

2011-2013 .
/Tagetes patula/
« »,

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In 2011-2013, a trial was conducted with tagetes (Tagetes patula), Bulgarian cv. Usmivka, grown in a non-shadowy sector of a steel glasshouse in high

atmospheric temperature, low air humidity and reduced watering.

There were row trials and pot trials conducted: *experiment I* in rows and *experiment II* in pots.

Drought was simulated by reducing the watering frequency with soil water retention ranging within 40-80% humidity.

Planting took place in mid-June in rows (25/m²) and pots 19 on *eutric fluvisols*.

The air temperature and humidity were measured on a daily basis with a thermometer and hygrometer.

Soil water content was established by the weighting method via drying and calculated by the respective formula:

$$w = \frac{A-B}{B-C} \times 100, \%$$

where A is the weight of the humid sample with the vessel (g); B – the weight of the dried sample with the vessel (g) and C – the weight of the vessel (g).

The trials were conducted in three variants:

Var.1 (Control) – watering three times a week;

Var.2 – watering twice a week;

Var.3 – watering once a week.

The respective phytosanitary treatments were made during the

atmospheric temperature, low air humidity and reduced watering.

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The trials were conducted in three variants:

Var.1 (Control) – watering three times a week;

Var.2 – watering twice a week;

Var.3 – watering once a week.

The respective phytosanitary treatments were made during the

μS/

Turner (Turner, 1981).

(, %) : % = 1 -

± SE

vegetation period.

The effect of water deficiency on the growth, development and ornamental parameters of the plants was monitored for the following indexes:

Ornamental: height, diameter and number of lateral branches; bloom diameter and number of blooms per plant;

Phenological observations: the initial, mass and final manifestations for each phase of plant development were reported as well as their duration.

The degree of damage of the membranes was established via the electrolyte leakage of the leaves. The electrolyte leakage was established by measuring conductivity after stress only and expressed as μS/g fresh weight.

The relative water content (RWC) was measured simultaneously with the electrolyte leakage and calculated by the following formula:

RWC % = (fresh weight - dry weight) / (turgor weight - dry weight) X 100 - according to Turner's method (Turner, 1981).

Water deficiency (WD, %) was expressed with the following formula:

WD % = 1 - RWC.

The data presented in the figures are expressed as the mean ± SE of two independent experiments displayed in ten reps

t
GraphPad Prizm.

** (P<0.01), * (P<0.05),
*** (P<0.0001), - .

8 .
24,3

18,7 -

37,5 43,5

14 .,

20% - 25%

01 10

40-90%
30-90%

_____ / -

8% .2 49%

vary. They were analyzed for significance by means of the t-test of the GraphPad Prizm software.

The results were statistically significantly different at P<0.05 (*), P<0.01 (**), P<0.0001 (***), respectively, as compared to the control.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the experimental period, i.e. June, July, August and September, the following temperatures were recorded: the lower values were reported at 8 a.m. and varied from 18.7 C in June to 24.3 C in July. The highest temperatures were recorded at 2 p.m. and varied from 37.5 C to 43.5 C in August. The air humidity during the reported period showed the lowest values at 2 p.m. that varied within 20% - 25% for the period July-August.

