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Impact of Applied Nutrients on Yield and Quality of Raspberry Cultivars Grown at Different Localities of the Republic of Serbia

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SUMMARY

The influence of microbiological preparations on vegetative and generative properties, fertility and quality of raspberry fruit was examined in different agro-ecological conditions of Serbia. The trials were conducted in localities: Stup evi i (Arilje), Bukovica (Ivanjica), Vlasina and Mili evo Selo (Arilje). Following cultivars were included in the trials: 'Willamette', grown in the plantation under the anti-hail net; 'Willamette', grown in the open field; 'Meeker', grown in the open field; 'Fertodi Zamos', grown in the open field; and 'Polka' grown in a high tunnel.

Microbiological preparations that contain micro- and macro elements, microorganisms and amino acids were

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(Petrovi et al., 2017).

(Leposavi et al., 2015).

used in these plantations. Preparations were applied in two manners: through soil (watering) and foliar (over leaf). Preparations were applied at the beginning of vegetation, before flowering and before harvesting.

Applied preparations had a positive influence on the number of young and mature canes in all treated plantations, compared to untreated. Also, the positive effect of the applied nutrients was also recorded on the height and thickness of mature canes, as well as on the yield and quality of the raspberry fruit.

Key words: Raspberry, nutrients, microorganisms, vegetative properties, yield

INTRODUCTION

Raspberry production in the Republic of Serbia has a great importance for the economy of the country. Export of frozen raspberries makes a foreign inflow of about 250 million euros per year. Raspberry production regions in Serbia have been significantly expanded in recent years due to favorable agro-ecological factors and stimulation of growers for this production even in areas with inadequate conditions (Petrovi et al., 2017). Raspberries are very sensitive to inadequate soil conditions and technological indiscipline, and therefore problems in production occur very often.

The most common are: inadequate site selection and preparation of soil, insufficient organic matter in the substrate, and the complete absence or excessive application of mineral fertilizers.

All this results in poor plant condition, decreased yield, reduced fruit quality, and very often there is a sudden drying of canes and decay of all plants in the plantation before the end of spring and early summer (Leposavi et al., 2015).

(Leposavi et al., 2013; Pešakovi et al., 2013; Zorenc et al., 2017).

- Yield and fruit quality and the
 - viability of the production depend on many
 , factors, as cultivar characteristics, climate
 , factors, applied method of cultivation and
 - use of organomineral fertilizers
 (Leposavi et al., 2013; Pešakovi et al.,
 2013; Zorenc et al., 2017).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

" " , (43°42,681, N,
 20°07.033 E, 358
 m, GPS Garmin
 Etrex).

The influence of two types of
 , preparations on vegetative, generative
 - and pomological characteristics of several
 raspberry cultivars in different agro-
 ecological conditions of Serbia was
 studied. A drop irrigation system has been
 - installed in all plantations and the usual
 - agro- and pomotechnical measures have
 - been applied for maintenance. The trials
 were set up at four localities. The first
 plantation of cultivar 'Willamette' was
 - located in Stup evi i near Arilje,
 (43°42,681'N, 20°07,033'E, altitude 358
 m, measured by a GPS device Garmin
 Etrex). The soil in the plantation was of
 neutral reaction, with medium humus
 - content, high nitrogen content and
 - extremely high (harmful) content of
 phosphorus and potassium. According to
 . the American classification of the
 mechanical composition, this soil
 - belonged to the category clay.

(43°36.574 N, 20°11.324 E,
 453 m).

The second plantation with the
 same cultivar was located in Bukovica
 near Ivanjica (43°36.574'N, 20°11.324'E,
 altitude 453 m). The soil in the orchard
 was sandy loam, acidic to neutral
 reaction, with medium humus content,
 high nitrogen and extremely high
 (harmful) phosphorus and potassium
 content.

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 " "
 (42°40.968 N,
 22°21.825 E, 1300
 m).

The third plantation with the cultivar
 'Meeker' was located at the Vlasinsko
 Lake (42°40.968'N, 22°21.825'E, altitude
 1,300 m). The soil was sandy loam, highly
 acid to acid, with medium content of
 humus and nitrogen, low content of
 phosphorus, and high content of

"
" (43°47.476 N, 20°06.303 E,
314 m).

(43°47.490 N, 20°06.164 E,
327 m).

: ()
(Aktywny (EM Naturalnie
) ,

:
- 10%,
- 18%, (N) - 3%,
(P₂O₅) - 1%, (K₂O) -
1%
Isabion (Syngenta,) -
(10%, 0.9%),
- 29.4%,
62.5%, 10.3%.

- potassium. The fourth plantation with
" cultivar 'Fertodi Zamatos' was located at
Mili evo Selo near Po ega (43°47.476'N,
20°06.303'E, altitude 314 m).

The soil was sandy loam, acid to slight
acid, with low humus content, mean
nitrogen content and rich in phosphorus
and potassium. Cultivar 'Polka' was
- cultivated in fifth plantation under plastic
tunnel in Mili evo Selo (43°47.490'N,
20°06.164'E, altitude 327 m). The sandy
loam soil was of optimal acidity reaction
for raspberry, extremely low in humus
content and with low nitrogen, phosphorus
and potassium content.

