

**o (Capsicum annuum L.)
 (Solanum lycopersicum L.)**

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**Germination of seeds of vegetable cultures of peppers
 (Capsicum annuum L.) and tomatoes (Solanum lycopersicum
 L.) and growing of young plants on the mine dumps substrate
 from Kišnica Mine and Kosovo B thermal power plant**

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SUMMARY

(Capsicum annuum L.)
 lycopersicum L.)

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 (20 cm 40 cm).
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The study of the germination of pepper seeds (*Capsicum annuum* L.) and tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) and the growth of young plants was done on the substrates of the Kišnica Mine pit, which is dominated by heavy metals, and mine dumps of Kosovo Thermal Power Plant, where various sulfur and nitrogen compounds are dominant. Germinating was carried out at different depths of the substrate (20 cm and 40 cm). Obtained results show that the percentage of seed germination and the growth of young plants are varied and depend on the plant species, seeds, sites of the used substrate, the depth of the substrate and the concentration of pollutants in the substrate. High seed germination was found in the samples that were

" " 40 cm (128%

).

7

75%,

5

:

SO₂ - 30%, Al₂O₃-6.5%, Fe-15%, S-16%, MgO-3%, CaO-1,5%, As-0,6%, Pb-0,6%, Ag, Cu, Ca, Br, Ni

" B"

NO_x, CO₂, H₂S)

(Sastre et al., 2004; Shoeran and Shoeran, 2006).

germinating on the substrate from the Thermal Power Plant Kosovo B at a depth of 40 cm (128% in tomatoes compared to control). However, in the seed that germinated on the substrate of the Kišnica Mine after 7 days, it was 75% in comparison to control, but 5 days after germination a complete inhibition of growth has occurred and plants wilted.

Key words: germination of seeds, vegetable plants, mine dump substrate, pollutants, heavy metals, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides

INTRODUCTION

The environment of Kosovo and Metohija is burdened with polluting substances originating from several sources - traffic, industry, urbanization and the use of chemical substances in agriculture. The most dangerous pollutants are concentrated in the dummies of the industrial zones of central Kosovo. Polluting substances originate from the Kišnica Mines and Thermal Power Plant Kosovo B Obili. The mine dump of Kišnica Mine represents a serious ecological problem and a constant threat to the preservation of the environment. The approximate composition of the dump soil is SO₂ -30%, Al₂O₃-6.5%, Fe-15%, S-16%, MgO-3%, CaO-1,5%, As-0,6%, Pb-0,6%, Ag, Cu, Ca, Br, Ni and other elements in low traces. Dump soil of the TPP Kosovo B Obli contains emissions of all particles (dust, SO₂, NO_x, CO₂, H₂S) at different concentrations. Environmental threats of these pollutants are reflected in the pollution of water, air and soil by waste water and waste from the processing of the ore (Sastre et al., 2004; Shoeran and Shoeran, 2006).

Different species grow in the habitats of these industrial zones, both non-cultivated and cultivated plants that people use in one way or another for food. These valuable plants are nowadays

reduced due to the increasing percentage of pollutants present in the environment.

Toxic substances cause harmful effects in plants that manifests at different levels of biological organization and very early in morphogenesis starting from the seed germination (Trajkovi et al, 2006).

(Trajkovi et al, 2006).

Toxic substances generally reduce the percentage of seed germination and plant growth (Rani and Srivastava, 1990).

(Rani and Srivastava, 1990).

The inhibitory effect of contaminating matter is manifested in the process of seed germination as well as in the vegetation period of plant growth and development (Shafiq et al., 2008; Kumar et al., 2010).

(Shafiq et al., 2008; Kumar et al., 2010).

Toxic substances primarily cause the reduction of the photosynthetic apparatus (Kastori et al, 1998) and inhibit cell growth because they affect the metabolism and transport of auxin (Woolhouse, 1983).

(Kastori et al, 1998)

(Woolhouse, 1983).

Modern development of industry, technology, traffic, agriculture and other achievements of civilization result in disruption of environmental conditions that cause serious consequences for plants, animals and humans.

Since plants play a fundamental role in the functioning of the biosphere (the circulation of matter, the energy flow, photosynthesis, etc.), the harmful effects are manifested not only in plants but also in all heterotrophic organisms, as well as on changes in the ecosystem (climate, soil, water, air) and on global level - on the whole biosphere.

Considering that the toxic substances adversely affect the environment and living systems, even in the embryogenesis, we decided to conduct seed germination testing and the growth of vegetable crops of peppers and tomatoes (the most abundant and most cultivated vegetables in this region) on the

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 " " " " B"
 (20 cm 40 cm).
 12-15
 72
 14
 7, 4, 21 28

substrates of the mine dumps of the Kišnica mine and TPP Kosovo B Obili

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to achieve this goal, seeds of vegetable crops of peppers and tomatoes and samples of substrates of the mines dumps from the Kišnica mine and TPP Kosovo B Obili from different depths (20 cm and 40 cm) were used. The soil from the town of Lipljan, distance 12-15 km in triangle from other locations, was used as control.

One hundred seeds, after their mass was previously measured, were sown on the mentioned soil samples and control soil in the vessels under controlled conditions. Well water was used for watering.

After 72 hours of experiment was set up, the counting of seedlings of tomatoes was done. The counting of pepper seedlings was done after 14 days. The number of germinated seed was recorded, and then the percentage was calculated in relation to the control. In the further course of the experiment, the stages of plant growth and development were monitored, where the height of the stem and the length of leaves in the function of the time were measured: 7, 4, 21 and 28 days after seeding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained during the survey show that the percentage of germination of seeds and the growth of the tested plants varied depending on both the plant species and the concentration of pollutants in the soil from the selected sites.

The largest number of seedlings were found in tomatoes after 72 hours after sowing on the substrate of the TPP Kosovo B Obili (the sample from 40 cm depth), which is 128% compared to the control, while the smallest number of

" " " (40 cm) , 128% , -

40 cm
" , (73.46%
1).

e | germinated seeds of this plant species were found on the substrate taken from 40 cm from the mine dump of the Kišnica mine, which was 73.46% compared to the control (Table 1).

1.
(*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)

(*Capsicum annuum* L)

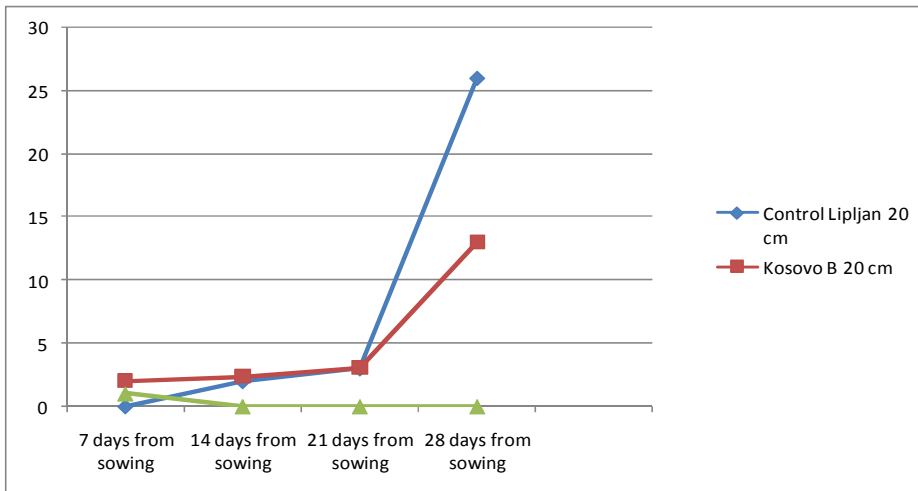
20 cm 40 cm

Table 1. Germination of seed of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) with calculated percentage of germinability in samples on substrates of mine dump soil of Kišnica mine and TPP Obili from 20 cm and 40 cm of depth

40 cm Mine dump substrate sample 20 cm and 40 cm depth	/ Pepper (<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L)		/ Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> L.)	
	/Number of germinated seed	% germinated seed compared to control	/Number of germinated seed	% germinated seed compared to control
Control Lipljan 20cm	33	100%	59	100%
Obili mine dump 20cm	35	106%	58	98%
Kišnica mine dump 20cm	24	72%	45	76%
Control Lipljan 40cm	27	100%	49	100%
Obili mine dump 40cm	29	107%	63	128%
Kišnica mine dump 40cm	20	74.07%	36	73.46%

