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Influence of rootstock cultivar combination over the leaf nutrient content of plums

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SUMMARY

The study was conducted in RIMSA Troyan during the period 2015-2017. Typical of the region are the light gray forest soils with acid reaction, poorly stocked with nutrients, poor in humus. The plantation was established according to the trench method with preplanting organic fertilization, as it is grown under non-irrigated conditions. Four plum cultivars of 'Stanley', 'Hanita', 'Jojo' and 'C. Lepotica' were studied on the rootstocks of Brompton, GF 655-2, SJ A, Wavit, Wangenheims, *Prunus cerasifera* ()

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Four plum cultivars of 'Stanley', 'Hanita', 'Jojo' and 'C. Lepotica' were studied on the rootstocks of Brompton, GF 655-2, SJ A, Wavit, Wangenheims, for the presence of nutritional elements in leaves and their significance for growth and fruit bearing. *Prunus cerasifera* is the control.

The main nutrient content in leaves is different for each rootstock combination, depending on the cultivar.

The leaf nitrogen content for all variants is below the average amount, which is necessary for optimum yield and good

quality of fruit. The lowest values were found for the combinations of 'Stanley'.

Phosphorus content was about and a little above the optimum values, and calcium content was extremely high, especially for 'Hanita' cultivar.

Key words: plum, cultivars, leaf nutrient content

INTRODUCTION

Nitrogen, P, K, Ca and Mg are the main nutrient macroelements. Nitrate and ammonium nitrogen are the basic forms that can be absorbed by plants. Nitrate is the dominant form of N that plants can absorb under normal conditions, in well aerated soils. It is easily travelling in plants, but for the synthesis of proteins and other organic compounds it has to be transformed into ammonium (Barker and Bryson, 2007).

Nitrogen is crucial for increasing growth at the beginning of vegetation. According to Cole et al. (2016) the nitrogen content per tree is 200 g, and with their fruits the stone fruit species export up to 1.5 kg N per ton of production per year. It is a common practice to apply nitrogen in two major stages of growth.

The first application is made in spring to ensure the growth of fruit and leaves in the summer to maximize the amount of fruit. The second is in autumn after harvesting in order to maximize the reserves in the tree.

The total amount of phosphorus in the soil is often much higher than the amount available in the plants (Cole et al., 2016). Maintaining an appropriate concentration of P in the soil solution for uptake by plants depends on the relative rate of degradation of the organic matter and on the ability of inorganic soil fractions to fix soluble orthophosphates in

, P, K, Ca Mg
(Barker and
Bryson, 2007).
Cole et al.
(2016)
200 g,
1,5 kg N
(Cole et al., 2016).

0,25 kg/t

Ca Mg

(Tisdale and Nelson, 1975).

(Pilbeam and Morley, 2007).

Mg (Mg²⁺)

K>NH₄⁺>Ca>Na (Mills and Jones, 1996).

pH

- insoluble or poorly soluble form.

Large amounts of calcium are needed to support the crop. Most of them are taken up in the early stages of growth. As a result, annual fruit harvesting is about 0.25 kg/t of fruit.

K,

- Ca and Mg in soils similar to K originate from the decomposition of minerals that contain these elements (Tisdale and Nelson, 1975). Compared to other minerals, Ca can become inaccessible to plants relatively quickly if the soil is very dry or leached (Pilbeam and Morley, 2007). Unlike nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, calcium is not reused by plants, so it does not move from aging to younger and more active organs and tissues.

- Usually, the plants do not suffer from calcium deficiency because the soils contain enough calcium in digestible form. Fertilizing with calcium fertilizers is mainly used to improve the physicochemical properties of acidic and alkaline soils.

Mg

- Magnesium deficiency symptoms may occur when Mg is not enough, but they may also be associated with an antagonistic bond between Mg ions (Mg²⁺) and other cations. Competition of Mg with other intake cations ranges from the highest to the lowest as follows: K>NH₄⁺>Ca>Na (Mills and Jones, 1996).

7. Most microelements are more affordable when soil pH is below 7. Soil acidity affects the solubility of nutrients and hence their availability.

- Cultivation of plum in mountainous regions, characterized by low productive, acidic soils, poor in nutrients, requires studies on the nutrient content of both soil and leaves.

(Kornov et al., 2017).

(Milosevic et al., 2013).

2.

(Singh-Sidhu and Kaundal, 2005).

120

4

Leaf diagnostics determine the actual nutrition level. It is possible to determine early deficiency of an element and the possibility to take timely measures before disturbing the normal physiological state of the plants associated with yield reduction (Kornov et al., 2017).

There are no research data on the cultivar and its combinations with various rootstocks. It is another very important condition that determines the nutrient content and their different ability to absorb the nutrients (Milosevic et al., 2013).

There are other factors that can be controlled, such as weeds or drainage, that have an impact on the analysis. Therefore, the first results are carefully interpreted. The general rule is that during the first year the change in the fertilizer program should only be made if the analytical value for an element is in the insufficient or excessive range of Table 2. If the value is only in the low or high category it is desirable to monitor the levels of nutrients next year rather than changing the fertilizer program in the current year. However, if the value is consistent (for two or more years) in the low or high range, the corrective action is justified.

There are different methods to diagnose and detect the nutrient intake disorder caused by the deficiency or excessive content of essential macronutrients in fruit trees. Analysis of the leaf 120 days after full flowering can be a very accurate method of nutritional diagnosis in plums (Singh-Sidhu and Kaundal, 2005).

This study aims to determine the nutrient availability in leaves of plum trees, their importance for growth and yield of 4 plum cultivars on 6 rootstocks.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in RIMSA Troyan during the period of 2015-2017. The light gray forest soils with acid reaction, poorly stocked with nutrients, poor in humus are typical for the region (Table 1).

1. 2015 .
Table 1. Chemical soil composition in the experimental site in 2015.

Soil depth cm			N-NH ₄ +NO ₃ mg/kg	P ₂ O ₅ mg/100g	K ₂ O mg/100g	Ca Cmol/kg	/Humus %
	H ₂ O	KCl					
0-20	5,1	4,7	15,6	5,2	22,8	10,60	2,32
20-40	5,0	4,1	8,6	0,5	18,9	17,00	1,00

The plantation is established by trench method with preplanting organic fertilization, on light gray forest soil, grown under non-irrigating conditions. The interrows are maintained with natural grassland at the age of 13 years (at the period of the study). Four cultivars were studied, such as 'Stanley', 'Hanita', 'Jojo' and 'anska leptica' on the following rootstocks:

- *Prunus cerasifera* () -
- Prunus domestica* Wangenheims
- *Prunus domestica* Brompton
- Prunus insititia* SJ INRA GF 655-2
- Prunus insititia* SJ A
- Wavit

- Seed
- Prunus cerasifera* (yellow cherry plum) - control
- Prunus domestica* Wangenheims
- Vegetative
- Prunus domestica* Brompton
- Prunus insititia* SJ INRA GF 655-2
- Prunus insititia* SJ A
- Meristem
- Wavit

The leaf samples for analysis of nitrogen, phosphorus, calcium were taken in August and processed in a chemical laboratory of RIMSA Troyan using the following methods:

- nitrogen – Kjeldahl's method
 - phosphorus – colorimetric with hydrazine sulfate as a reducer
 - calcium – complexometric
- Average tree yields (kg) were reported.