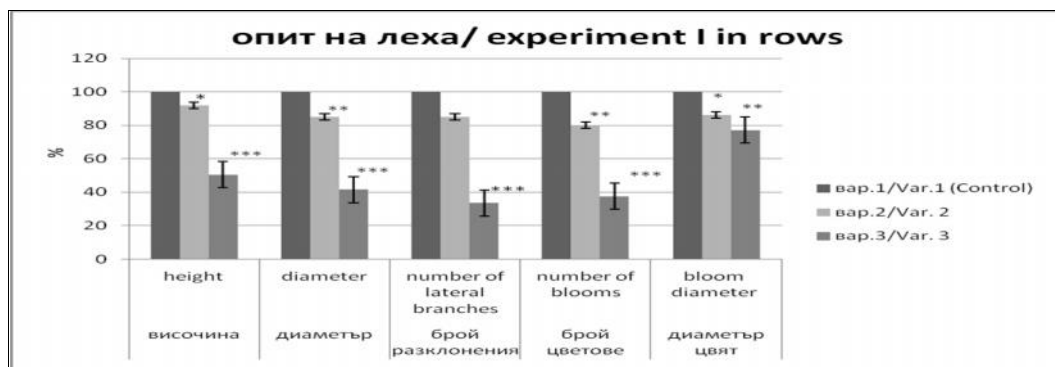
The period July 1 – August 10 was characterized with the highest temperatures and lowest atmospheric humidity. The soil water retention ranged from 40-90% moisture of the rows and 30-90% moisture in the pots.

The results of the simulated drought showed an overall inhibition of the growth and development of the tested plants.

In *Experiment 1* – growing tagetes in rows with reduced watering, the growth rate was inhibited by 8% in variant 2 and up to 49% in variant 3, compared to

.3
(.1).
66%
67%
(.1).

the control plants (Fig.1). The habitus was reportedly decreased, the diameter of the stressed plants in variant 3 being with 66% smaller than the control. This was also related to the reduced lateral growth with 15% and 67%, respectively, for the different rates of water deficit (Fig. 1).



.1. “ ”
Fig.1. The effect of water deficiency on the biometrical parameters of Tagetes (Tagetes patula) cv. Usmivka- experiment I in rows

.erecta
Riaz et al. (2013)
50%
T. patula . tenifolia
(Cicevan et al, 2014).

Riaz et al. (2013) have observed inhibited growth rate of .erecta in dry conditions, the difference between the control and stressed plants reaching 50% both for the height and number of lateral branches.

Water deficiency had a negative effect on the development of the different varieties T. patula and . tenifolia as well (Cicevan et al., 2014).

One more consequence of reduced watering was the

2 20%, 60% 3

(.1).

14% 23%

5.21 , . 2 - 4.5 ,
. 3 4 .

II ()

(.2).

20% 36%

(1)

62%,

40% . 2 60%
. 3 (.2).

46% 75%.

45%

decrease of the number of blooms with 20% in variant 2 and 60% in variant 3 vs. the control plants (Fig. 1).

The negative effect was especially visible in the bloom dimensions, compared to the control plants – the bloom diameter decreased with 14% and 23% with the reduction of watering.

The average bloom dimension of the control plants was 5.21 cm, 4.5 cm in variant 2 and only 4 cm in variant 3.

The results of the simulated water deficiency in the pot experiment *Experiment II* also showed a drastic decrease of the biometrical parameters of the stressed vs. the control plants (Fig. 2).

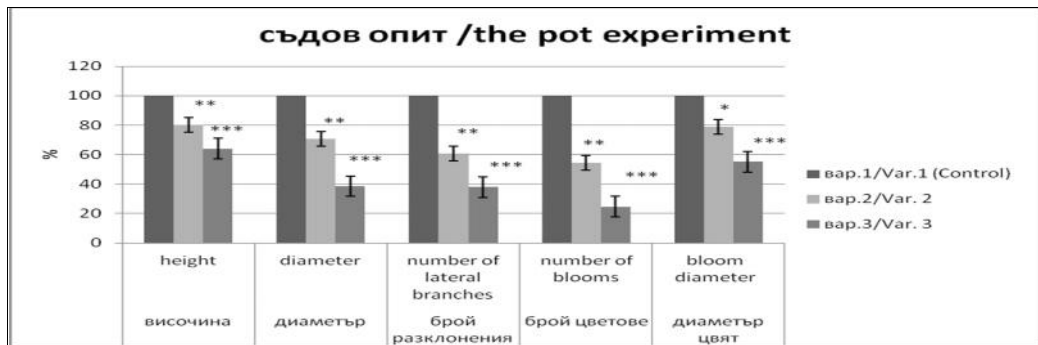
The reduction of the frequency of watering led to the decrease of the values of plant height with 20% and 36%, depending on the watering. The diameter in variant 3 (1 watering) was with 62% smaller than that of the control plants and the difference in the number of expected lateral branches reached 40% in variant 2 and 60% in variant 3, compared to the control (Fig. 2).