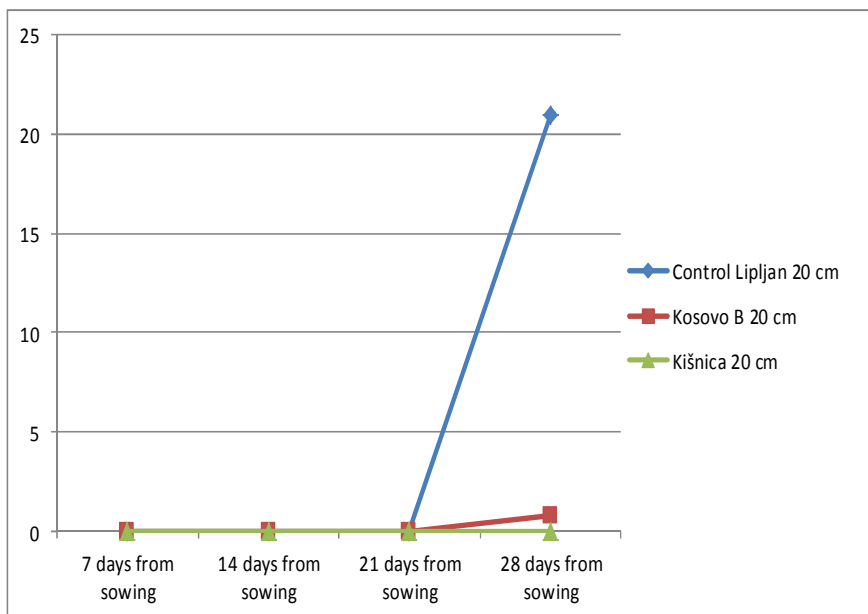
14
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" " , 40
cm 107% , e
20 cm
106%
(1).
Trajkovi et al. (2011)

The germination of pepper was performed only after 14 days of sowing (setting up of the experiment). The largest number of germinated pepper seeds was recorded in the substrate taken from the TPP Kosovo B Obili, from the depth of 40 cm, and was 107% compared to the control. In the variant from 20 cm from this site, 106% was recorded compared to the control sample (Table 1). In their research, Trajkovi et al (2011) found the inhibition of germination of tomato and pepper seeds treated with the water of the river Veternica due to the presence of waste water and other various pollutants.



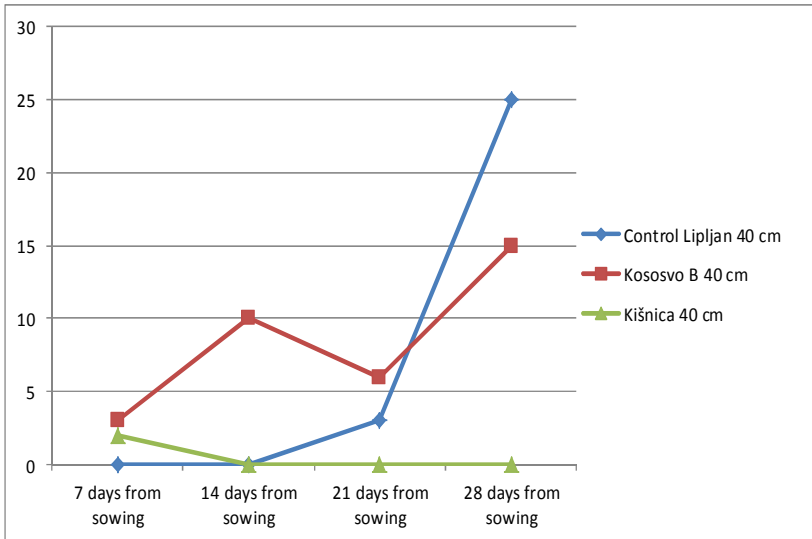
1.
 (Capsicum annuum L)
 " 20 cm

Fig. 1. Hight of stem during the growths of young plants of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 20 cm of depth



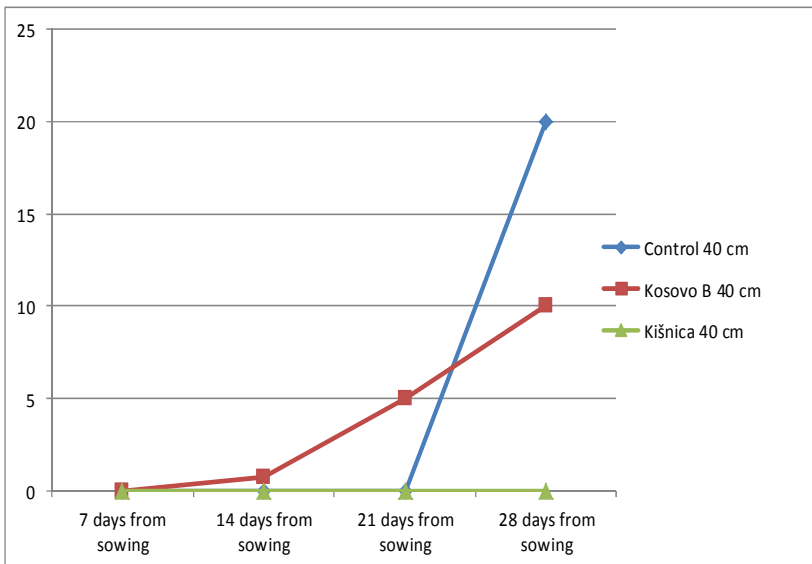
2.
 (Capsicum annuum L)
 " 20 cm

Fig. 2. Length of leaves during the growths of young plants of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 20 cm of depth



. 3.
 (*Capsicum annuum* L)
 „ 40 cm

Fig. 3. Hight of stem during the growths of young plants of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 40 cm of depth



. 4.
 (*Capsicum annuum* L)
 „ 40 cm

Fig. 4. Length of leaves during the growths of young plants of pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 40 cm of depth

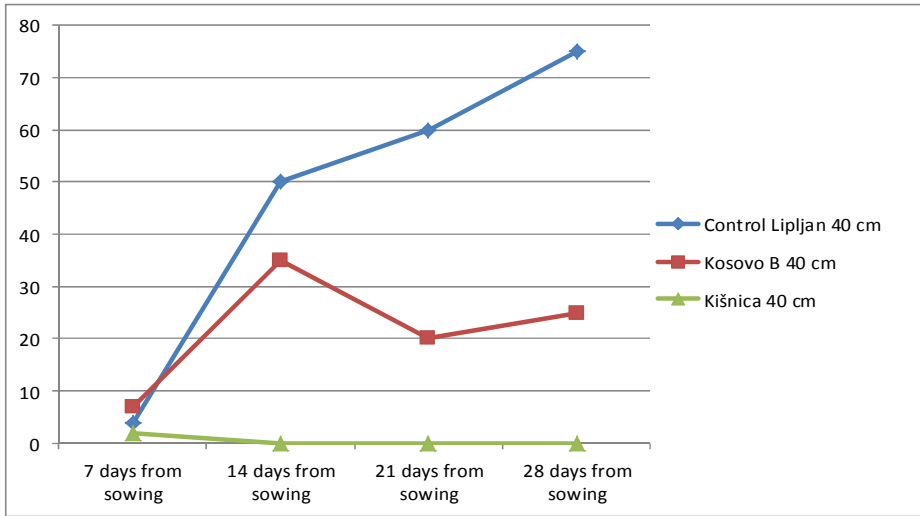
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(Trajkovi et al., 2006)

(Ili et al., 2003).

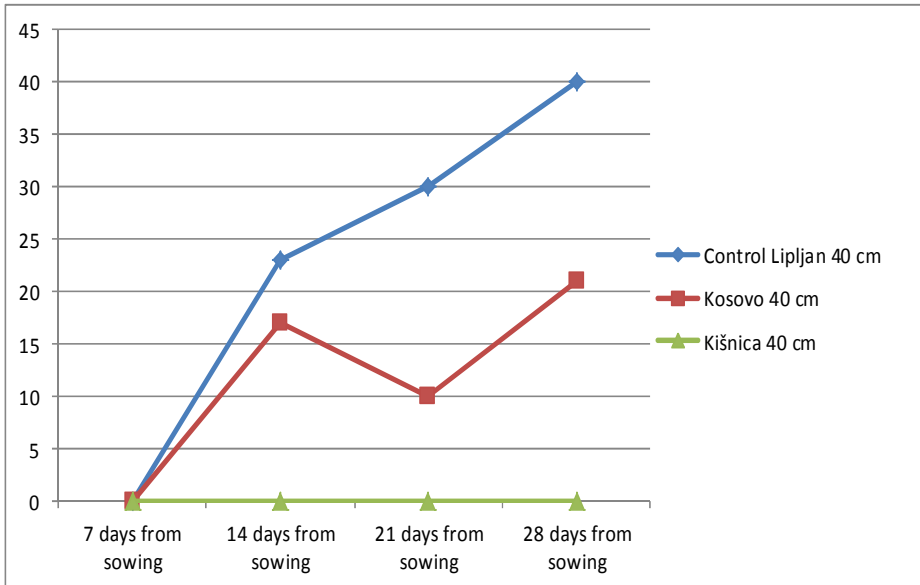
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 8).

- These differences during
- germination of seeds were related to the low concentration of pollutants in the soil from the Lipljan site that served as control compared to the substrates of the mine dump Kišnica and TPP Kosovo B Obili .
- They were also related to the composition of seed coat which poorly passes heavy metals which in this case occurred as activators of the enzymes involved in seed germination, so the germination was higher. Increasing concentrations of toxic substances cause a decrease in the percentage of germination, as well as the height of the seedlings, while low concentrations act stimulatingly to the germination process of the seed, and the percentage of germination increases (Trajkovi et al., 2006)
- Also, the increased or decreased germination in the investigated plant species was probably also genetically conditioned, and it could depend on the concentration of certain toxins in the substrate, the content of organic matter, phosphate and the pH value of the soil (Ili et al., 2003).
- Polluting substances affect not only germination, but also the growth of plants, especially during the first days after germination. The results obtained for the initial growth of the examined plants showed differences in the length of the leaves and the height of the stems (Figure 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).