The results of the chemical analyzes are compared with standard values, so that the nutritional status of the

2
 Agriculture.vic.gov.au, (2017):

orchard is obtained. Table 2 gives standard values for the content of chemical elements in prunes, the terms insufficient, low, normal, high and surplus are determined as follows on Agriculture.vic.gov.au, (2017):

Deficiency: There are symptoms of deficiency; the level is too low for the best performance.

Low: No visual symptoms; the level is below normal and may be insufficient for the best performance.

Normal: No visual symptoms; the level is normal and should be adequate for the best performance.

High: No visual symptoms; the level is above normal and can cause nutrient imbalance.

Excess: The toxicity symptoms may or may not be present; the level is too high for the best performance.

2.

Table 2. Level of nutrient storage in plum leaves

Element	Deficient	Low	Normal	High	Excess
N%	<1.7	1.7-2.3	2.4-3.0	3.1-4.0	4.0+
P%	<0.09	0.09-0.13	0.14-0.25	0.26-0.40	0.40+
K%	<1.0	1.0-1.5	1.6-3.0	3.1-4.0	4.0+
Ca%	<1.0	1.0-1.4	1.5-3.0	3.1-4.0	4.0+
Mg%	<0.20	0.20-0.29	0.30-0.80	0.81-1.10	1.10+

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main nutrient element N, tested for the presence in the leaves of the various sorghum combinations, shows wide variation in variants and years. For 'Stanley' and 'a anaska leptotica', the nitrogen levels in leaves are significantly lower in all rootstocks, as higher contents were reported in 2017 when they were close to normal but insufficient. Average for 'a anaska leptotica' it was 1.64% and for 'Stanley' 1.40%.

2017 ,
 1.64%, 1.40%.

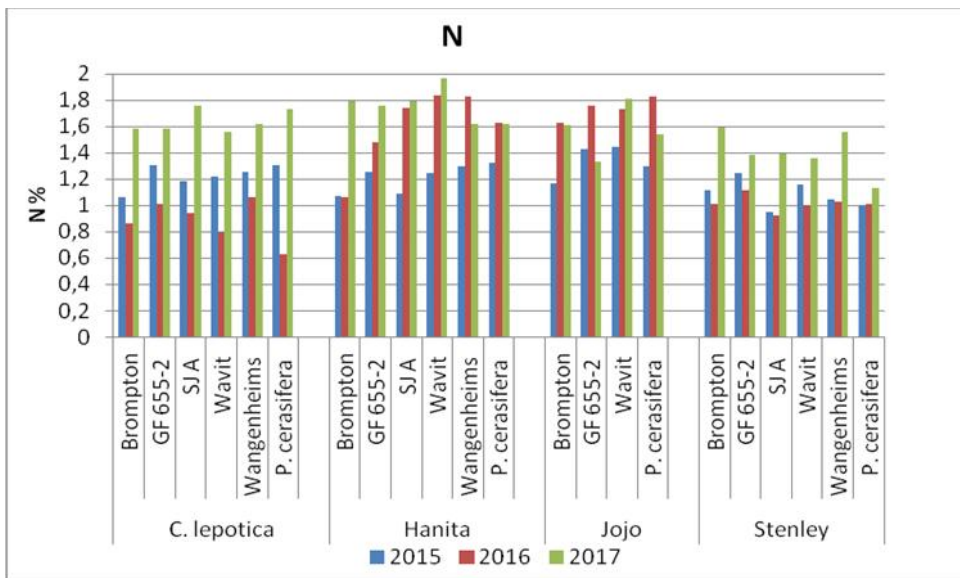
1.96% Wavit (2017).
 1.61% Wangenheims (2017).
 3.0%,
 2.4-

The lowest nitrogen levels over the three years were reported in the rootstocks combinations of 'Stanley'. The yields of all variants are the lowest for this cultivar (Table 3).

For 'Hanita' and 'Jojo', the difference between the average values is smaller in years, as there are significant differences in the variants (Figure 1).

For 'Hanita', higher volumes of available nitrogen were recorded in all variants for every year (ranging from 1.61% for Wangenheims to 1.96% for Wavit for 2017). The lowest yields of 'Hanita' are found on the slightly growing rootstocks in the harvest years (2015 and 2017).

The nitrogen content analysis of tree leaves indicates the need for additional nitrogen. The nitrogen norm is 2.4-3.0%, but 'Hanita' and 'Jojo' cultivars barely reach these levels over the past two years, indicating that the stocking organic fertilizer no longer has the necessary reserves to maintain the amount of nitrogen required for plants.



1. (2015-2017)
Fig. 1. Nitrogen content in leaves of plum rootstock combinations (2015-2017)

2015 ,
25 40 kg
(3).
30 55 kg
2017

For the period of the survey, the highest yields were obtained in the first year - 2015, whereas for 'Hanita' they are from 25 to 40 kg per tree and for ' a anaska lepotica' from 30 to 55 kg per tree (Table 3). In 2017 yields are lower in general, but the same cultivars have higher scores than control.

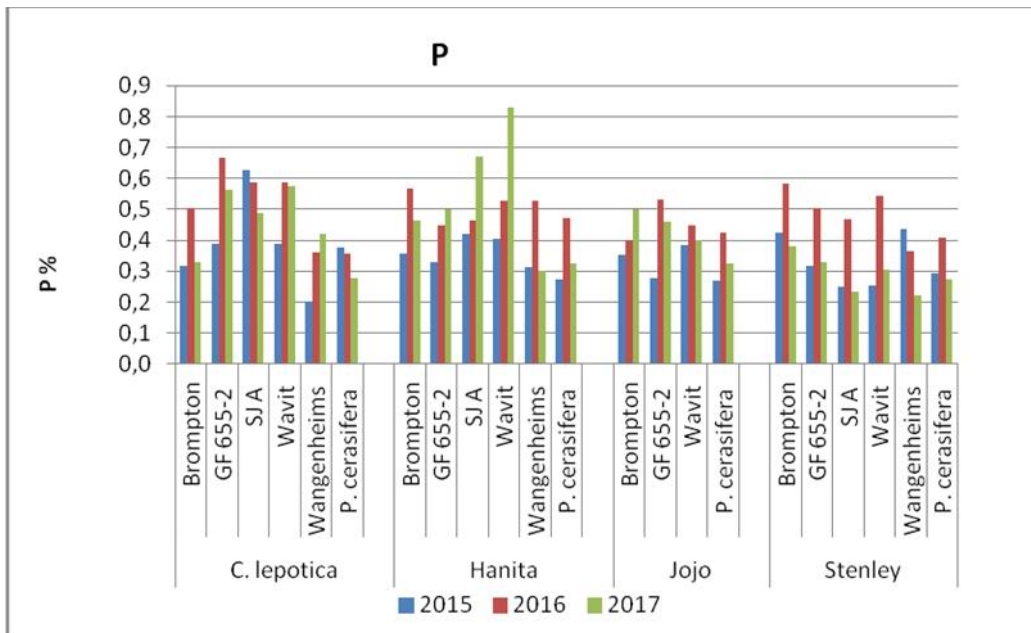
3. (kg)
(2015-2017) Table 3. Yield per tree (kg) of combinations between various rootstocks and plum cultivars (2015-2017)