The results for the parameter of number of blooms per plant showed a similar trend of reduction compared to the control with 46% and 75%, respectively. The dimensions of the blooms decreased to 45% with single

5,8 cm
(), 4 cm
cm . 3.
(. 2).

watering vs. the control (Fig. 2).

Bloom diameter varied from an average of 5.8 cm for variant 1 (control) to 4 cm for variant 2 and 3 cm for variant 3. The blooms were deformed, non-typical for the variety, with undeveloped tubular blooms and a prevailing number of tongue blooms (Fig. 2).



. 2.

/Tagetes patula/ “ ”-

Fig. 2. The effect of water deficiency on the biometrical parameters of Tagetes/Tagetes patula/ cv. Usmivka- experiment II in pots

(. 3).

a

II

The survival rate of the plants, subjected to simulated drought, was different for each of the two experiments (Fig. 3).

In *Experiment I* (rows) all the plants survived, regardless of the stress.

In the pot experiment-*Experiment II*, the survival rate of the drought tested tagetes plants decreased. This was due to the limited volume of the soil and the higher soil temperature, resulting from the direct effect of the sun rays on the pots, in which the plants were grown.

24%.
(. 2)
15% (.3).

The survival percentage decreased to 24% in the conditions of single watering (variant 3). In case of two waterings (variant 2), 15% of the plants perished (Fig. 3).

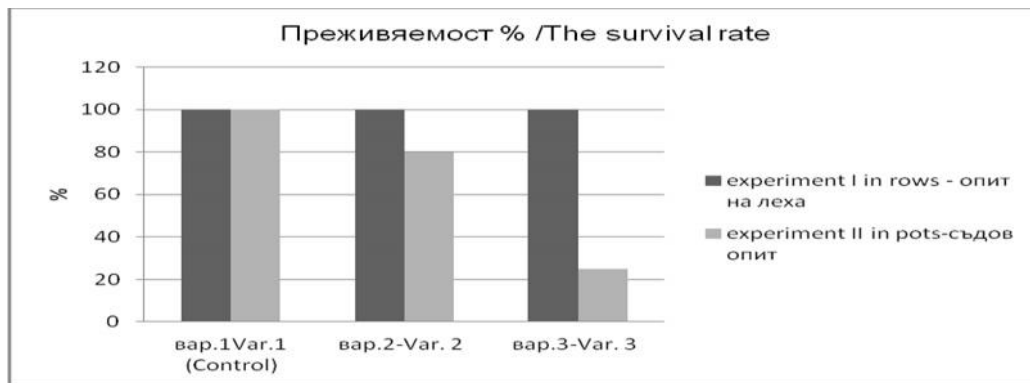


Fig. 3. The survival rate of the plants *Tagetes patula*/ cv. Usmivka

The phenological observations did not show any differences in the separate stages of plant development.

The simulated drought caused changes in the cell membranes of tagetes. A low level of electrolyte leakage was also observed in the control plants, grown both in rows and in pots.

The values increased in the variants with reduced waterings of the rows in variant 2 and 3 (Fig. 4).

A four-day observation showed a variation of the values of the tested parameter – this was related to the watering schedule of

1413,55 $\mu\text{S/g}$ 1205,9 $\mu\text{S/g}$ (. 4).

the experiment – the highest values in both experiments were recorded on Thursday– 1413.55 $\mu\text{S/g}$ and 1205.9 $\mu\text{S/g}$, respectively (Fig. 4).