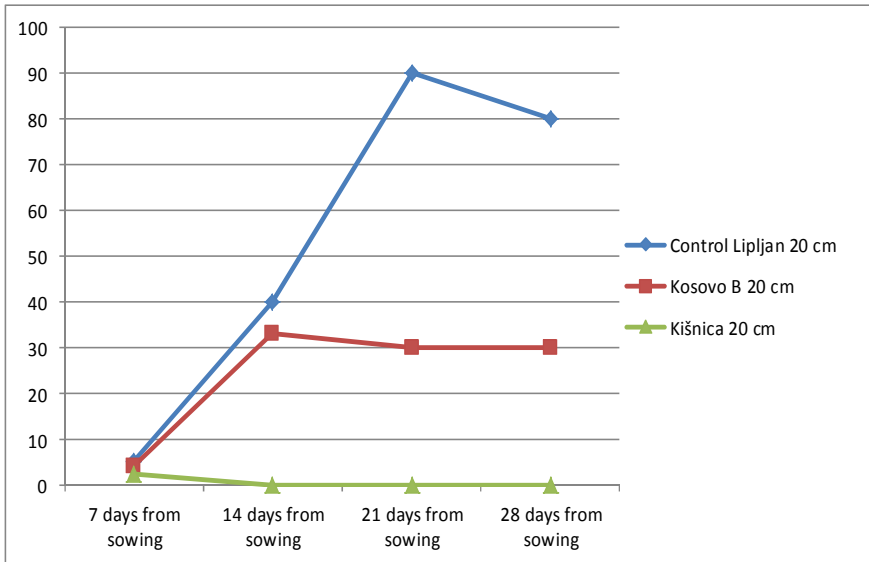
5.
(Capsicum annuum L)
 „ 40 cm

Fig. 5. Height of stem during the growths of young plants of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum L*) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 40 cm of depth



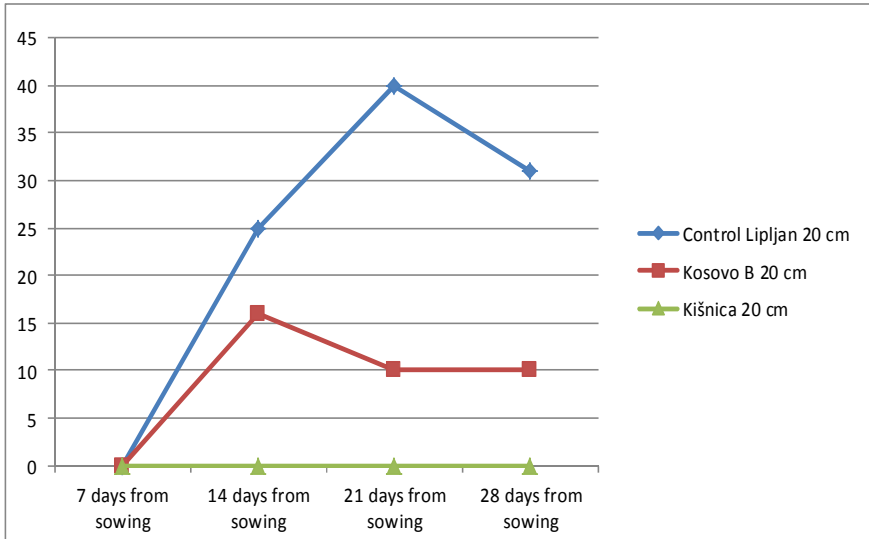
6.
(Solanum lycopersicum L)
 „ 40 cm

Fig. 6. Length of leaves during the growths of young plants of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum L*) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 40 cm of depth



. 7.
 (Solanum lycopersicum L)
 „ “ 20 cm

Fig. 7. Hight of stem during the growths of young plants of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 20 cm of depth



. 8.
 (Solanum lycopersicum L)
 „ “ 20 cm

Fig. 8. Lenght of leaves during the growths of young plants of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L) on substrates of mine dumps of Kišnica and TPP Obili from 20 cm of depth

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21

3, 4, 5, 6, 7 8).

Rajkovi et al. (2012),

(Trajkovi et al., 2008).

(Alloway, 1995; Kabata-Pendias et al., 2004; 2011).

Accelerated growth of young pepper and tomato plants on the substrate of the mine dump of TPP Kosovo B Obili was observed for up to 21 days after germination, and afterwards there was growth inhibition compared to control, as well as some morphological changes in the leaves (such as the occurrence of necrosis and yellow spots) (Figure 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

According to Rajkovi et al. (2012), the first visible symptom of the adverse effect of heavy metals is the reduction of plant growth and the occurrence of chlorosis and necrosis. All morphological changes occurred much later in relation to biochemical and physiological changes and these apparent harmful effects on plants could not be corrected by any treatment (Trajkovi et al., 2008).

Both of the investigated plant species on the substrate from the mine dump of Kišnica mine, after 10 days of germination, stopped growing, got bluish color and wilted. According to the literature data, Cd and Pb inhibit the adoption of essential elements and their transport to the above-ground organs causing chlorosis and necrosis of leaves, as well as the irregular growth and development of young organs (Alloway, 1995; Kabata-Pendias et al., 2004; 2011).

CONCLUSIONS

The development the industry, anthropogenic sources of heavy metals have become significant pollutants and their encroachment into soil has to be prevented or at least controlled, in order that the end-user in the soil-plant-human system be able to receive biologically safe food. The atmosphere is an important medium for the transport of metals from various sources, often hundreds of kilometers from the emission.

Based on the results obtained during the research on the influence of

anthropogenic emissions of heavy metals can reduce the product's yield and quality.

- These industrial establishments release dump soil and deposit it next to the dam of Gra ana ko Lake and the Gra anka and Sitnica rivers, which poses an even greater risk of spreading toxic substances from the mine dump.

- The results obtained during the experiment will contribute to a better clarification of the potential presence and toxicity of pollutants from both mine dumps and can be used for biological monitoring to achieve early detection of pollution.

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Influence of sowing and planting dates on duration of broccoli vegetation period in Kyustendil region

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SUMMARY

Four broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *italica* Plenck) hybrids were investigated in field production with four variants of sowing and planting dates: C₁ - sowing on 1st June and planting on 1st July; C₂ - sowing on 1st June and planting on 15th July; C₃ - sowing on 15th June and planting on 15th July; C₄ - sowing on 15th June and planting on 1st August and C₅ - sowing on 30 June and planting on 1st August. For the cultivation with a planting period until 15th July the vegetation period has a shorter duration of up to 100 days compared to production variants with a later date of planting 1st August. The vegetation period has the shortest duration of 86 days for 30 day seedlings produced during the period 1st June - 1st July. The earliest harvest was obtained in variant C₁.

Key words: broccoli, vegetation period, sowing date, planting date

01.06. : 1 -
2 - 01.06. 01.07.,
15.07., 3 - 15.06.
15.06. 4 - 01.08.
5 - 30.06.
01.08. 15
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INTRODUCTION

- A practical interest for broccoli producers is the complex of economic indicators, in which the durability of the vegetation period determining the time of production and the shorter duration of vegetation is expected to be lower than the return of inputs.

- The length of the vegetation period is mainly expressed in accordance with the technological factors of production, out of which the terms of the transplants production can be of prime importance. In Bulgaria, studies on broccoli have not yet been conducted to assess the impact of sowing and planting time on the vegetation period durability. Such studies, however, are economically important, which determines the necessity of their implementation in our country.

The purpose of the present study was to define the effect of sowing and planting dates on the durability of the vegetation period of late field broccoli production in the Kyustendil region.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental work was carried out during the period 2008-2011 under the conditions of late field production of the experimental areas plantations of the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil. Five sowing and planting periods were studied: variant C₁ - sowing on 01.06. and planting on 01.07., variant C₂ - sowing on 01.06. and planting 15.07., variant C₃ - sowing on 15.06. and planting 15.07., variant C₄ - sowing on 15.06. and planting on 01.08. and variant C₅ - sowing on 30.06. and planting on 01.08. Four broccoli varieties were tested: Fiesta F1 (Bejo Zaden - The Netherlands), Marathon F1 (Sakata - Japan), Coronado F1 (Bejo Zaden - The Netherlands) and Parthenon F1 (Sakata - Japan).

a 2008-2011 .

1 - 01.06. 01.07., 2 - 01.06. 15.07., 3 - 15.06. 15.07., 4 - 15.06. 01.08. 5 - 30.06. 01.08.

: Fiesta F1 (Bejo Zaden - The Netherlands), Marathon F1 (Sakata - Japan), Coronado F1 (Bejo Zaden - The Netherlands) and Parthenon F1 (Sakata - Japan).