	Brompton	GF 655-2	SJ A	Wavit	Wangenheims	<i>P. cerasifera</i>
2015						
Stanley	5,5	3,3	0,3	0,6	0,5	0,5
Hanita	40,0	37,7	28,3	25,0	24,3	41,0
Jojo	15,5	12,0		9,0		10,5
Cacanska lepotica	35,0	28,3	29,3	45,0	12,7	55,0
2017						
Stanley	0,4	0,4	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,8
Hanita	16,5	20,7	11,0	7,5	2,5	8,3
Jojo	6,0	3,0		5,0		6,5
Cacanska lepotica	9,0	10,0	9,0	12,5	4,5	7,5

2016
0,51%
0,50%
(Brompton 0,58%; GF 655-2 0,50%
Vavit –
0,54% (2).
2017
(
0,50%),
(0,18-0,35%).
2017

There is a higher percentage of phosphorus exports in 2016 for ' a anaska lepotica' - 0.51%, on average for combinations of the cultivar and 0.50% for 'Hanita' combinations, and most of the combinations of 'Stanley' (Brompton 0.58%, GF 655-2 0.50% moderately to highly growing and Vavit – 0.54% slightly growing (Figure 2).

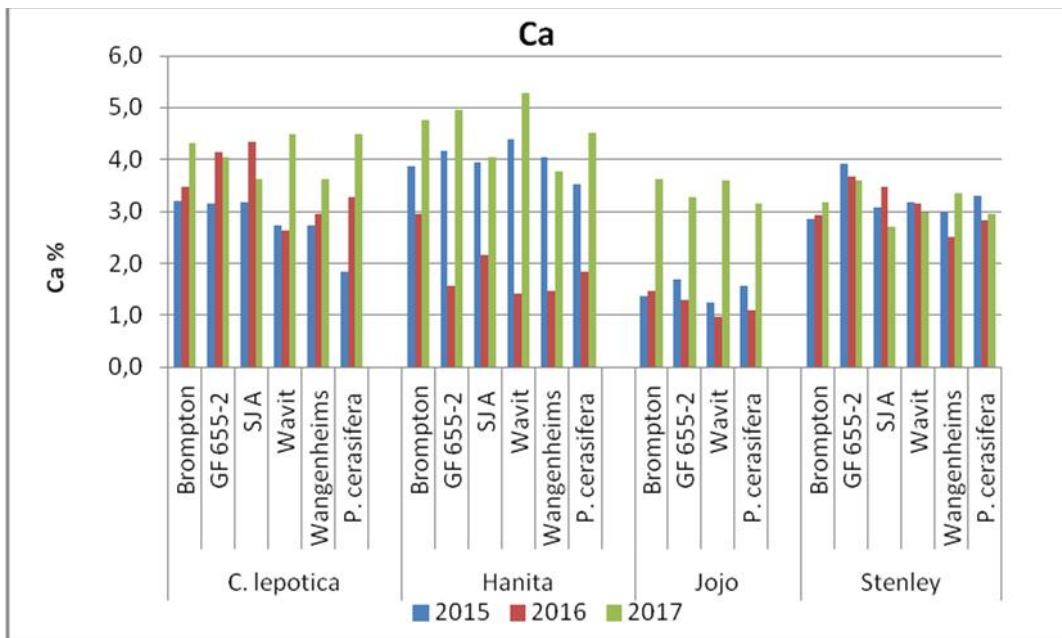
In 2017, for all variants of 'Stanley', the phosphorus content is at least followed by combinations of 'Jojo' (within 0,32% to 0,50%), which is slightly above the optimal levels for this element availability in the leaves, namely (0.18-0.35%). ' a anaska lepotica' and 'Hanita' considerably exceed these values, despite the high yields for 2017 in both cultivars.



. 2.

(2015-2017)

Fig. 2. Phosphorus content in leaves of plum rootstock combinations (2015-2017)



. 3.

(2015-2017)

Fig. 3. Calcium content in leaves of plum rootstock combinations (2015-2017)

3) (1,9-2,6%.
 - 3%,
 (1,9%
 2016 4,56% 2017)

The calcium content (Figure 3) in the tree leaves for all varieties is above the standard of 1.9-2.6%. In 'Stanley', the values are approximately the same in the years of survey – about 3%, and for the variants of 'Hanita' is reported a great variation in the years (from 1.9% in 2016 to 4.56% in 2017) and extremely large, statistically not proven, differences for the rootstocks, regardless of their growth potential. It is known that with the aging of organs and tissues, its amount increases in them.

CONCLUSIONS

- The main nutrient content in the leaves of the studied combinations of rootstocks and cultivars is different depending on the cultivar and shows deviations from the optimal values for the crop.

- The leaf nitrogen content for all variants is below the average amount, which is necessary for optimum yield and good quality of fruit, as the lowest values were found in the combinations of 'Stanley' cultivar.

- Phosphorus and calcium content is above the recommended levels, as it was especially high in 'Hanita'.

- The nutritional imbalance found in this study, in all cultivars, requires an adequate optimal organo-mineral fertilization to balance the diet of plants.

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Impact of soil maintenance systems on moisture reserve in young plum plantations

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SUMMARY

The study was carried out in RIMSA Troyan during the period 2016-2017. The experimental plum plantation of 'Katinka' cultivar is grown under non-irrigated conditions on pseudopodzolic light-gray forest soils.

The article presents the results of the study on the impact of different maintenance treatments (fallow, natural grassland, artificial grassland) on soil moisture.

The highest moisture reserve was found during the spring months of April and May in the artificial grassland (bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue) - (2016, 22.83% - 32.90%; 2017 - 23.40 - 31.50%), it was the lowest in the fallow treatment.

That trend remained in the summer. The best soil moisture reserve was observed in the artificial grassland

2016-2017 .
(,),
(,) - (2016 . 22.83% - 32.90%;
2017 . 23.40 - 31.50%),

(
)
(2016 . – 829.0 mm; 2017 . –
983.2 mm)
0-60 m.

70% (Spasov et al., 1969).

(Merwin, 2004).

ú (Abdul-Baki and Teasdale, 1994; Dinkova et al., 2007; Reeve et al., 2013).

(Savory and Butterfield, 1999; Devyatov et al., 2000).

treatment during both years of the studied period.