- Preparations containing micro- and
- macro-elements, microorganisms and
amino acids were used in all plantations.
These preparations have been applied in
two manners: through soil (watering) and
foliar (over leaf). The preparation EM
Naturalnie Aktywny (Greenland
Technologia EM, Poland), which was
applied through the soil, had the following
content: free amino acids - 10%, total
organic matter - 18%, total nitrogen (N) -
3%, total phosphorus (P₂O₅) - 1%, total
potassium (K₂O) - 1%. Foliar treatments
with Isabion (Syngenta, Switzerland) were
performed at the same time with soil
applications. Isabion contained: total
nitrogen content - 10.9% (organic 10%,
ammonia 0.9%), organic carbon - 29.4%,
total organic matter and amino acids -
62.5%, free amino acids 10.3%.

- Preparations were applied at the
beginning of vegetation, before flowering
and before harvesting. The influence of
these products on vegetative and
generative properties, fertility and quality
of raspberry fruit was evaluated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results presented in Table 1
showed that in all treated plantations
there were a larger number of young
canes per meter in the comparison to the

untreated ones. The largest difference in the number of young (new) canes per meter of row between treated and untreated plants was in the raspberry 'Willamette' plantation at the Bukovica locality - 55 canes (411 in treated and 356 in untreated). A similar results were obtained in raspberry 'Polka' grown under plastic tunnel where the number of young canes in treated plants was higher by 60 (520 treated and 460 untreated, respectively).
 Regardless of the treatment, raspberry 'Willamette' had a significantly larger production of young canes than 'Fertodi Zamatos' and 'Meeker', which is in agreement with the results obtained by Leposavi et al., (2015b) presented in the study of vegetative characteristics and yield of several florican raspberry cultivars grown in Western Serbia.

Table 1. Number of young canes, number mature canes, average height and diameter of mature canes in raspberry plantations

Locality	Cultivar	(m) Number of young canes per m	(m) Number of mature canes per m	Cane height (cm)	40 cm (mm) Cane diameter at 40 cm above the ground (mm)
Stup evi i /treated	Willamette	340	14,0	239,1	11,3
Stup evi i, /untreated	Willamette	298	11,2	223,1	10,7
Bukovica /treated	Willamette	411	14,12	236,3	13,1
Bukovica /untreated	Willamette	356	13,9	220,1	12,6
Vlasina /treated	Meeker	277	11,6	247,9	13,8
Vlasina /untreated	Meeker	233	9,9	234,4	13,8
Mili evo selo, /treated	Fertodi Zamatos	310	12,6	235,6	13,2
Mili evo selo, /untreated	Fertodi Zamatos	275	11,1	226,8	12,9
Mili evo selo, /treated	Polka	520	25,4	198,6	14,4
Mili evo selo, /untreated	Polka	460	22,2	183,0	14,1

Pešakovi et al. (2013).

236.32 cm
 (220.12 cm
 16.20 cm).

8.76 cm

40 cm
 (11.31 cm
 10.66 cm)

0.65 cm

2.

The positive influence of the applied preparations, that contain macro- and micro elements and microorganisms, also induced the production of a greater number of fruiting canes in all treated plants compared to untreated, which is in agreement with the results of Pešakovi et al. (2013). In addition, the positive impact of the applied nutrients was observed in the height and thickness of mature canes. The largest difference in the height of mature canes was recorded in raspberry plantation in Bukovica.

The average height of mature canes in this plantation was 236.32 cm in treated plants, compared to 220.12 cm in untreated (difference 16.20 cm). The least difference in the height of mature canes was 8.76 cm in raspberry 'Fertodi Zamatos' in locality Mili evo Selo.

Regarding the thickness of mature canes, the largest difference (measured at a height of 40 cm above the ground) was recorded in raspberry 'Willamette' in locality Stup evi i - 0.65 cm (11.31 cm treated and 10.66 cm untreated plants, respectively).

Weather conditions during most of the vegetation did not favor the development of raspberry plants. Because of the excessive precipitation, there was a large number of decaying plants in examined plantations. Applied preparations had a positive effect on treated plants and no wilting of canes was observed in the treated parts of the plantation. A significant percentage of wilt canes was recorded in other (untreated) parts of the plantation

In raspberry orchards in Bukovica and Vlasina Lake, fruit yields per cane and per unit area were measured. Obtained results are presented in Table 2.

2.

Table 2. Yield per cane and unit of area in raspberry plantations

Locality and cultivar	(m) / Number of fruiting canes (per m)	(ha ⁻¹) Total number of fruiting canes (per ha ⁻¹)	Yield per cane (g)	(kg ha ⁻¹) / Yield per unit area (kg ha ⁻¹)
Bukovica Willamette , /treated	5,8	23.200	710	16.472,00
Bukovica Willamette , /untreated	5,7	22.800	650	14.820,00
Vlasina Meeker , /treated	5,5	22.000	620	13.640,00
Vlasina Meeker , /untreated	5,5	22.000	590	12.980,00

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(710 g, 16.472 kg ha⁻¹).