4 (20
 8 m²/
 80/50cm.
 N₂₀P₁₅K₁₂
 30 - 40 m³/da
 400 - 450 m³/da.
 (Lakin, 1990)
 (Duncan, 1955),

The experiment was conducted in 4 replications (20 plants/repeat) with a test area of 8 m²/replication for each of the experimental variants. The plants are grown on a furrowed surface by planting in 80/50 cm scheme. Planting was carried out on an experimental field, without a precursor, on a fallow area. The plants were grown on agropony N₂₀P₁₅K₁₂ achieved by fertilizing with mineral fertilizers after agrochemical soil stock analysis. Plant protection of all variants against diseases and pests was carried out with authorized plant protection products. During the growing season, gravity irrigation with irrigation rate of 30 - 40 m³/da and irrigation rate for the vegetation period 400 - 450 m³/da was done.

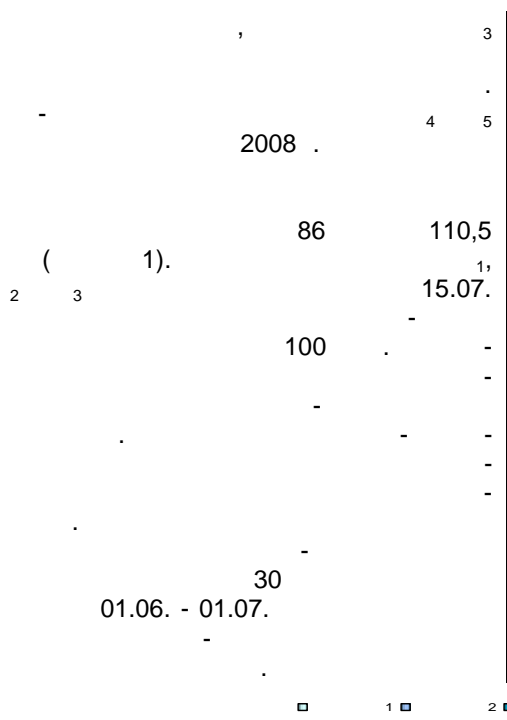
Plants of the five variants of the experiment from each of the tested broccoli varieties were examined for the vegetative period - the period from planting to harvesting of central flower heads (days).

The obtained data were mathematically processed by three-way and two-way analysis of variance (Lakin, 1990) and multiple dispersion analysis (Duncan, 1955), using standard software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the study, a significant variability of the investigated trait was recorded for variants over the four years of the survey, ranging from 82-83 days in 2009 and 2010 respectively for variants C₁ and C₂ to 116 days in 2010 for variant C₅ (Figure 1). The highest variation for variant C₂ is that the 98.5 days of vegetation period for the first year of the study decreased to 83 days in 2010. Nearly each of the five variants of experience demonstrated a short duration of vegetation in different years. In this sense, the best realization for option C₁ is reported in 2009 for variant C₂ in the following year, while the appropriate production conditions for

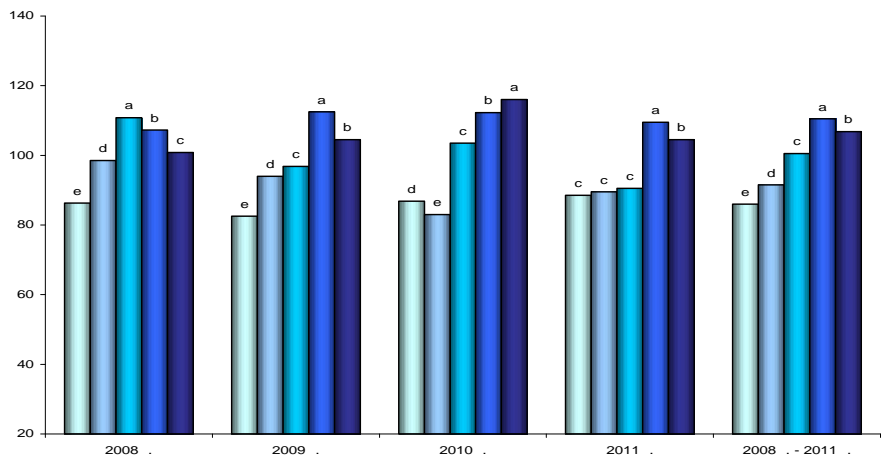
82-83
 2009 . 2010 .
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 5 (1).
 2,
 98,5
 83 2010 .
 2009 ,, 1
 2



variant C₃ are the ones of the final year of the survey. The shortest vegetation for variants C₄ and C₅ was registered in 2008.

On average, for the period of the study, the values for the variants for the tested feature were between 86 days and 110.5 days (Figure 1). In three of the variants, C₁, C₂ and C₃ with a planting period of 15.07., the vegetation period has the shortest duration of up to 100 days. The vegetation period is extended for cultivation with later planting dates. From an economic point of view, the shorter duration of the vegetation period is a desirable feature for the producers.

The examined trait has the lowest value production of 30 day seedlings during the period 01.06. - 01.07. This variation also recorded the lowest variation between years of testing.



a, b...Duncan's multiple range test (p<0.05)

. 1.

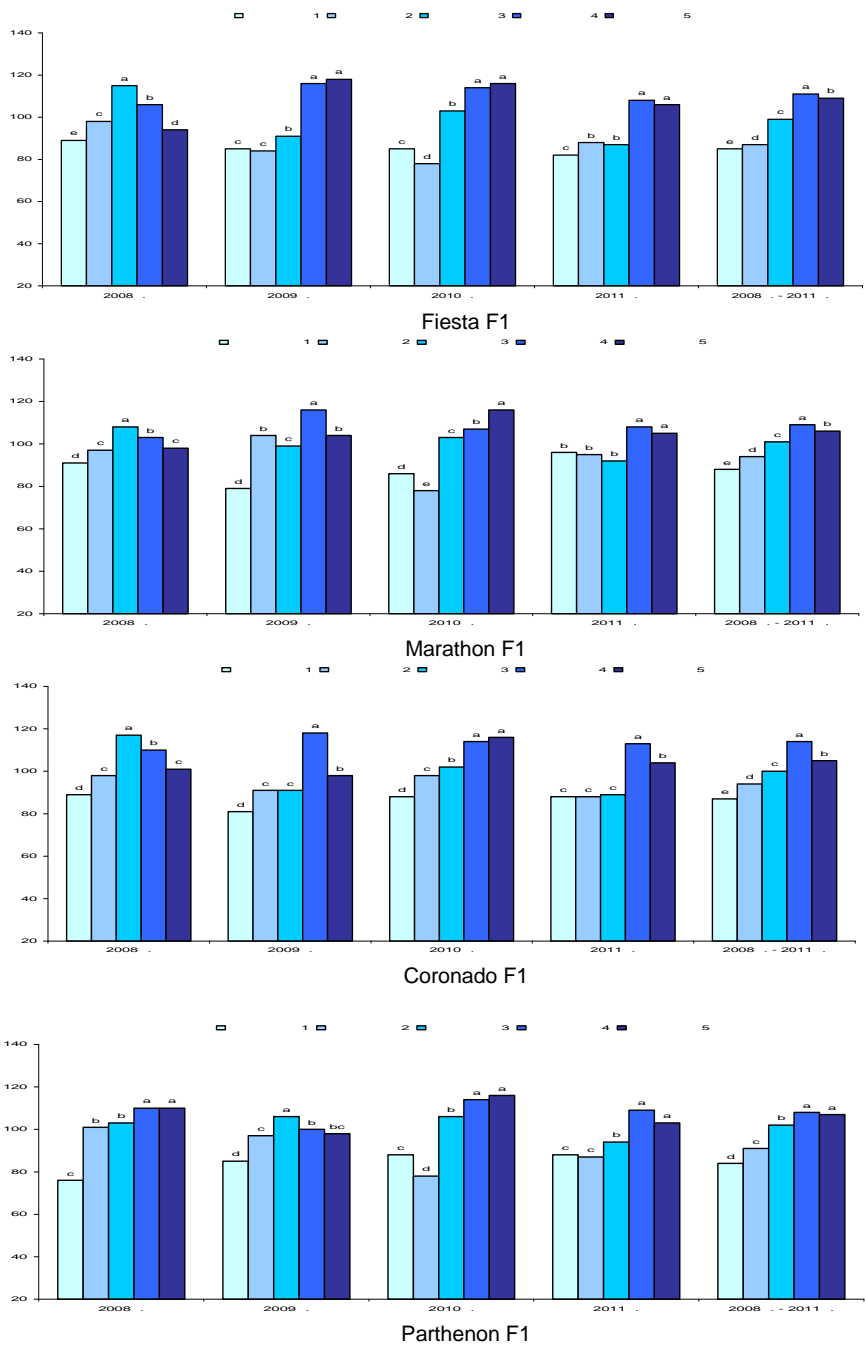
Fig. 1. Influence of sowing and planting dates on vegetation period

The manifestations of the studied trait for all varieties are limited by variants C₁ and C₄, where the vegetation periods are the shortest and the longest,

01.06. 01.07.,
 Fiesta F1 85 , Marathon F1 88
 , Coronado F1 87 Parthenon F1
 84 (2).
 111 Fiesta
 F1, 109 Marathon F1, 114
 Coronado F1 108 Parthenon F1.
 75,61 %
 10
 % (1).
 70,65% 85,21 % (2).

respectively. The variation between cultivars is the lowest in seedlings from the first date of sowing 01.06. and planting on 01.07, with all the genotypes tested being the shortest for the Fiesta F1 85 days, Marathon F1 88 days, Coronado F1 87 days, and Parthenon F1 84 days (Figure 2). For the remaining sowing and planting periods, all cultivars show an increase in the length of the vegetation period compared to the first variant and reach 111 days for Fiesta F1, 109 days for Marathon F1, 114 days for Coronado F1 and 108 days for Parthenon F1. The differentiation between the varieties in each of the variants is relatively weak, with the differences in the vegetation period of 3 to 7 days.