Maintaining the soil surface in turf (natural and artificial grassland) at a high annual rainfall (2016 – 829.0 mm, 2017 – 983.2 mm) has a beneficial effect on the moisture reserve in the root soil layer 0-60 cm.

Key words: soil maintenance, moisture reserve, plum

INTRODUCTION

Plum is a traditional fruit tree for the Troyan region. Plums have certain requirements for climatic and soil conditions for their normal development.

They have the highest requirements for soil and air moisture, as their yield is the highest in annual rainfall rate over 700 mm and relative air humidity about 70% (Spasov et al., 1969).

In principle, plum is grown on fallow or turfgrass, which was formerly typical of the old extensive gardens.

Scientific studies show that after long-term maintenance of soil in fallow, its agro-physical properties deteriorate sharply (Merwin, 2004).

The elimination or reduction in the number of soil cultivation, at the expense of growing crops for green fertilization or mulching, maintains the soil structure and increases its moisture-retaining capacity (Abdul-Baki and Teasdale 1994, Dinkova et al., 2007, Reeve et al. 2013). This reduces surface runoff, evaporation from the soil surface and underground water reserves are increased (Savory and Butterfield, 1999; Devyatov et al., 2000).

(Klochkov, 1967).

471,4 mm (Sabev and Stanev, 1963).

563,1 mm; 2017 . – 701,1 mm).

2017 .

Fereley,

2016-

2010

The sowing of perennial grasses as subculture is used where the annual precipitation is sufficient and well distributed throughout the year, in some of the typical mountain and semi-mountainous fruit-growing regions of the country. The sowing of perennial grasses in the form of subculture is carried out on turfgrass.

As longer droughts in our country occur in the second half of summer, while the erosion processes are gradually dwindling, it is most likely that sown crops can be harvested during this period in order to eliminate competition in terms of soil moisture (Klochkov, 1967).

Insufficient rainfall amount, unevenly distributed during vegetation, does not satisfy the crop's moisture needs.

Traditionally, plum plantations are grown under non-irrigated conditions in mountain and foothill areas. The precipitation for the region of Troyan is 471.4 mm (Sabev and Stanev, 1963).

During both years of the survey period, the rainfall amount during vegetation is above average (2016 – 563.1 mm, 2017 – 701.1 mm). That rainfall amount is sufficient for the normal course of the biological and physiological processes of plum trees of 'Katinka' cultivar.

Our goal in this paper is to follow what is the influence of the various soil maintenance systems over soil moisture reserve during vegetation in a young plum plantation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out in 2016-2017 in RIMSA-Troyan in a plum plantation of 'Katinka' cultivar, on a Fereley rootstock, created in 2010 on an

8 da.
5 3 m.
4-5°.
10-
a
1. -
2. -
3. 0 -
(1:1), :
5 kg/da;
(0-10 cm, 10-20 cm, 20-30 cm, 30-40 cm, 40-60 cm)
60 cm
:
 $W=10.H. .V (m^3/da)$
W - ;
H - ;
- ;
V - .

area of 8 da. The slope has northwestern exposure with 4-5°. The planting pattern is 5x3 m.

Temperature and rainfall measurements were compared with the average for a 10-year period and their impact on soil moisture reserve was taken into account during the survey period.

Soil moisture is studied in the following treatments:

1. Fallow – the row-spacing is maintained as a fallow by disking;

2. Natural grassland – the row-spacing is covered by turfgrass of natural perennial grasses;

3. Artificial grassland – the row-spacing is covered by turfgrass of grass mixture from legume and grasses in ratio (1;1) by bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue at a sowing rate of 5 kg/da;

The fallow is maintained with shallow soil treatments several times during the vegetation cycle. Mowing in grassed treatment is done twice a year.

The soil moisture content is determined by the weighting method and calculated as a percentage by taking soil samples with a drill of five depths (0-10 cm, 10-20 cm, 20-30 cm, 30-40 cm, 40-60 cm) in three repetitions.

The water reserve in a 60 cm soil layer is calculated using the formula:

$$W=10.H. .V (m^3/da)$$

W – water reserve;

H – volume density;

– soil horizon depths;

V – moisture percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Plum is a moisture-loving orchard crop and preserving soil moisture through vegetation by maintaining various soil systems is essential both for supporting the current crop and for the accumulation of reserve nutrients for the next year.

2017 . (5,3
 2016 . (5,4) (1).

All this is in direct dependence on the main climatic factors – temperature, rainfall.

Following the course of factors during the survey years and the 10-year base period, a more significant deviation of the winter temperature was reported, compared to the average for the ten-year period in January of 2017 (minus 5.3 °C lower), and February 2016 (by 5.4 °C higher) (Figure 1).

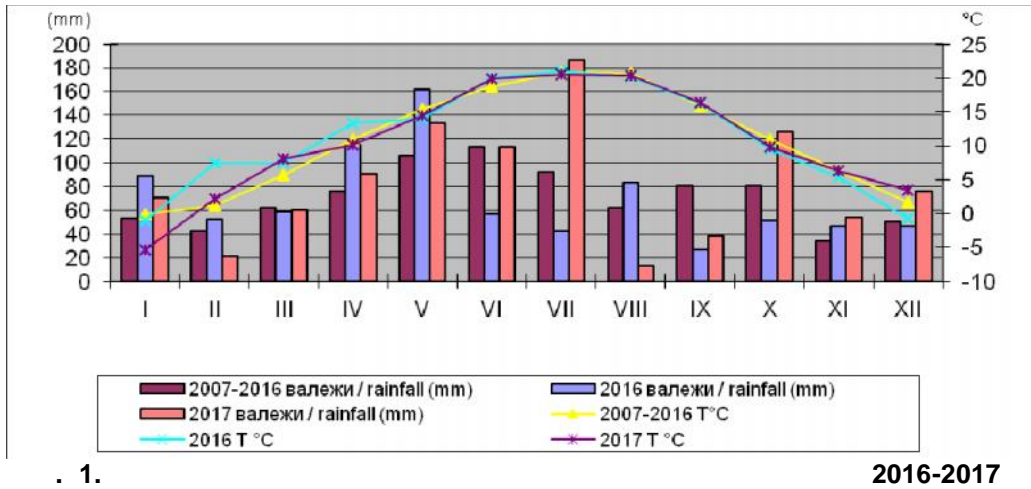
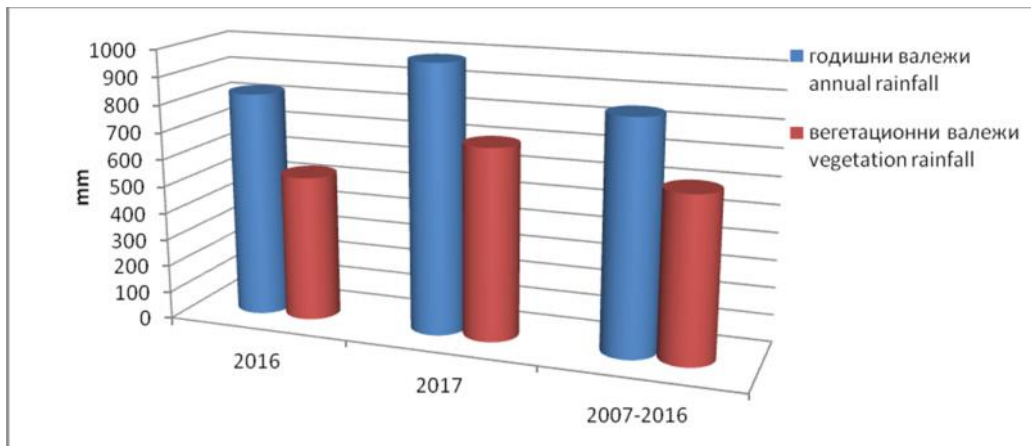