-

1.652 kg ha⁻¹

(650 g

14.820 kg ha⁻¹).

" "

,

-

660

-

-

13.640 kg ha⁻¹ 12.980 kg ha⁻¹).

3.

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-

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(3).

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" "

(4.4 g), - (3.4 g)

" "

The highest yield per cane and per unit area was obtained in treated 'Willamette' plants in Bukovica locality (710 g, 16.472 kg ha⁻¹). Untreated plants in the same plantation had a 1.652 kg ha⁻¹ lower yield compared to the treated plants (650 g per cane and 14.820 kg ha⁻¹).

A similar result was achieved in raspberry 'Meeker' at the Vlasina Lake, where the treated plants had higher yield for 660 kilograms per unit area compared to untreated plants (13.640 kg ha⁻¹ and 12,980 kg ha⁻¹, respectively).

The results of the fruit mass and chemical properties of the fruits from the examined plantations are shown in Table 3.

The fruits of all cultivars picked from treated plants were larger and had a higher content of soluble dry matter than fruits picked from untreated plants (Table 3).

The largest fruits were picked from treated plants of cultivar 'Polka' grown under plastic tunnel (4.4 g) and the smallest fruits (3.4 g) were picked from untreated 'Fertodi Zamatos' plants.

3.

Table 3. Fruit mass and chemical properties of fruits

Locality and cultivar	Fruit mass g	Soluble dry matter %	pH	Total acids %	Total sugar %	Reducing sugar %	Sucrose %
Stup evi i Willamette , /treated	4,1	9,2	3,20	1,68	5,76	4,56	1,14
Stup evi i Willamette , /untreated	4,0	8,5	3,35	1,43	5,04	4,20	0,80
Bukovica Willamette , /treated	4,5	9,5	3,26	1,73	5,64	4,14	1,42
Bukovica Willamette , /untreated	4,2	9,4	3,28	1,64	5,28	4,08	1,14
Vlasina Meeker , /treated	3,9	10,5	3,18	1,50	5,52	4,98	0,51
Vlasina Meeker , /untreated	3,7	9,8	3,19	1,62	5,76	5,10	0,63
Mili evo selo, Fertodi Zamatos , /treated	3,5	10,8	3,22	1,42	6,12	5,49	0,60
Mili evo selo, Fertodi Zamatos /untreated	3,4	10,4	3,26	1,56	5,76	4,85	0,86
Mili evo selo, Polka /treated	4,4	9,2	3,20	1,68	5,76	4,56	1,14
Mili evo selo, Polka /untreated	4,2	8,6	3,17	1,67	5,28	4,44	0,8

Regarding the content of soluble dry matter, the highest content (10.8%) was measured in fruits picked from treated plants of 'Fertodi Zamatos' and the lowest content (8.5%) of these substances was in the fruits of 'Willamette' grown in Stup evi i.

Fruits picked from treated plants had higher values of total sugars, directly reducing sugars and sucrose, than fruits from untreated plants. In contrast, fruits from untreated plants had higher values of the pH and total acid content compared to the fruits from treated plants.

The applied preparations also influenced on the less occurrence of Botrytis fruit rot in the treated areas of the plantation.

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The applied preparations also influenced on the less occurrence of Botrytis fruit rot in the treated areas of the plantation.

CONCLUSIONS

The obtained results indicated that the applied preparations had significant

influence on the improvement of vegetative traits, fruit quality and raspberry yield. Higher number of young and mature canes, their higher height and diameter at 40 cm above the ground were recorded in treated plants. The treatment also contributed to higher yields per cane and unit area compared to untreated plants in two plantations (Bukovica and Vlasinsko Lake).

Also, significantly better qualitative characteristics were detected in fruits picked from treated plants.

Applied preparations had a positive effect on the plants to overcome the state of physiological stress and on the decrease of plant wilting during periods of excessive precipitation. Significant influence was also observed on the decrease of Botrytis fruit rot appearance in treated plants compared to untreated plants.

(Botrytis)

- influence on the improvement of vegetative traits, fruit quality and raspberry yield. Higher number of young and mature canes, their higher height and diameter at 40 cm above the ground were recorded in treated plants. The treatment also contributed to higher yields per cane and unit area compared to untreated plants in two plantations (Bukovica and Vlasinsko Lake).

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TR-31064 TR-31093.

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State and Perspectives of Production of Small Fruits

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SUMMARY

The objectives of the article are the current changes in the farming of strawberry cultures in the world and in Bulgaria, observed in the period between 2013 and 2017. In addition to the primary cultures, the strawberry and the raspberry, the lesser known currants, gooseberry, blueberry and cranberry are also included, all of which are increasingly spreading and find a broader range of implication for a healthy and dietetic nutrition. The production rates, areas occupied and average yields have been traced. The production of berries in the world varies between 10 384 447 tonnes in areas ranging from 735 093 ha in 2013 up to 12 006 261 tonnes in areas occupying 809 673 ha in 2017. The trend shows an increase of production mainly with strawberries.