The analysis of variances of vegetation durability showed that the strongest effect of 75.61% on the dispersion of the trait showed the differences between the variants of the experiment, while the other variability factors had an insignificant effect up to 10% (Table 1). The results of the dispersion analyzes for each of the tested varieties show that the proven differences between the terms of the growing have a determinant effect over the expression of the studied trait in all genotypes , with the influence ranging from 70.65% to 85.21% (Table 2).



a, b...Duncan's multiple range test (p<0.05)

. 2.

Fig. 2. Varietal response for durability of the vegetation period

1.

Table 1. Three-way analysis of variance of durability of vegetation period and influence of variability factors

Components	/ Factors of variation						
	Variant	Variety	Year				
/ Variance	1655,98 ^{***}	57,82 ^{**}	198,02 ^{***}	33,71 ^{***}	205,48 ^{***}	71,22 ^{**}	42,99 ^{***}
Influence (%)	75,61	1,32	2,26	3,08	9,38	1,63	3,93

– Variant, – Variety, – Year
^{***}, ^{**} - 0.01, 0.001;
^{***} - significant at 0.01, 0.001

2.

Table 2. Two-way analysis of variance of broccoli varieties for duration of vegetation period and influence of variation factors

Sources of variation	<i>Fiesta F1</i>		<i>Marathon F1</i>		<i>Coronado F1</i>		<i>Parthenon F1</i>	
	Variance	Influence (%)	Variance	Influence (%)	Variance	Influence (%)	Variance	Influence (%)
/ Variant	787,45 ^{***}	81,88	418,70 ^{***}	70,65	517,25 ^{***}	85,21	613,93 ^{***}	85,08
/ Year	145,80 ^{**}	3,79	2,45 ^{ns}	-	192,20 ^{***}	7,92	96,80 ^{***}	3,35
Variant x Year	107,05 ^{**}	11,13	150,45 ^{***}	25,39	33,95 ^{**}	5,59	75,18 ^{***}	10,42

^{***}, ^{**} - 0.01, 0.001; ns –
^{***} -significant at 0.01, 0.001; ns – not significant

01.06. - 01.07.

(86)

30

Saikia et al. (2010) . Singhal et al. (2009)

(2011), Hossain et al.

- The results obtained from a study
- of the influence of planting times on the
- test indicate that when cultivated with 30
30 day seedlings obtained in the period
01.06. - 01.07., the vegetation period has
the shortest duration (86 days). It could
be assumed that a shorter vegetation
period under this planting period may be
due to the length of the day that reaches
its maximum in the period from June 15
to June 30.

- The results of this study on the
- impact of sowing and planting time on the
- duration of the vegetation period
- correspond to the predominant part of the
- results obtained from other similar
- surveys. Singhal et al. (2009) and Saikia
- et al. (2010) also found that for earlier
- sowing dates, the durability of the
- vegetation period is shorter. However,
- contrary to this, the results obtained by
- Hossain et al. (2011), according to which
- the vegetation period is reduced, but
- when cultivated with later sowing dates.

- In this type of research, the
- presence of divergent results is probably
- due to differences in climatic zones and
- agro-climatic conditions in the study
- areas, as well as to the genetic
- characteristics of the tested varieties and
- their specific manifestations in the
- production conditions. From an agro
- biological point of view, this should mean
- that the results obtained for a particular
- area of research are largely valid for local
- conditions. In this regard, the results of
- the sowing and planting effect obtained in
- this study will be applicable to the
- conditions of the area where the study
- was conducted. Considering, however,
- that these results are similar to those
- obtained from other researchers in other
- areas of research, it could be suggested
- that they may be realized under
- cultivation and other conditions in our
- country.

19

- (-)
 2016
 17/2016
 ()
Verticillium, Botritis
Septoria spp.,
 Fuzila, Funfix Sumetie,
 90 %
 : ,
 , 17/2016

Forestry, located in the region of Sofia field. The plants were planted at three different conditions with three repetitions without treatments (three types of greenhouses – two unheated greenhouses and low tunnel covered with a polymer foil). The observations were conducted in the fall of 2015 and twice at the beginning and at the end of spring 2016 and funded under Project 17/2016 of the Forestry University. All plants with symptoms of the disease were examined in the laboratory and the losses were reported statistically. Samples of plants with suspected viral infection were subjected to a serological analysis and fungal pathogens were isolated on nutrient media and a morphology (microscopic) identification was carried. Up to dat , the results of the studies indicate that the viral infection has not been established yet. The fungal pathogens as *Verticillium*, *Botritis* and *Septoria* spp., causing plant diseases were established and identified. The largest attack and manifestation of gray mould was found in three varieties Fuzila, Funfix and Sumetie and the degree of looses reached more than 90%. Explaining the impact of stress factors will improve the quality and quantity of crops grown from different varieties in the particular climate area.

Key words: stress factors, lettece diseases, Project 17/2016 FU, Sofia valley

INTRODUCTION

Two varieties are grown in our country – the head lettuce and lettuce. The wide use of lettuce is due to its taste, dietary and nutritional qualities. It contains nitrogenous substances in the form of the proteins necessary for the human organism. Especially valuable as a source of mineral salts, mainly phosphorus, potassium, iron, vitamins C, A and B1.

A B1.

C,

With the content of cellulose, lettuce is

()

(http://recepty.bg/gradina_b8-122-Salata).

(1989) Kartalov et al.

5000 da. 2014 .
4270 da,

3817 t
3460 da,

14205 da 1658 t
(agrostat.bg, 2015).

2015 . a

109 ha

5439 t
70%

120000 15339 kg/ha
2017 ha (FAO, 2015).

52% 2958 t
1928 t 2016 (MAFSF,

2018).

(Ellis and Waller, 1974),
(Pieczarka and Lorbeer,
1974) (Bertus, 1972),

superior to the lemon lettuce. Feeding with nitrogen fertilizer (manure) should be combined with the introduction of phosphorus and potassium fertilizers in autumn with the deep plowing of the soil. The surplus of nitrogen contributes to the increase in nitrate in the leaves (http://recepty.bg/gradina_b8-122-Salata).

In Bulgaria, the areas for lettuce production increased both in the open and in the cultivation facilities. According to Kartalov and others. (1989) the territory of Bulgaria is 5000 da. In 2014, the lettuces were grown on 427 ha, with a total production of 3817 t, including open areas 3460 da and 14205 da greenhouses with a yield of 1658 t (agrostat.bg, 2015). It is striking in 2015 that the areas are concentrated in greenhouses with polymer mulch coatings on an area about 109 ha with a total production of 5439 t, with the share of the greenhouse production being 70%. And a yield of 15339 kg/ha or 120000 plants of ha (FAO, 2015). In 2017, greenhouse production grew by over 52% and has been harvested 2958 tonnes lettuce compared to 1928 tonnes in 2016 (MAFSF, 2018).

The lettuce is attacked by a lot of phytopathogens responsible for economically significant diseases such as gray rot (Ellis and Waller, 1974), black rot (Pieczarka and Lorbeer, 1974) and septoriosi (Bertus, 1972) and their degree of appearance and attack to a large extent depends by the climatic conditions of cultivation.

Clarifying the impact of these conditions leads to improving the quality of farming and increasing the quantity and quality of the resulting production of different varieties of lettuce grown in the particular climate area. Data analysis serves to make recommendations for improving the technology used so far and will have an effect on raising producers' incomes.

The main purpose of the research

(*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. romana capitata

var.

- was to identify and identify lettuce diseases (*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. Romana and var. Capitata, as well as their causes, related to the influence of abiotic stress factors. The data from this study will help reduce the risk for the volume and quality of the output.

19
1290

2015

2016

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To achieve this goal, 19 varieties of lettuce were planted. Over 1290 plants were planted in three different conditions, with four replicates and no treatments. The investigations were carried out in the autumn of 2015 and twice in the beginning and end of spring of 2016. All plants showing symptoms of disease were examined in laboratory.

Et the present study, were used the biological methods for the identification of mushroom diseases in lettuce based on identification using artificial feeding media, morphological and serological methods with much greater sensitivity and speed ELISA variants such as indirect sandwich with polyclonal (Retana et al., 2008) or monoclonal antibodies (Candresse et al., 2007).

(German-Retana et al., 2008)

2007).

mosaic virus (DAS-ELISA)(Clark and Adams, 1977).

ELISA

Lettuce

(pH 7,3)

Sediag,

)

32

10 14

Plant samples suspected of having a viral infection were subjected to a serological assay for the Lettuce mosaic virus (DAS-ELISA) (Clark and Adams, 1977). A universal extraction buffer (pH 7.3) and polyclonal antibodies from Sediag, France for serological analyses were used.