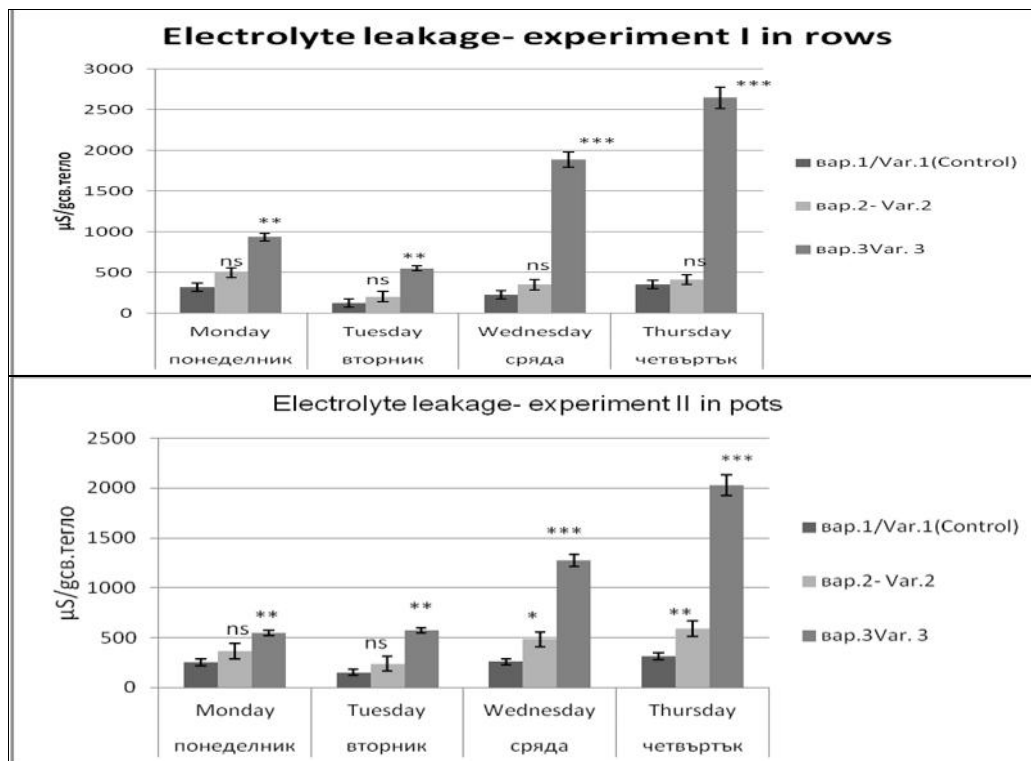


Fig. 4. Electrolyte leakage from Tagetes patula-cv. Usmivka varied

– 204,01 $\mu\text{S/g}$
 765,66 $\mu\text{S/g}$
 . 3,
 (. 4).
 (%)

The parameter sharply increased in the pot experiment with 204.01 $\mu\text{S/g}$ for the control and up to 765.66 $\mu\text{S/g}$ for variant 3, indicative of a higher rate of membrane damage (Fig. 4).

The measured values of the relative water content (RWC %) showed a high percentage of water content in the tissues of the

90%, (. 5).
 70
 -
 . 3
 1
 55,65%,
 46,33% (. 5).

control plants that varied within 70-90% (Fig. 5). The simulated drought led to the gradual decrease of plant water content, the lowest values being recorded for variant 3 of both experiments – 55.65% in experiment I and 46.33% in the pot trial (Fig. 5).