Key words: production, strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, currants, gooseberry, blueberry, cranberry

The strawberry cultures (the small berries) are a major factor when cultivating perennials. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants (black,

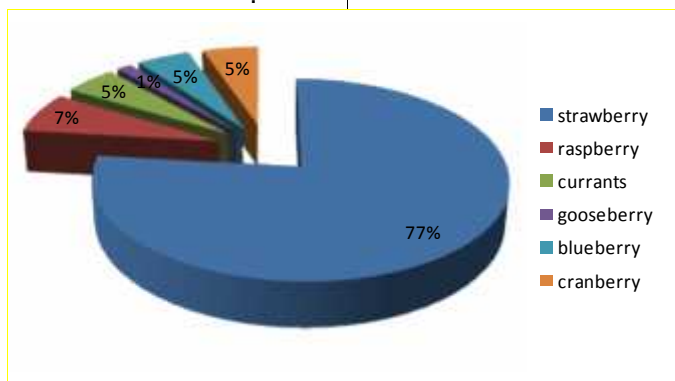
2013-2017 .
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10 384
447 t 735 093 ha
2013 . 12 006 261 t
809 673 ha 2017 .
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(, , ,) , () , () .

red, white and gold), gooseberries, blueberries and cranberries fall within this group. A few of them, such as the strawberry and the raspberry, are widely used in industrial plantations. All of the strawberry varieties are suitable for cultivation in courtyard gardens. These varieties begin bearing fruit early; they give high yields as early as the first year, while the remaining fruit-bearing plants are still growing and not fruiting. The strawberry produces fruits on its first year after planting, while the remainder of the varieties come into full fruitfulness on the third or fourth year. A significant production rate is noted at smaller areas. The fruit of the berries start maturing at the end of spring and the beginning of summer before the other vegetable and fruit varieties. They propagate very quickly. They are distinguished with their high amount of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, sugars, etc; and are suitable for direct consumption, processing and freezing because they have perfect taste quality.

1 % . . 169 369 t
2017 . (1).
(5 %).
77 %

According to FAO, out of all the strawberry cultivars, the least cultivated is the gooseberry, whose area is 1%, or 169 369 tonnes of produced fruit in 2017 (Figure 1). The currants and berries come at second place – 5%. Leader is the strawberry that forms 77% of the entire fruit production.



. 1. (2017 .)
Fig. 1. Structure of small fruits in the world (2017)

879 108 t 2013 . 9 223 815 t
2017 . (1, 2).
(4 605 124 t – 2017 .),
(1
655 191 t).
1 477 652 t, 1449280
t
(426 092 t/2013 . – 589 990
t/2017 .). (2015-2017 .)
(6 795 kg/da), (5 285 kg/da),
(4 754 kg/da), (4 459
kg/da) (4 006 kg/da).

Strawberry production. The strawberry is a small fruit-bearing variety, with a wide area of distribution. The global production of strawberry fruits is continuously increasing – from 7 879 108 tonnes in 2013, to 9 223 715 tonnes in 2017. (Table 1, Figure 2). Data collected from all continents show that Asia is the leader (4 605 124 tonnes – 2017), ranking ahead of Europe (2 655 191 tonnes). In third place is North America with 1477652 t out of which 1 449 280 tonnes strawberries are cultivated just in the United States. The growth of strawberry cultivation in Africa is evident, despite it not being significant (426 092 tonnes/2013 – 589990 tonnes/2017). In the period 2015-2017, the highest yield was reported in the USA (6 795 kg/da), Spain (5 285 kg/da), Mexico (4 754 kg/da), Morocco (4 569 kg/da) and Greece (4 006 kg/da).

1.

(2013-2017)

Table 1. Production of small fruits (2013-2017)

Culture	(t) / Production (t) / Year				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<i>Strawberry</i>	7 879 108	8 154 169	8 765 242	9 059 557	9 223 815
<i>Raspberry</i>	588 114	628 163	676 447	841 899	812 735
<i>Currants</i>	683 892	633 652	627 174	661 765	578 348
<i>Gooseberry</i>	170 629	175 124	167 883	178 202	169 369
<i>Blueberry</i>	434 520	525 648	539 216	621 717	596 813
<i>Cranberry</i>	628 184	638 833	638 989	737 081	625 181
/ Average	10 384 447	10 755 589	11 414 951	12 100 221	12 006 261

17.94
%
2013-2017 .
547488 t 1 655 191 t .
6 819 ha
360 416 t .
49642 ha,
177 921 t (2017 .).