The fungal pathogens were isolated on nutrient media (PDA and WA) and morphological (microscopic) identification was performed. All isolates, a total of 32 plants were reisolated. The final identification for fungal pathogens on days 10 and 14 was performed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

ELISA) (DAS – Immunoassay Method (DAS – ELISA)
 - The results of the serological tests and optical density measurements (OD), as required by the manufacturer in the final stage of the LMV ELISA test, are shown in the Table 1.
 (OD),
 -
 ELISA
 -
 LMV 1.

1. ELISA LMV
Table 1. Results of ELISA test for LMV

	Data OD/60min					
Blank ()	0.009	Sample with OD > 0.119 = Positive (+), OD = 0.088 to 0.119 = +/-, Negative: OD < [(-)] : [2xOD K(+)] – 20% Positive: OD > 2x[OD (-)] + 20%; Negative/Positive (+/-): [(-)] > OD < [(+)].				
Positive control (K+)	0.119					
Negative control (K-)	0.055					
Substrat ()	0.048					
ELISA Test for LMV						
	Region	Variety	Origin	ELISA Test for LMV		
				Value	OD	Results + / -
1	UOP Vrajdebna	Maritima	Radev	0,048/0,055	0,0515	-
2	UOP Vrajdebna	Kriska	Radev	0,050/0,065	0,0575	-
3	UOP Vrajdebna	Malice	Radev	0,046/0,047	0,0465	-
4	UOP Vrajdebna	Malice	Radev	0,049/0,056	0,0525	-
5	UOP Vrajdebna	Satine	Radev	0,049/0,049	0,049	-
6	UOP Vrajdebna	Fanela	Radev	0,055/0,055	0,045	-
7	UOP Vrajdebna	Frisday	Radev	0,036/0,054	0,0505	-
8	UOP Vrajdebna	Frisday	Radev	0,051/0,051	0,051	-
9	UOP Vrajdebna	Jazzie	Radev	0,042/0,041	0,0415	-
10	UOP Vrajdebna	Donertie	Radev	0,058/0,050	0,054	-
11	UOP Vrajdebna	Aquarel	Radev	0,059/0,044	0,0515	-

ELISA

ELISA 11
Lettuce mosaic virus
 11

Discuss the results of an ELISA test

From the two investigations carried out and from the ELISA tests of a total of 11 plants, a viral infection of the *Lettuce mosaic virus* was not established.

All 11 plants were harvested during the third survey at the end of May.

Observed visual symptoms resembled those of a viral infection, but this has not been proven. Some of the plants were further analyzed after the introduction to the laboratory, and another symptom of

–

Satine,

-

-

-

Lettuce mosaic

virus –

-

89

-

-

: *Verticillium* spp., *Botritis* spp.,
Septoria spp. *Alternaria* spp.,

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

Verticillium.

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

-

: *Verticillium* spp.

5 Fuzila,

Aquarel, Funfix; *Botritis* spp. 46

: Funride,

Funtasia, Malice, Fuzila, Satine, Fanela,
Sumetie, Jazzie, Aquarel, Funfix, Ostralie;
Septoria spp. 19

: Funride, Funtasia, Fuzila, Satine,
Fanela, Jazzie, Aquarel; *Alternaria* spp.

22

:
Funride, Funtasia, Fuzila, Sumetie, Aquarel,
Ostralie (2).

the symptoms was proven – at the root and roots of two plants, insect pests and motions were found, and the third plant we left under natural conditions after two weeks showed signs of Genetic changes in the Satine variety resembling fascia.

The non-detection of viral infection in the test plants confirms the selective resistance of plants to the Lettuce mosaic virus – the most dangerous on lettuce production.

Biological method

Of the 89 plants analyzed in the first, second, third and fourth tests, the fungal pathogens were isolated: *Verticillium* spp., *Botritis* spp., *Septoria* spp. and *Alternaria* spp., causative agents of lettuce diseases.

When performing the surveys in December, plants with spots and rotting areas of the leaves were found. All leaves were laid in a damp chamber. After one week incubation period, fungal pathogens of the genus *Alternaria* and genus *Verticillium* were microscopically identified. For the final identification of the resulting isolates we used the microscopy method. We chose the isolates that developed on the PDA because the pathogens developed very quickly on it rather than on the WA.

The infection of the following plant diseases has been proven: *Verticillium* spp. is found in 5 plants of Fuzila, Aquarel, Funfix; of *Botritis* spp. in 46 plants of the following varieties: Funride, Funtasia, Malice, Fuzila, Satine, Fanela, Sumetie, Jazzie, Aquarel, Funfix, Ostralie; of *Septoria* spp. in 19 plants of varieties: Funride, Funtasia, Fuzila, Satine, Fanela, Jazzie, Aquarel; and *Alternaria* spp. in a total of 22 plants of varieties: Funride, Funtasia, Fuzila, Sumetie, Aquarel, Ostralie (Table 2).

2.

Table 2. Identification of fungi infection by variety

No	Variety	Planting plant	Lossed plants					Total number of plants with infections
				<i>Verticilium</i> spp.	<i>Botritis</i> spp.	<i>Septoria</i> spp.	<i>Alternaria</i> spp.	
1.	Maritima	72	37					
2.	Funride	72	23		3	4	2	9
3.	Kriska	72	28					
4.	Florine	72	22					
5.	Funtasia	72	66		2	1	1	4
6.	Noisette	72	50					
7.	Malice	72	34		4			4
8.	Fuzila	72	72	2	8	9	6	25
9.	Satine	72	14		3	1		4
10.	Fanela	72	42		4	1		5
11.	Sumetie	72	35		5		3	8
12.	Friday	72	38					
13.	Donertie	72	10					
14.	Jazzie	72	35		5	2		7
15.	Aquarel	72	49	1	1	1	3+	6
16.	Isi 45194	72	6				2+	2
17.	Funfix	72	61	2	8			10
18.	Ostralie	36	13		3		5	8
19.	Hettie	36	9					
Total plants number		1296	644	5	46	19	22	92

- In the investigations for the
- detection of fungal pathogens, a
- biometric measurement of the fallen
- plants was carried out and reported. The results showed that some varieties were completely lost or collapsed in greenhouse conditions (Table 3).

3.

Table 3. Numbers of healthy plant by variety, detected after observations

No	Variety	Planting plants 04.12.2016	1 st observation 08.02.2016	2 nd observation 11.03.2016	3 rd observation 08.04.2016
1.	<i>Maritima</i>	72	71	38	35
2.	<i>Funride</i>	72	70	49	49
3.	<i>Kriska</i>	72	68	44	44
4.	<i>Florine</i>	72	63	50	50
5.	<i>Funtasia</i>	72	57	18	6
6.	<i>Noisette</i>	72	64	36	22
7.	<i>Malice</i>	72	66	41	38
8.	<i>Fuzila</i>	72	64	3	0
9.	<i>Satine</i>	72	62	58	58
10.	<i>Fanela</i>	72	54	31	30
11.	<i>Sumetie</i>	72	72	38	37
12.	<i>Frisday</i>	72	65	34	34
13.	<i>Donertie</i>	72	70	63	62
14.	<i>Jazzie</i>	72	67	49	37
15.	<i>Aquarel</i>	72	67	29	23
16.	<i>Isi 45194</i>	72	68	66	66
17.	<i>Funfix</i>	72	57	15	11
18.	<i>Ostralie</i>	36	31	23	23
19.	<i>Hettie</i>	36	36	27	27
Total number of healthy plants		1296	1172	712	652

Discussing the results of biological methods for the identification of fungal pathogens

Based on the results obtained, we find that the most common fungal pathogens on the lettuce in the area of the Sofia valley are from the genera *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Verticillium* and *Septoria*, with different preferences from the varieties to the breeding sites according to literary sources (Atanasov, 1957). The results obtained demonstrate the influence of low temperatures in the fall of manure-fed plants in the autumn of 2015 as an important stress factor.

Bremia lactucae Regel.,

- The present study did not find the downy mildew – *Bremia lactucae* Regel.
- This is confirmed the resistance of the varieties against this economically significant pathogen.

(www.stringmeteo.com).

60 29
 0° , 27
 10° 4
 10° .

Agrometeorological results

After the submitting of results of the biometric reading of the fallen plants, we processed data from the obtained minimum temperature values from the Sofia field. (www.stringmeteo.com). From the reported period or a total of 60 days in 29 days, temperatures were below 0° C, 27 days were up to 10° C and in just 4 days the values were exceeded 10° C.

CONCLUSIONS

mosaic virus

Lettuce

- Viral infection of Lettuce mosaic virus has not been established. The non-detection of a viral infection in the test plants confirms the selective resistance of the plants to the Lettuce mosaic virus – the most dangerous on lettuce production.

Lettuce mosaic virus –

- The infection found during the growing season is not different from the well-known and characteristic causative agents of lettuce diseases. The most common fungal pathogens on the lettuce in the Sofia valley are from the genera *Alternaria*, *Botrytis*, *Verticillium* and *Septoria*, with different varieties. The most sensitive varieties of fungus infections and low temperature fertilization and manure fertilization are Fuzila, Funride and Funfix and Sumetie.