Fig. 1. Average monthly temperatures and monthly rainfall for 2016-2017 and average for the period 2007-2016

2016 . 2,3 (1).
 2016 . - 14,9 mm,
 (843,9 mm), 10-
 139,3 mm. (2).

The vegetation temperatures for the analyzed years follow the trend of the ten-year period, with the biggest deviation being April 2016 by 2.3 °C (Figure 1).

Annual rainfall amount in 2016 is 14.9 mm less than the average for the 10-year period (843.9 mm) and it is higher with 139.3 mm for 2017 (Figure 2).



2. 2016-2017
Fig. 2. Annual and vegetative rainfall for 2016-2017 and average for the period 2007-2016

Higher rainfall amount in 2017 is sufficient to satisfy the plum's needs from moisture, but their main disadvantage is their uneven distribution over the year and, most importantly, during the growing season. In April and May and in both years the rainfall is above the average for the ten-year period. In June and July, when water is most needed, as coinciding with the intense growth and ripening of 'Katinka', the rainfall amount in 2016 is twice as low as the average for the base period, and in 2017 (June-113.3 mm) coincides, July (186.6 mm) is twice as high (Figure 2).

Our studies correspond to the studies by Mihaylova et al., (2002) that soil humidity is variable in seasons, depending on the degree of general humidification during the respective periods. It changes most dynamically in the layers 0-10 cm and 10-20 cm.

The results are confirmed by Miletic et al., (2010) for comparative analyzes of the application of various soil management and treatment systems, varying according to agro-ecological conditions.

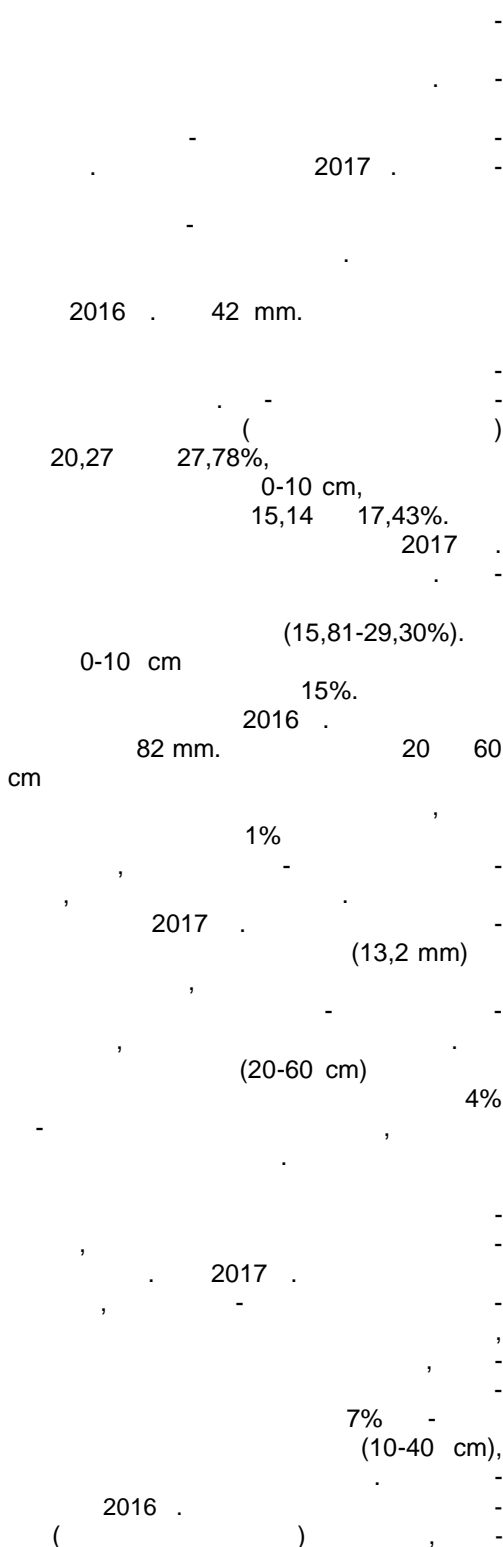
2017 .
 ,
 -
 .
 -
 ,
 ,
 2016 .
 -
 ,
 2017 . (-113,3 mm)
 , (186,6 mm)
 - (2).
 Mihaylova et al.,
 (2002),
 ,
 -
 .
 -
 0-10 cm 10-20 cm.
 Miletic et al., (2010)

(21,15 27,35% 2016 .
17,08 19,44% 2017). -
-
40-60 cm, 2016 .-32,90%;
2017 .-31,50% (1).

Depending on the application of the soil management system, in our experiment it can be seen that at the beginning of the growing season in April and May in both years, the soil moisture stored in the fallow treatment is the least for all depths, 15 to 27.35% for 2016 and from 17.08 to 19.44% for 2017). Higher humidity is recorded in all layers for grassed treatments. In the treatment with the artificial grassland, the highest values are in the layer 40-60 cm, 2016- 32.90%; 2017-31.50% (Table 1).

1. (%)
Table 1. Soil moisture (%) at different treatments 2016-2017

		I		II		III	
		Clean cultivation		Natural grassland		Artificial grassland	
Month	Depth (cm)	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
IV-V	0-10	22,68	17,48	25,54	23,88	24,37	26,52
	10-20	22,79	17,08	23,65	22,76	22,83	23,40
	20-30	21,15	17,87	28,06	25,79	25,34	27,00
	30-40	27,35	19,10	30,69	30,30	31,07	30,15
	40-60	26,12	19,44	30,40	28,99	32,90	31,50
VI	0-10	15,43	18,25	19,54	21,30	14,53	21,17
	10-20	21,37	18,09	21,71	20,66	13,56	22,37
	20-30	25,04	19,48	22,84	23,50	18,97	26,40
	30-40	26,92	20,38	22,45	28,51	24,31	29,81
	40-60	24,24	20,40	23,20	27,81	25,55	30,40
VII	0-10	15,93	19,01	15,14	18,73	17,43	15,81
	10-20	19,83	19,10	15,07	18,55	20,27	21,35
	20-30	22,89	21,09	22,30	21,21	27,42	25,80
	30-40	22,57	21,66	22,41	26,73	27,78	29,46
	40-60	21,63	21,37	22,86	26,63	27,23	29,30
VIII	0-10	15,94	12,40	15,08	14,37	16,61	16,79
	10-20	18,46	18,98	16,11	17,16	25,30	15,44
	20-30	23,19	20,29	24,87	20,85	25,74	26,34
	30-40	24,74	20,34	24,59	22,46	24,92	26,89
	40-60	23,82	18,30	25,58	22,49	25,44	27,92
IX	0-10	14,91	23,44	15,04	18,12	15,11	22,73
	10-20	16,39	16,94	16,49	20,56	15,88	25,22
	20-30	20,18	19,22	20,89	24,97	16,73	27,38
	30-40	21,80	18,89	20,10	24,80	19,47	26,09
	40-60	20,90	22,60	24,20	24,17	21,58	24,51