Concentrated in Europe are 17.94% of all strawberry production. The European market is heavily saturated and competitive. The annual production in the European countries for the period 2013-2017 has increased from 1 547 488 tonnes to 1 655 191 tonnes. Spain is the biggest producer; in 2017, 6 819 ha of strawberry plants were cultivated with a total production of 360 416 tonnes. Poland takes the second place, having harvested 175 652 tonnes (in 2017) on a 49 642 ha area.
At third place is the Russian federation

175652 t.
 283 t 14 156 ha
 125 335 t 4 855 ha.
 59 260 t

with 175 652 tonnes, followed by Germany at fourth place with production of 135 283 tonnes in 2017 on a 14 156 ha area. At fifth place is Great Britain with 127 623 tonnes strawberry fruit. Despite Italy being a traditional strawberry producer, she comes at sixth place, with a production of 125 335 tonnes on an area of 4 855 ha. France cultivates strawberries primarily at the southwest regions and in 2017, 59 260 tonnes of fruit were cultivated. The remaining European countries produce relatively small amounts of strawberries.

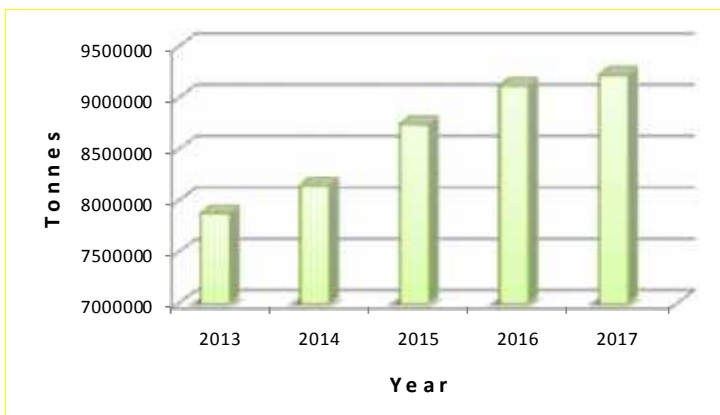


Fig. 2. Production of strawberries

49.93
 (3 717 283 t),
 (210 304 t)
 16.02 %
 (1 449 280 t),
 (658 436 t).
 407 240 t 161 793 t.

Out of the entire global production of strawberries, Asia occupies 49.93%. Main producers are China (3 717 283 tonnes), Turkey (400 167 tonnes), Republic of Korea (210 304 tonnes) and Japan (158 702 tonnes).

16.02 % of the strawberry cultivation is in North America, USA being the biggest producer (1 449 280 tonnes), followed by Mexico (658 436 tonnes). In the USA, the main locations for strawberry cultivation are California, Florida and North Carolina.

The leading producers in Africa are Egypt and Morocco, with production of 407 240 tonnes and 161 793 tonnes respectively. The strawberry fruit, grown in these countries meet the demand for fresh fruit in Western Europe in winter.

In Bulgaria, the strawberry cultivar is not as popular as the raspberry. There is a trend showing a slim increase in the production and a decrease in the cultivation area (Table 1).

(1).

2.

Table 2. Strawberry and raspberry production in Bulgaria

Culture / Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Production (t)				
Strawberries	4 203	4 999	5 150	5 359
Raspberries	4 569	6 845	8 398	7 476
Harvested areas (ha)				
Strawberries	672	756	670	655
Raspberries	1 191	1 522	1 833	1 863

2013 .
584 524 t
92 597 ha
631 kg/da (1,
3).

2017 .
812735 t , 118 219
ha – 687 kg/da.

(66.4
%) -

2017 .
295029 t .
(146 377 t), (109 742 t)
(104 482 t).

(Nikoli and Tanovi , 2012;
Keserovi and Magazin, 2014).

Willamette
(90 %).
Meeker (5 %), Tulameen (3 %)
2 %

Polka, Heritage.
(29 317 ha),
(21 861 ha) (20 185 ha).

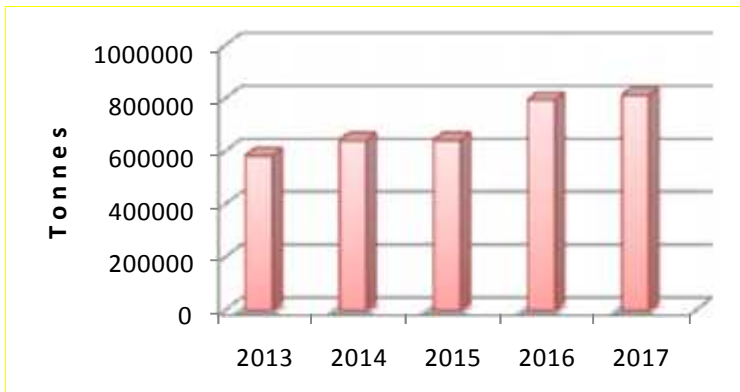
Raspberry and blackberry production. The global production of raspberries in 2013 reaches up to 584524 tonnes of fruit on an area of 92 597 ha with a mean yield of 631 kg/da (Table 1, Figure 3). Even if at slower pace, compared to the strawberry, an increase in the production rate is noticeable, meaning 812 735 tonnes of fruit were harvested in 2017 at an area of 118 219 ha, with an average yields of 687 kg/da.