Verticillium

Alternaria, Botrytis, Septoria,

Fuzila, Funride Funfix Sumetie.

By comparing the results of an established infection and the reported failure, it is believed that stress factors such as temperature, water, light and nitrate content in the soil affect the appearance of pathogens.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2016 „
: „
(*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. *capitata* var.
romana “ -
BG05M2OP001-2.009-0034 „
“.

17
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(*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. romana var. capitata

Effect of abiotic stress factors on the presence of pathogens in lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. romana and var. capitata planted in polyethylene mulch

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SUMMARY

The aim of the study was to identify the abiotic factors that influence the onset of diseases in a salad (*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. romana and var. capitata, grown under polyethylene film in Sofia field. Based on the objective, we set plots experienced in duplicate salads with foil, and two plots without foil. In order to obtain comparable results we carried out soil sampling in advance to check the availability of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

The first inspection was conducted in February 2017 with an analysis of the presence of soil pathogens in the experimental plots. So far we have identified soil fungi of the genus *Alternaria*, *Fusarium*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Botritis*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium* and *Mucor*. The second inspection will be conducted

before the active growing season, with a sampling of plants with disease symptoms and comparison of the microbiological parameters after the end of the salad growing season. Currently the results show a significantly better development of plants grown under the plastic film without the occurrence of pathogens threatening collapse of salad plants. After the final results, we sincerely hope to recommend to salad producers to implement the use of foil against the collapse of lettuce under the influence of low temperatures and pathogens.

Key words: Stress, abiotic factors, soil pathogens on lettuce, mulch, Project 17/2016 FU.

INTRODUCTION

In Bulgaria the salad is cultivated outdoors as a winter and spring crop, and over the recent years it is most often grown in cultivation facilities. Diseases are a significant limiting factor in salad production. The nature and frequency of these diseases depends on local conditions. About 75 diseases are known for the salad (having different causes and etiology). They are the result of interaction between the plant (lettuce), the pathogen (bacterial, fungal, viral, phytoplasmic, etc.) and environmental conditions. Abiotic conditions cause salad diseases over time. Salad requires constant soil humidity throughout the growth period. Variations in irrigation, especially during the head formation phase, may affect the productivity and quality of the salad. The resistance or sensitivity of some salad varieties and pathogen virulence are the main factors for the development of salad disease. Salad varieties differ significantly in their response to pathogens (Van Bruggen et al., 2004). Many plant pathogens are transmitted through the soil. There they overwinter or pass a certain stage of their development.

Another group of pathogens develops

(Van Bruggen et al., 2004).

(*Bremia lactucae* Regel),
 (*Erysiphe cichoracearum* DC.);
 (*Septoria lactuca* Pass.);
 (*Botrytis cinerea* Persoon)
 (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*
 (Lib.) de Bary *Sclerotinia minor* Jagger),
 (*Lettuce mosaic virus*),
 (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vitians* Br.
 Dowson) . (Atanasov, 1957; Van
 Bruggen et al., 2004; Candresse et al.,
 2007).
Verticillium spp., *Pythium*
 spp., *Rhizoctonia* spp., *Phytophthora* spp.,
Thielaviopsis spp., *Fusarium* spp. *Botrytis*
 spp. (Neshev and Atanassov, 2006;
 Subbarao and Koike, 2007; Miles, 2011).

2001).

(Olsen and
 Gounder, 2001; Johnson and Fennimore,
 2005).

(Suh et al., 1991; Gross and Karla, 2002;
 Yordanova, 2008).

entirely in the soil where they parasite on
 the roots of the plants or the sown seeds.
 Economically important diseases are
 downy mildew (*Bremia lactucae* Regel),
 powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*
 DC); brown leaf spots (*Septoria lactuca*
 Pass.); *Botrytis cinerea* Persoon, white
 mold (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de
 Bary and *Sclerotinia minor* Jagger),
 Letuce mosaic virus, Bacterial Leafspot of
 Lettuce (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv.
vitians (Brown) Dowson) and others
 (Atanasov, 1957, Van Bruggen et al.,
 2004; Candresse et al., 2007). Important
 pathogens are soil-borne such as
Verticillium spp., *Pythium* spp.,
Rhizoctonia spp., *Phytophthora* spp.,
Thielaviopsis spp., *Fusarium* spp. and
Botrytis spp. (Neshev and Atanassov,
 2006; Subbarao and Koike, 2007; Miles,
 2011).

In recent years, so-called mulching
 or covering of the soil around plants with
 different materials regulating the water
 and air regimes in the surface layer of the
 soil are applied in vegetable production.
 The soil coating improves the
 microbiological activity of rhizospheric
 microorganisms, accelerates and
 optimizes the rate of intake of nutrients in
 easily absorbable form and hence
 improves the quantitative and qualitative
 indicators of the resulting vegetable
 produce. This technology reduces or
 prevents the occurrence of weeds
 (Hochmuth, 2001). In many studies,
 differences were found between the
 different types of polyethylene used for
 soil mulching (Olsen and Gounder, 2001;
 Johnson and Fennimore, 2005). The
 advantages of the polyethylene mulch
 compared to the non-mulched surface
 have been proven. In all experiments,
 higher yields and better produce quality
 were reported compared to non-mulched
 variants (Suh et al., 1991, Gross and
 Karla, 2002; Yordanova, 2008).

The influence of abiotic factors on

(*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. *romana* var. *capitata*

the development of soil pathogens in the cultivation of winter varieties of salad under polyethylene foil has not been studied sufficiently in the field of Sofia. This gives us ground to carry out the present scientific study in order to obtain scientifically sound conclusions and recommendations for the application of this type of mulching in practice.

The aim of the research was to determine the influence of abiotic factors (temperature) on the development of soil pathogens in salad farming (*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. *romana* and var. *capitata* under and without polyethylene foil. The data from this study will help reduce the risk of on quantity and quality of output.

2016

2017

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We set the experiment in the academic experimental field with the University of Forestry in Vrazhdebna in the period from November 2016 to April 2017. The laboratory analyses were carried out in the microbiological and phytopathological laboratory with the University of Forestry and the Central Laboratory of Plant Quarantine with the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) in Sofia.

Materials: Soil preparation in the greenhouse was the standard one, including plowing of 10-15 cm depth, milling after the predecessor and alignment. The soil surface was formed in low-lying beds without ridges and without application of herbicides. In 2015, the greenhouse was fertilized with well-rotten manure. For uniform moisture retention and fast and collective germination, the irrigation was made in furrows with about 25 m³ of water per decare. The plots were covered with the polymeric mulch of the Shanghai HiTec Plastic type, LLP-PLA / Starch blends with a thickness of 12 μ. Our choice was based on the popularity of synthetic coatings of low price, ease of application and durability.

Plant samples: The seedlings

Shanghai HiTec Plastic, LLP-PLA/Starch blends 12μ.

3-4

2016

4
2

590

3

(<http://www.stringmeteo.com>).

(Nustorova, 2012).

()

().

7-

were produced, replanted in a 3-4 leaf phase and provided by Milan Rezakov from the town of Petrich. The salad plants were planted at the end of November 2016 on 4 staggered rows covered with foil in 2 repetitions and the rest of the plants without foil. In the first month we had to complement the plants. In the academic experimental field of Vrazhdebna we planted 590 salads of 3 varieties – Aquarel, Ostralie and Red Oakleaf. The samples were taken after examination for manifested disease and then laboratory analyses were performed.

Methods: For the temperature measurement we used the method of the controlled mode of meteorological factors. The data were summed up on a daily basis by three agrometeorological stations in the Sofia Field - Orlandovtsi, Boyana and Kazichane (<http://www.stringmeteo.com>). Microbiological analysis was performed before planting and after harvesting to trace any change in soil microorganisms.

The analysis was done by Indirect method. Soil samples for microorganisms were tested on MPA media for bacilli and Chapek-Dox medium for mold fungi. Calculation of soil microflora in nutrient medium MPA for bacilli and non-sporing bacteria (Nustorova, 2012).

For identification of soil pathogens we used a biological method and isolation on water agar (WA) and potato agar (PA). In order to purify the discovered isolates and to trace and discover pathogen preferences to the artificial environment, we performed re-isolation on the 7th day on petri dishes with both types of nutrient media and subsequent microscopy. The process was repeated with every newly discovered and isolated pathogen. Soil samples for agrochemical analyses were taken twice during planting and at the end of vegetation.

The analyses were carried out on a medium sample, on air dry soil, for

CaCl₂, ISO10390;
 N% –
 P₂O₅ mg/100g BBM,
 K₂O mg/100g BBM.

- determination of soil pH – potentiometrically in water extract and in solution of CaCl₂, according to ISO10390;
- total N% content by the Kjeldahl method;
- Absorbable P₂O₅ mg/100g BBM, by the acetate-lactate method, modification of P. Ivanov and K₂O mg/100g BBM.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Agrometeorological measurements.
- We processed temperature data for each day of January, February and March 2017. The data presented for the three months or a total of 90 days overlap as a period with the lettuce vegetation cycle. We had minimum temperatures, which pose the highest risk for greenhouse farming of lettuce. Low temperature values (below -10°C to 0°C) were measured in a total of 52 days. These stressful temperature values led to dying and falling of plants, as a result of which we had to complement the plants. The measured values were daily average, maximum and minimum t° C (Table 1).