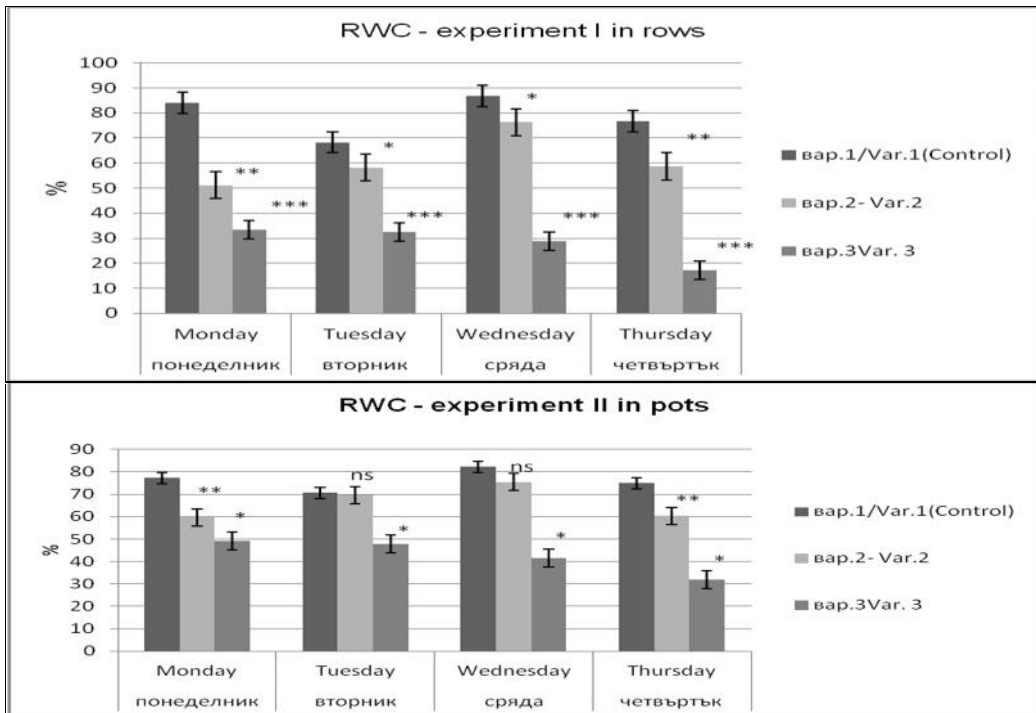


Fig. 5. Relative water content (RWC%) of *Tagetes patula* cv. Usmivka

The change in the relative water content is a parameter that indicates the effect of water deficiency on ornamental plants. Combined with additional parameters, such as proline content, it can be used for the

(Chyli ski et al., 2007).

” ” 21%
36,5% 72,25%
Cornic et al.
(1992),
30%

evaluation of new species, suitable for growing in urban conditions (Chyli ski et al., 2007).

The reported water deficiency in the tissues of cv. Usmivka varied from 21% in the control plants up to 36.5% and 72.25% in the variants with reduced watering. According to the concept of Cornic et al. (1992), dehydration, leading to 30% water deficiency in the plants, is accepted as mild or moderate stress.

CONCLUSIONS

1.

1.The results of the simulated water deficiency in tagetes showed a general inhibiting effect on the growth and development of the tested plants in both experimental variants (grown in rows and pots), expressed stronger in the pot experiment.

2.

2.The negative effect of water deficiency was expressed to the highest degree on the number and dimensions of the blooms. In the row experiment, the bloom diameter decreased with 14% and 23% with the reduction of watering. The results of the pot experiment showed a decrease of the bloom dimensions up to 45% in the conditions of single watering, compared to the control. The blooms were deformed, not typical for the variety, with undeveloped tubular flowers and prevailing tongue flowers.

3.

100%,

.2 ()

85% . 3

) 76%.

4.

5. -

. 3 ()

6.

” ” – 27.7%

3.The survival rate of the plants in simulated water deficiency conditions was different for each of the two experimental schedules. In the row experiment, the survival percentage of the plants in all variants was 100% and in the pot experiment it decreased to 85% in variant 2 (two waterings) and 76% in variant 3 (single watering).

4.The phenological observations showed insignificant deviations in the development stages of tagetes.

5.The highest values of electrolyte leakage were recorded in variant 3 (single watering) in both experimental schedules.

6.The relative water content in the plant tissues decreased depending on the watering schedule. The lowest values were recorded in tagetes cv. Usmivka – 27.7% in the variant with a single weekly watering.

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