During both spring months, the rainfall is above the average over the ten-year period. Hence, the humidity of spring rainfall retains better in grassed treatments. In June 2017, the trend remains, and moisture reserve is again the highest in grassland treatments across all layers.

Rainfall in July 2016 is 42 mm. This significantly determines the decrease of humidity in fallow and natural grassland during the month. The humidity in the third treatment is higher (artificial grassland) from 20.27 to 27.78%, with the exception of the surface layer 0-10 cm, where in all three treatments it is 15.14 to 17.43%.

In July, in 2017, rainfall is twice the average. The highest percentage of moisture contains the treatment of artificial grassland (15.81-29.30%). Soil moisture values are approximately 15% in the 0-10 cm layer.

In August 2016, rainfall amounts to 82 mm. There is an uniformity in the percentage of moisture in layers of 20 to 60 cm, and the differences are less than 1% for grassed treatments that are better moisture preserved compared to the fallow treatment. In the same month of 2017, the least rainfall amount (13.2 mm) was measured for the whole year, with the grassland treatments again being better moisture preserved compared to the fallow treatment. In the deep layers (20-60 cm), the natural grassland treatment contains about 4% higher soil moisture than the natural grassland.

In September, rainfall in both years is half as much as the average for the ten-year period. In 2017 the trend is preserved, as the treatment with the artificial grassland has the highest soil moisture, followed by the natural grassland. The fallow is the least moisture preserved treatment with 7% lower soil moisture amount in the layer (10-40 cm) compared to the natural grassland. In September 2016, humidity in third treatment (artificial grassland)

Adamic (1967),
 2016
 m³/da
 0-60 cm,
 (100
 3).

decreased compared to the other two treatments (Table 1).

The trend emerging is to maintain higher humidity in artificial grassland, irrespective of the rainfall amount.

Our studies show that, at high annual rainfall rates, the moisture reserve is lower in fallow compared to the grassland treatments. This corresponds to the study by Adamic (1967), who studies soil management in apple gardens, by turfgrass, mulching and fallow in a high humidity climate with heavy rainfall, with the best growing conditions being achieved by mulching, as the lowest results are obtained from fallow.

The periods of minimum and maximum of the water reserve in 0-60 cm layer correspond to those of the percentage of soil moisture. In 2016, there was a better moisture reserve in third treatment (artificial grassland), especially in July, when the most significant difference (100 m³/da) and weaker moisture reserve was observed during dry months of June and September, compared with the other two treatments (Figure 3).

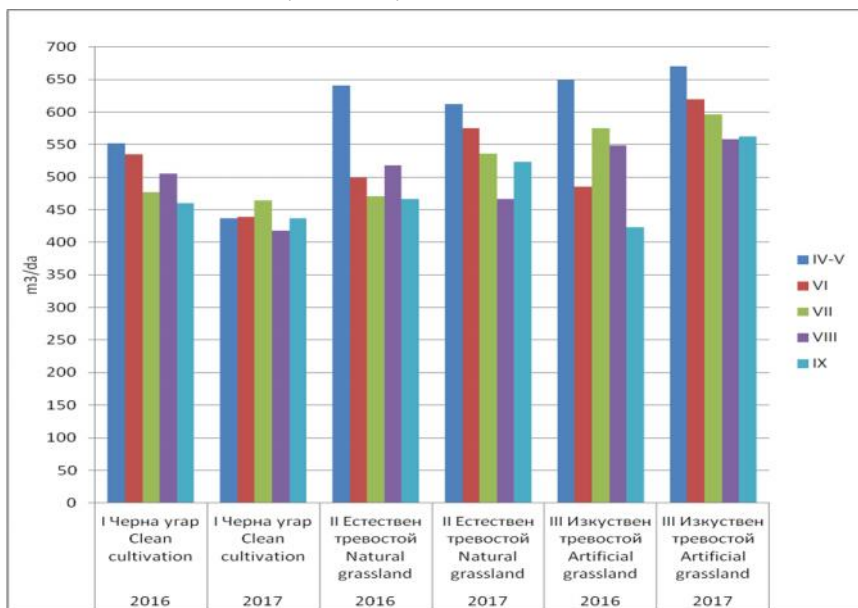


Fig. 3. Water reserve (m³/da) in the soil layer 0-60 cm 2016-2017

2017 . -
)
 , -
 . -
 (237,92 m³/da -)
 100 200
 m³/da. -
 100 m³/da.

In 2017, the third treatment had the largest water reserve (artificial grassland) in all months of the vegetation, followed by the natural grassland treatment, as the fallow treatment has less moisture reserve. The most distinct difference is found in the period of April-May period in favor of the third treatment (237.92 m³/da more). In the other months, the difference remains between 100 and 200 m³/da. The differences in moisture reserve are less in the grassland treatments under 100 m³/da.

CONCLUSIONS

2016-2017
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 13,49%.
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 , -
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 2017 . ,
 0-60 cm e
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 -
 . 2016 .
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For the 2016-2017 survey period, the soil moisture content in depth increases in the three treatments of the soil surface (black fallow, artificial and natural grassland). The greatest increase was observed in the artificial grassland treatment up to 13.49%.

With different systems of maintaining the soil surface in the row-spacing (fallow, natural grassland, artificial grassland), with annual rainfall amounts higher than the average for the region, the highest moisture loss was found in the artificial grass trenches.

During the vegetation in 2017, when rainfall amounts are above the average for the ten-year base period, the water reserve in the layer of 0-60 cm is the highest when the row-spacing is maintained as an artificial grassland. In 2016, when the vegetative amounts of rainfall were below the average for the base period, during the dry months of June and September, the moisture reserve was higher when the row-spacing was maintained as fallow.

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Prunus domestica L.

Morphological characteristics and chemical composition of fruit of plum hybrids of *Prunus domestica* L.