2017
 90
 52
 (-10° ; 0°C)
 - t° C (1).

1. **Table 1. Daily temperature values for January, February and March 2017 (min)**

	T°C	January	February	March	Total number of days
T° C min	-10°C	15	1	0	16
T° C min	0°C	15	16	5	36
T° C min	+10°C	1	11	26	38
Total days		31	28	31	90

- 2 Results of microbiological soil analysis. In the microbiological analysis, which was done in 2 repetitions on 2 solid nutrient media, MPA and Chapek-Dox, we identified 4 species of bacilli and non-sporing bacteria in the taken soil samples. The results are presented in Table 2.

2.

2. Bacillus

Table 2. Number of Bacillus in the two replicates

	<i>Bacillus mycooides</i>	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	<i>Bacillus idosus</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Non-sprouting bacteria
Try 1 st - 1 1	*8	#24	#12	*3	0	#19
Try 2 nd - 2 2	*7	*20	#10	*1	0	#13

- part of petri dishes divided into 8 equal triangles; * - number in petri dishes.

Qualitative and quantitative composition of soil microflora in MPA nutrient medium: Result of the calculations by the formulas for total number of colonies in 1 gram of absolutely dry soil summarized in Table 3.

3.

Table 3. Results for microflora of soil on MPA

Name Numbers	<i>Bacillus mycooides</i>	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	<i>Bacillus idosus</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	Non-sprouting bacteria
Colonies in 1 g/dry soil	150,000	2,120,000	1,760,000	40,000	0	2,560,000

The qualitative and quantitative composition of the soil microflora in the Chapek-Dox nutrient medium and the result of the calculation are presented in Table 4.

4.

Table 4. Amount of mold fungus and total number of colonies

Mould	Black	White	Gray	1g/ Total No of colonies in 1g/soil
1 1 st Try - 1	*4	*5	*5	250 000
2 2 nd Try - 2	*5	*2	*4	

(* - ; *- number in petri diches)

Table 5 presents the results of the counted and calculated bacteria absorbing mineral nitrogen.

5.

Table 5. Number of nitrogen fix bacteria colonies

Nitrogen fix bacteria	1 1 st Try 1	2 2 nd Try 2	Total No of colonies for 1 /and 2
	#23	#27	4 000 000
# - the number in one part of petri dishes divided into 8 equal triangles;			

12	20	2	7	14	6	2
<i>Alternaria,</i> <i>Rizopus.</i>	<i>Penicillium,</i> 2	<i>Fusarium</i>				<i>Bremia lactucae.</i>

After the analysis of the soil samples it was found that the soil microorganisms content of the presented experience is optimal. The results of the two repetitions are similar and confirm that the polyethylene film does not affect these microorganisms and does not reduce them. Another important conclusion is that the results show good development and presence of microorganisms under polyethylene foil, which is not affected by long-term low temperatures.

Results of plant samples: After 20 laboratory analyses of 12 plant samples taken in February upon the examination of the salads after the long period of low temperatures in December and January, we identified under microscope the fungal pathogens of the genera *Alternaria*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium* and *Rizopus*. We found 2 dead plants below the polyethylene film. The samples were analyzed in the phytopathology laboratory in the University of Forestry and after moist chamber and isolation on 2 nutrient media - PDA and water agar. In April, before mass harvesting, we took samples from all plants with symptoms of disease or mycelial formations. We took 7 samples and performed 14 laboratory analyses. We found white bloom in 6 plants. After performing a morphological laboratory examination, we found that this was a conidial sporulation of the *Bremia lactucae* fungus (Table 6).

2016),

(Dudaklieva, 2016).

The results of the biometric examinations show a low percentage of fallen mulched plants. The process is not identical with that from the past two years (Dudaklieva, 2016), when these varieties had a higher percentage of falling (Table 6).

6.

2016 2017 .

Table 6. Results of the varieties tested during 2016 and 2017

	2016		2017			
	Units/plants	Loss	Units/Mulch	Loss	Units/Without	Losses
<i>Aquarel</i>	72/23	60%	64/1	2%	150/149	0,3%
<i>Ostralie</i>	72/58	20%	64/1	2%	140/140	0%
<i>Satine</i>	72/62	14%			174/165	6%

Alternaria, Penicillium, Fusarium, Rizopus, Bremia

(<http://www.segabg.com/>).

2 150

2015 .

95% (Dudaklieva, 2016.).

– *Bremia lactucae* Regel,

(<http://www.bejo.com/magazine/bejo-lettuce-varieties-resistant>).

On the basis of the results obtained, we find that the identified fungal pathogens of the salad in the Sofia field are from the genera *Alternaria, Penicillium, Fusarium, Rizopus* and *Bremia* with the preferences of the varieties to the breeding sites, as reported in the literary sources (<http://www.segabg.com/>). We assume that the low percentage of fallen plants - 2 out of 150 plants grown under polyethylene foil - is a result of low temperatures rather than the identified pathogens. As a confirmation and example of stress and influence of low temperatures is the large number of fallen plants fed with manure in the autumn of 2015. The reported losses with some varieties reach up to 95% (Dudaklieva, 2016). The downy mildew pathogen - *Bremia lactucae* Regel discovered on six plants late in the vegetation phase did not cause any damage to the leaves of the plants. The result confirms the resistance of the varieties against this economically significant pathogen

(<http://www.bejo.com/magazine/bejo-lettuce-varieties-resistant>).

Soil samples from the sites of the dead plants under the polyethylene foil and without foil. During the examinations

2 2

14

Penicillium, *Rhizoctonia*,
Botrytis, *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*.

H

62%, pH
 CaCl₂ 6,97. H₂O e 7,42,
 2

7.

in February for biometric analysis and plot monitoring, we took samples of the soil of the 2 dead plants and 2 samples of the soil around the plants. After about 14 days of incubation period, we isolated, checked under microscope and identified soil pathogens of the *Penicillium* genus, *Rhizoctonia* genus, *Botrytis* genus, *Aspergillus* genus, *Fusarium* genus.

From the laboratory analyses of the plant samples and the presence of the soil pathogens in the farming sites, we find that they do not react aggressively to the host under the polythene foil. Against this backdrop, an increased development of the weed salad association was found. This appearance of weeds was probably due to the use of transparent polyethylene foil, the lack of chemical protection agents or the result of positive temperature values in March.

Agrochemical analysis: Soil moisture and pH. The measured moisture before planting the soil was 62% and the soil pH values measured with H₂O were 7.42 and in CaCl₂ were 6.97. The results after testing of 2 soil samples for agrochemical indicators are presented in Table 7.

7. (N, P, K)
Table 7. Datas for agrochemical analysis (N, P, K)

a mg/100g	N	P ₂ O ₅	K
Plots with mulch	0,175	31,75	7,4
All other parts	0,171	23,75	6,9

The results obtained show that soil concentrations in the experiment with the polyethylene foil and outside it are optimal and these values can not negatively affect the development of the salad. The phosphorus content is in the upper range, which contributes to the good rooting of the salads as described in

(Cekleev, 1984).

the literature (Cekleev, 1984). This concentration, on the other hand, has helped to overcome the unfavourable and prolonged effects of the negative temperatures in the Sofia field. The measured values cannot be considered even indirectly a factor in the level of manifestation of soil pathogens attacking both weak plants and plants with rapid and fervent growth.

CONCLUSIONS

The infection found during the vegetation period is not different from the well-known and typical salad pathogens. The most common fungal soil pathogens on the salad in the Sofia field are from the genera *Alternaria*, *Penicillium*, *Fusarium*, *Rizopus*, *Rhizoctonia*, *Botrytis*, *Aspergillus*. The infection caused by *Bremia lactucae* Regel – the pathogen causing downy mildew on salad – does not affect the produce and confirms the resistance of the varieties against this economically significant pathogen. In future scientific research and experiments on the influence of polyethylene foil it is necessary to include also a suitable weed control scheme. The soil concentration of the necessary macro elements NPK in the experiment with polyethylene foil and without it meets the biological requirements of the crop nutrition regimen. Soil microorganisms found in the present experiment are optimal and prove that polyethylene film is not a factor for their reduction in long periods of negative temperature.

Comparing the results of the detected infection and the fallen plants, we assume that the polyethylene film has also a protective effect against stress factors such as temperature and occurrence of soil pathogens.

The obtained results give grounds for this study to continue in the following years as well, and may recommend to farmers to use the polyethylene film.

Alternaria,
Penicillium, *Fusarium*, *Rizopus*, *Rhizoctonia*,
Botrytis, *Aspergillus*.

Bremia lactucae Regel

NPK

5%

The difference of about 5% in losses is a good economic reason for this application.

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2016 „
: „

(*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. *capitata* var.
romana “ -

BG05M2OP001-2.009-0034 „

“.

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