The raspberry cultivation is centred primarily in Europe (66.4%) and more specifically in Eastern Europe where in 2017 were cultivated 296 029 tonnes of raspberry fruit. Main producers are the Russian federation (146 377 tonnes), Serbia (109 742 tonnes) and Poland (104482 tonnes). The production in Serbia is focused in the western part of the country and partially in the southern parts (Nikoli and Tanovi , 2012; Keserovi and Magazin, 2014). The berry varieties have not changed in 20 years, Willamette being the dominant variety (90%). Smaller areas are occupied by Meeker (5%), Tulameen (3%) and around 2% of the plantations are occupied by Polka, Heritage. The majority of the areas with raspberry plantations are located in Poland (29 317 ha), Serbia (21 861 ha) and Russia (20185 ha). The highest average yield is in the USA – 1 283 kg/da, followed by

– 1 283 kg/da,
kg/da.

725 kg/da 683

Russia and Ukraine, with 725 kg/da and 683 kg/da respectively.



. 3.

Fig. 3. Production of raspberries

14.3 %

(106 100 t)

(120 184 t).

2014 .
1 318 ha,
1863 ha (2).

2017 . –

(1350 ha).

569 t 7 476 t.

: (0.4 %);
(20.7 %);
(69.8 %);
(9.1 %) (, 2017).

- 14.3% of the global production of raspberry fruit is located in North America. Largest quantities are produced by the USA (106 100 tonnes) and Mexico (120184 tonnes).

- In Bulgaria, the raspberry ranks first in cultivation among the strawberry cultivars. In 2014 the planted areas are 1 318 ha, and in 2017 – 1 863 ha (Table 2).
- The largest areas with strawberry plantations are located in North and Southeast Bulgaria (1 350 ha). The total production of raspberry fruit has increased from 4 569 tonnes to 7 476 tonnes. The cultivated fruit find application in the following areas: consumption (0.4 %); commercial network (20.7%); processing (69.8%); other areas (9.1%) (Agrostatistics, 2017).

- In the last few years the production of blackberries slowly but continuously increases. This is due to people's increasing aspiration towards the consumption of healthy and diverse fruits.

- For years, Serbia has been a leader in the production of blackberries in the world. In second place after raspberries, the blackberries are the most common small berry in the country. They

4 000 ha,
 Bestrna Thorn Free,
 95 %
 (Nikoli and Milivojevi , 2010).
 (2011 2012 .)
 Loch Ness Chester Thornless
 (Keserovi and Magazin, 2014).
 ,
 ,
 (20%
).
 (,
 Europe).
 2014 . 2 471 ha
 (Mazolo, 2015).
 ,
 ha – 8 000 ha
 Tupy,
 ,
 (Segura et al., 2012).
 .
 2013 .
 683 892 t
 116 817 ha (2, 4).
 2017 .
 (578 348 t)

occupy and area more than 4 000 ha,
 having the production concentrated
 mainly in the central, northwest and south
 regions. The varieties that dominate are
 a anaska Bestrna and Thorn Free,
 representing 95% of the blackberry
 production in the country (Nikoli and
 Milivojevi , 2010). In the period of
 blackberry garden renewal (2011 and
 2012) the Lock Ness and Chester
 Thornless varieties found wide distribution
 (Keserovi and Magazin, 2014). The
 cultivation technology for blackberries is
 applied relatively adequately and the
 irrigation is a lot more frequent compared
 to the raspberries, despite it still being
 insufficient (around 20% of all orchards).

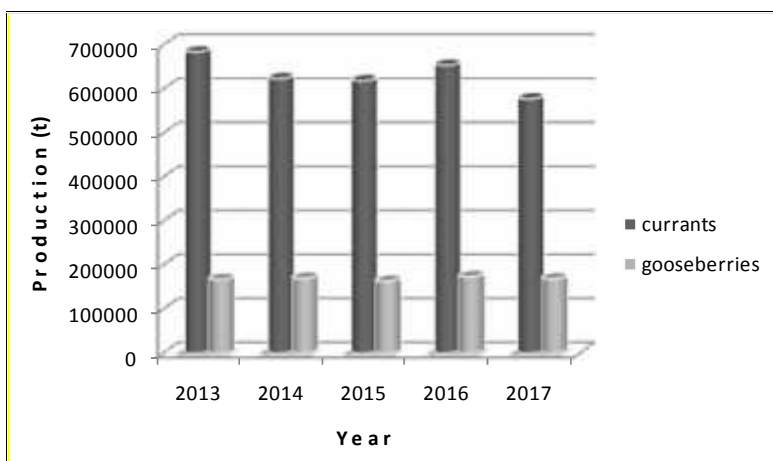
One of the major blackberry
 producers is the USA (in spite of New
 Zealand and Chile), and the bigger part of
 the production is meant for processing
 (according to data from Stoller, Europe).
 Blackberries are cultivated in Oregon,
 North Carolina, Arkansas and Texas.
 Oregon produces the largest quantities of
 blackberry fruit, just like in 2014, 2 471 ha
 were occupied by blackberry plantations
 (Mazolo, 2015). Mexico is also one of the
 primary producers whose blackberry
 cultivation is located in the central regions
 of the country.