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SUMMARY

The observations were made in the period of 2016-2017 in the Experimental Station on Plum - Dryanovo. The following six plum hybrids of *Prunus domestica* L were studied with numbers: 14/2; 17/2; 15/3; 13/3; 26/4 and 1/2, and 'Stanley' cultivar was used for the control. The aim of present study is to make a morphological and chemical characterization of plum hybrids. Biometric measurements include: fruit size (height, width and thickness), flesh and stone weight, flesh/stone ratio. The chemical composition of fresh fruit was studied. Fruit of hybrid No14/2 had the highest average weight – 55.6 g, with the lowest percentage of the stone - 4.1%. The lowest fruit weight was found in hybrid No 13/3 - 18.3 g. It had the highest percentage of the stone - 6.5%. The highest values in terms of height, width and thickness were found in

14/2, - 50,2 mm; 44,0 mm 44,9
mm. -
No13/3,
33,7 mm; 28,9 mm 28,0 mm.

26/4
23,2%. -
- 14,87% (-
- 13,06 %),
- 0,01%.

17/2 - 1,66%. -
- 9,60%,
-14,6%.

:

hybrid No 14/2 - 50.2 mm; 44.0 mm and 44.9 mm The lowest values for these indicators is hybrid No 13/3 hybrid, 33.7 mm respectively; 28.9 mm and 28.0 mm.

From the chemical tests it was found that the fruits of the hybrid No 26/4 are characterized by the highest dry matter content - 23.2%. The hybrid has the highest percentage of total sugars - 14.87% (higher than the 'Stanley' standard - 13.06%), and also with the lowest values for organic acids - 0.01%. Hybrid No 17/2 has the highest acid content - 1.66%. It has the lowest percentage of total sugars - 9.60%, and the least dry matter content - 14.6%.

Key words: plum, fruit, fruit stone, hybrid, size, weight, chemical composition

INTRODUCTION

Plum is widely spread in the mountainous and semi-mountainous regions of the country due to its high productivity and relatively low demand on soil and climatic conditions. The economic significance of plums is great because they are used as fresh fruits as well as in the food industry. In order to expand the plum production in our country in the current market economy conditions, it is very important to offer to the consumers good quality cultivar to satisfy their requirements. It is necessary to diversify the plum assortment, to create new plum plantations and to include new cultivars, introduced and selected in our country. Stoev et al. (2017) made agrobiological characteristics of seven highly productive cultivars, while Vitanova et al., (2014) examined the prospect of the development of organic plum production by offering 16 Bulgarian cultivars and introduced ones. Inclusion in the production of more

(2017)

, Vitanova et al., (2014)

16
 (Dinkova and Dragoyski, 2005).
 Minev and Stoyanova, (2009)
 3
 10
 Dimkova et al., (2017), Mratinie et al., (2015) 19 a.
 Velkov, (1970)
 Iliev, (1988)
 Ivanova, (2013)
 1/2.
 Pangelova, (1969)
 Iliev et al., (1977)
 26,34 %, (1995)
 15,75%
 24, 50% (1996; 2003)

cultivars with different ripening period and different fruit consumption requires a more detailed morphological characteristic (Dinkova and Dragoyski, 2005). It is necessary to comply with plum quality requirements according to European regulations (MAF, 2004) in the present fruit growing process. Minev and Stoyanova (2009) investigated the morphological parameters of plum cultivars, such as: ' a anaska lepotica', ' a anaska rodna', ' a anaska najbolja', 'Gabrovska', 'Strinava', 'Stanley' and 3 plum hybrids. Biometric measurements of fruits of 10 high-yield plum cultivars were made by Dimkova et al., (2017) and Mratinie et al., (2015) of 19 apricot hybrids.

Plums have a rich chemical composition, which largely determines the taste and technological qualities of both fresh fruits and processed production. According to Velkov (1970), the quality of the processed production is influenced by the degree of fruit technological ripeness. Iliev, (1988) received the best appraisal for compotes of plums cultivars, such as 'Green Renclode', 'Stanley' and 'Požega a', while Ivanova, (2013) received an excellent appraisal for compotes of plum hybrid No 1/2.

An important indicator of fruit quality is the dry matter content. Pangelova, (1969) observed the influence of climatic conditions of habitat for several years on the change of dry matter content and total sugars in the period of rapid growth of fruit. According to Iliev et al., (1977) the dry matter content varies widely from 14.54% to 26.34%, and later Iliev and Shtarkova, (1995) studied 25 varieties and found a dry content substance in the range of 15.75% for 'Opal', to 24,50% for 'Izobilie' cultivar. Dimkova, (1996; 2003) found a low dry matter content for 'Malvazinka',

Vitanova et al., (2010)
 (15,76%)
 Iliev, (1977)
 Stefanova, (2010)

'Ulensova', 'Ruth Gerstetter', 'Victoria', 'President', 'Ontario' and other cultivars; Vitanova et al., (2010) observed the highest total sugars (15.76%) in 'Mirabelle de Nancy', in the conditions of Dryanovo. Iliev, (1977) found the highest values for total sugars in the plum cultivars of 'Agen', 'Gulyaeva', 'Sinya yubileyna' and 'Stanley', and the higher values of fructose are the varieties: 'Agen', 'Tuleu Gras', 'Green Renclode' and 'Kystendilska plum', and with high glucose values it has indicated the varieties: 'Hal', 'Anna Spath', 'Althan's Gage', 'Strinava', 'Monforsa' and 'Sinya yubileyna'. A higher content of sucrose was observed in 'Agen' and 'Gulyaeva'. Stefanova, (2010) found a high content of organic acids in 'Hanita' and 'Jojo' cultivars.

The aim of the study is to determine the biometric characteristics of fresh fruit of six plum hybrids and to investigate their chemical composition, including: dry matter content, total sugars, organic acids and tanning substances.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted at the Experimental Station plum in Dryanovo, which is a branch of Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture - Troyan, in the period 2016-2017, at an altitude of 308 m, on gray-forest, pseudo-podzolic soil. Fresh fruits of six plum hybrids of *Prunus domestica* L. were studied, with numbers: 14/2; 17/2; 15/3; 13/3; 26/4; 1/2. 'Stanley' cultivar was used as a control. Biometric measurements were performed on a median sample of 30 fetuses from the hybrid, which included: the fruit size (height, width and thickness), fruit weight and stone size, and the stone percentage, compared to fruit weight. For the measurements were used the methods for cultivation of plant resources (Nedev et

2016-2017 ..
 m, ..
Prunus domestica L., : 14/2; 17/2; 15/3; 13/3; 26/4; 1/2.

30
 (,),

al.,1979).
 - (%),
 ;
 - (%, -
 (Stanchev et al.,1968);
 - (%),
 NaOH;
 -
 (%) -
 (Ermakov et al., 1972).
 ANOVA e
 LSD test e
 = 0,05

(Nedev et al., 1979).

The observation of the chemical analysis of fresh fruits was done in the following methods:
 - dry matter (%) - refractometrically determined;
 - sugars content (%), - Bertrand and Kolthoff's method (Stanchev et al.,1968);
 - organic acids as malic (%), titration-based method with 0,1 n NaOH;
 - tannins and dyestuffs (%) - Neubauer - Luvental's method (Ermakov et al., 1972).

The statistical processing of the data is done by the ANOVA program with LSD test at = 0,05

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The fruits of the studied hybrids have an oblong ellipsoid form. The average values obtained from two-year biometric measurements of fresh fruit are shown in Table 1 and Table 2.

1 2.

1

(2016-2017 .)

Table 1. Fruit weight and stone weight, in fresh fruits, of hybrid plant, average for the period (16-2017)

Hybrid plant	Fruit weight g	Stone weight g	Percentage of fruit stone in relation to fruit weight, %
14/2	55,6	2,3	4,1
17/2	38,2	1,8	4,7
15/3	37,2	1,6	4,3
13/3	18,3	1,2	6,5
26/4	32,4	1,4	4,3
1/2	46,3	2,2	4,7
/Stanley	33,3	1,8	5,4
= 0,05	LSD= 5,03	LSD=0,14	LSD = 2,69

14/2,
 55,6 g,
 17/2
 15/3,
 - 46,3g, 38,2g
 1/2;
 37,2g,

Very large fruits are found in hybrids No 14/2, with an average fruit weight of 55.6 g, followed by hybrids No 1/2; No 17/2 and No 15/3, with an average fruit weight - 46.3g, 38.2g and

1). -
 13/3 -18,3g. T
 -
 6,5% -
 14/2 - 4,1%.
 (2),
 14/2, - 50,2
 mm; 44,0 mm 44,9 mm, -
 13/3, -
 33,7mm; 28,9mm 28,0mm.

37.2g respectively (Table 1). The lowest fruit weight is found for hybrid No 13/3 - 18.3g. It has the highest percentage of stone in comparison with fruit weight - 6.5%. The lowest values for this indicator are found in fruits of hybrid No 14/2 - 4.1%.
 Maximum values for height, width and thickness are found in fruits of hybrid No 14/2 (Table 2), respectively - 50,2 mm; 44.0 mm and 44.9 mm, and the lowest in hybrid No 13/3, respectively - 33.7mm; 28.9mm and 28.0mm.

2. (2016-2017 .)
Table 2. Size of fresh fruits of hybrid plant, average for the period (2016-2017)

N Hybrid plant	/Average sizes (mm)		
	/Length	/Width	/Thickness
14/2	50,2	44,0	43,9
17/2	42,1	36,4	37,3
15/3	49,3	36,2	35,3
13/3	33,7	28,9	28,0
26/4	41,9	34,5	33,0
1/2	47,6	40,7	41,1
/Stanley	43,2	36,6	35,6
= 0,05	LSD = 2,10	LSD = 1,75	LSD = 2,13

3.
 26/4
 23,2%.
) - 14,87%,
 %),
 0,01%.
 1,66%.
 - 9,60%,
 14,6%.
 - (15,92),
 26,/4 - (14,82)

The results for fruit chemical composition of the observed plum hybrids are shown in Table 3. We found that the fruits of hybrid No 26/4 had the highest dry matter content of 23.2%. The hybrid has the highest percentage of total sugars (glucose, fructose and sucrose) - 14.87% (higher than 'Stanley' standard - 13.06%), and also the lowest values for organic acids - 0.01%. Hybrid No 17/2 had the highest organic acids content - 1.66%. It has the lowest percentage of total sugars - 9.60%, and the least dry matter content - 14.6%. The best ratio of total sugars compared to acids is found in 'Stanley' cultivar - (15.92), followed by hybrid number No 26/4 - (14.82) and hybrid No 15/3 - (13.91).

(13,91). -
 : 17/2 1/2, - 5,78
 5,91. -
 13/3 - (4,03%),
 2,63% .
 26/4 -
 - 8,00%, 6,05%
 . 1/2
 - 3,55%.
 -
 13/3 -
 (4,77%), 4,38%
 ,
 1/2 - (1,92%).
 ,
 13/3 - (0,651%),
 0,401% 14/2 - 0,400%. -
 ,
 15/3 - 0,255%.

The values for this indicator are lower for hybrids with numbers: 17/2 and 1/2, respectively - 5,78 and 5,91. The highest fructose content is found in hybrid No 13/3 - (4.03%), compared to 2.63% for 'Stanley'. Hybrid No 26/4 contains the highest values of sucrose - 8.00%, compared to 6.05% for 'Stanley'. The lowest is for hybrid No 1/2 - 3.55%. The highest glucose content is found in fruit of hybrid No 13/3 - (4.77%), compared to 4.38% for the standard 'Stanley', and the lowest values are found for No 1/2 - (1.92%).

Concerning the content of tannins and dyestuffs, the highest values are found in hybrid No 13/3 - (0.651%), followed by 'Stanley' with 0.401% and No 14/2 - 0.400%. The smallest values were found in hybrid No 15/3 -0.255%.

3.
(2016-2017 .)

Table 3. Chemical composition of fresh fruits (2016-2017)

N Hybrid plant	Soluble solids %	Organic acids %	Tanning substanes %	Glucose %	Fructose %	Sucrose %	Total sugars %	/ Gluco- asidometric index
14/2	17,4	1,57	0,400	3,52	2,20	5,01	10,72	6,83
17/2	14,6	1,66	0,290	3,50	2,20	3,89	9,60	5,78
15/3	15,1	0,81	0,255	2,76	2,20	6,30	11,27	13,91
13/3	19,1	1,01	0,651	4,77	4,03	4,48	12,80	12,67
26/4	23,2	0,01	0,290	3,64	3,23	8,00	14,87	14,87
1/2	18,0	1,41	0,293	1,92	3,36	3,55	8,33	5,91
Stanley	19,2	0,82	0,401	4,38	2,63	6,05	13,06	15,92

CONCLUSIONS

The biometric measurements shows that:

Hybrid No 14/2 has very large fruits and the smallest percentage of stone, relative to fruit weight.

Hybrids with numbers: 1/2; 17/2 and 15/3 are large-sized.

Average-sized fruits are found in: 'Stanley' and hybrid No 26/4.

Small-sized fruits have hybrid No 13/3.

14/2 :
 -
 : 1/2; 17/2
 15/3 .
 :
 26/4.
 13/3.

26/4	-	Hybrid No 26/4 has the highest dry matter content - 23.2% and the highest percentage of total sugars - 14.87%, as well as the lowest values for organic acids - 0.01 %. The hybrid has a very good ratio of total sugars to acids - 14.82 and the highest sucrose content - 8.00%.
-	- 23,2%	
14,87%,	-	
0,01%.	-	
14,82	-	
- 8,00%.	-	
-	-	
	17/2 - 1,66%.	Hybrid No 17/2 had the highest organic acids content - 1.66%. It has the lowest percentage of total sugars - 9.60%, and the least dry matter content - 14.6%.
-	-	
- 9,60%,	-	
	- 14,6%.	

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