Occupying areas between 6 500 ha and 8
 000 ha, the Brazilian variety Tupy is
 cultivated and is preferred by the
 produces because of its fast growth rates,
 high fertility and adaptability to the intense
 production system in the subtropical
 regions (Segura et al., 2012).

Production of currants. During
 the course of the five-year period of
 testing, a fluctuation in the production of
 the currants can be observed. In 2013,
 683 892 tonnes of currant fruit have been
 produced on a global scale, out of 116817
 ha (Table 2, Figure 4). A decline in the
 production (578 348 tonnes) and slightly
 in the size of the areas (115 548 ha) is

(115 548 ha).
 20-25 %
 75-80 %
 () .
 98 %
 (351 304 t)
 (128 808 t).
 (27 140 t),
 (12 470 t).
 (13 899 t)
 (166 110 ha)
 (395 045 ha),
 (24 500 ha).
 : 606 kg/da 2013 .
 500 kg/da (2017).

observed in 2017. Out of the entire quantity of produced currants, roughly 20-25% are red and white currants while 75-80% are black currants. The main cultivar of the currants is the black currant whose production is concentrated in Europe, around 98% of the entire world production. Leading producers are Russia (351 304 tonnes) and Poland (128 808 tonnes). Smaller quantities are produced by Ukraine (27 140 tonnes), Great Britain (13 899 tonnes) and Germany (12 470 tonnes). Largest areas for cultivation have the Russian federation (395 045 ha), Poland (166 110 ha) and Ukraine (24 500 ha). A decline in the average yields is noted: 606 kg/da in 2013 to 500 kg/da in 2017.



. 4.
Fig. 4. Production of currants and gooseberry

”
 ,
 .
 ,
 ,
 .
 2013 .
 168 304 t
 29 573 ha

”
 In the Agrostistical handbook from the ministry of agriculture and food, there is no available information on the production of currants and berries in Bulgaria. It is assumed that the production of these cultivars is too limited; meaning that at this stage, no real economic significance exists.

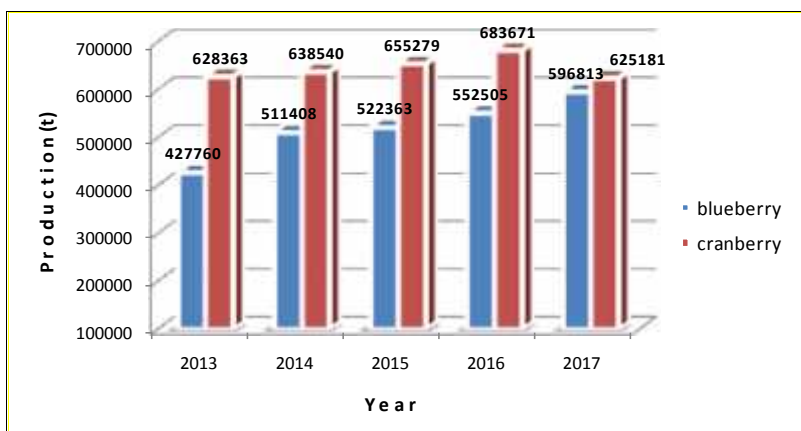
Production of gooseberry.
 168304 tonnes of gooseberry fruit were produced in 2013 on area of 29 573 ha (Faostat). No significant changes in the

(Faostat). 2017 .
 , . .
 2013 .,
 169 369 t 29 436 ha.
 (86 480 t, 2017 .)
 (58 551 t),
 , 12 295 ha
 12 089 ha. -
 (9 457 t),
 (7 820 t), (2
 538 t), (2 231 t).
 (1
 728 kg/da), (1 318 kg/da)
 (825 kg/da).

2013 . 434
 520 t , 2017
 596 813 t (1,
 5).
 58 876 t, 2017 .
 -
 100 304 t.
 (14 721 t) (10 710 t).
 -
 (448 002 t),
 (236 621
 t) (160 246 t).
 (54 535 ha) (37 555 ha).
 (1 021 kg/da), (716 kg/da)
 (394 kg/da).

- production and occupied area were
 - observed in 2017, meaning they are
 - extremely similar to those in 2013 – 169
 - 369 tonnes and 29 436 ha. Leading
 - producers of gooseberry are Germany (86
 - 480 tonnes, 2017) and the Russian
 - federation (58 551 tonnes); they also
 - occupy the largest areas – 12 295 ha and
 - 12 089 ha respectfully. Smaller quantities
 - of gooseberry is grown by Poland (9 457
 - tonnes), Ukraine (7 820 tonnes), Great
 - Britain (2 538 tonnes), Check Republic (2
 - 231 tonnes). High mean yields are
 - received in Switzerland (1 728 kg/da),
 - Ukraine (1 318 kg/da) and Great Britain
 - (825 kg/da).

Production of blueberries. In
 2013 in the world 434 520 tonnes of
 blueberries were produced, which in 2017
 increased to 596 813 tonnes (Table 1,
 Figure 5). During the first year of the trial
 in Europe the production is 58 876
 tonnes, in 2017 the increase is almost
 double – 100 304 tonnes. Main producers
 are Poland (14 721 tonnes) and Germany
 (10 710 tonnes). The production of North
 America, which is concentrated in the
 USA (448 002 tonnes) and Canada (160
 246 tonnes) is almost eight times larger.
 At larger areas, this crop is cultivated in
 Canada (54 535 ha) and the USA (37 555
 ha). Distinguished with high average yield
 are the Netherlands (1 021 kg/da), the
 USA (716 kg/da) and Germany (394
 kg/da).



5.
Fig. 5. Production of blueberries and cranberries

FAO 2017 .
 99 t
 ha e , 13
 " " 763 kg/da,
 .
 2013 . 628 184
 t 40 260 ha
 (Faostat). 2017 .
 -
 (625 181 t),
 41 085 ha.
 (379 745 t), (125 568 t)
 (103 169 t).
 -
 1521-1772 kg/da.
 -
 2 600 kg/da, 2016 .
 2014 . 2 543 kg/da.
 Faostat
 2017 . 85 t
 68 ha
 125 kg/da.

Based on FAO data, In 2017 in Bulgaria are produced 99 tonnes of blueberry fruit, cultivated on 13 ha with an average yield of 763 kg/da, however in Agrostatistics by the ministry of agriculture and food no available information exists.

In 2013, 628 184 t of cranberries were produced on 40 260 ha (Faostat). In 2017 there is an insignificant decrease in production (625 181 tonnes), and the occupied area is 41 085 ha. They are mainly produced in the USA (379 745 tonnes), Canada (125 568 tonnes) and Chile (103 169 tonnes). The average yields in the last five years fall within 1521-1772 kg/da. Highest yields come from the USA in 2016 – 2 600 kg/da, and Canada in 2014 with 2 543 kg/da.

According to Faostat in 2017 in Bulgaria are produced 85 tonnes of cranberries on areas of 68 ha with an average yield of 125 kg/da.

CONCLUSIONS

The production of strawberry cultivars continues to grow. On a global scale, the strawberry has the fastest development rates. A continuous increase in production within the period of 2013-2017 is observed only with the strawberry.

The raspberry cultivar is gaining

2013-2017 .

- , (,)

bigger distribution and economic significance all over the world and in Bulgaria.

- A slight decline in the production of currants and gooseberries is observed.

. From the strawberry varieties, in Bulgaria raspberries are mostly grown. In the last few years, a steady trend in strawberry production is observed.

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7. <http://fao.org/faostat>
8. <https://stollereurope.com>

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" 281,
5600

Impact of the Soil Maintenance Systems on the Nutrient Content in the Leaves of 'Katinka' Plum Cultivar

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SUMMARY

- 2014-2017
(N, P, Ca),

The study was conducted in RIMSA-Troyan during the period 2014-2017. The plum tree plantation with 'Katinka' cultivar is grown under non-irrigated conditions on typical for that region pseudopodzolic light-gray forest soils, characterized by acid reaction, low humus content and substances that are poorly stocked with nutrients.

The impact of different soil surface maintenance variants was studied (fallow, natural grassland, artificial grassland) on nutrient content (N, P, Ca) in the leaves of plum trees.

The nitrogen content in the leaves during the survey period in all the three variants of soil maintenance was lower than the established average levels.

It was found that phosphorus and calcium content in leaves of grass covered variants was higher than the

2016
0.46%; CaO – 4.33%.

P2O5 –

fallow variant. High levels of these elements were reported in the grass covered variants during the survey period. Extremely high values of P2O5 (0.46%) and CaO (4.33%) were recorded in the variant with natural grassland in 2016.

Key words: nutrient content in the leaves, soil maintenance, plum

INTRODUCTION

Plum crops in mountain areas are grown mainly on poorly productive, nutrient-poor soils, maintained on fallow terrains or areas thoroughly covered by grass. Scientific studies show that after a long-term maintenance of soil in fallow, its agro-physical properties deteriorate sharply (Merwin, 2004).

The leaf diagnostics method, used along with soil analysis data, gives a fair idea of the patterns of plant nutrition and provides an opportunity for its regulation (Krishkov et al., 2005).

The chemical composition of leaves of fruit trees changes under the impact of seasonal variations in climate, the applied agro-technology, cultivar, rootstock, location, age of the trees and other factors (Martin-Prevel et al., 1987; Pacholak, 1990; Failla et al., 1990).

Leaf analysis, 120 days after full flowering stage, can be a very accurate method of nutritional diagnostics for plums (Singh-Sidhuand Kaundal, 2005).

Most of the authors suggest that the leaf samples should be taken after the growth rate is slows down, a phenophase that occurs under different climatic conditions in July-August (Vitanova, 1979).

The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of different systems of soil maintenance in the plum plantation

(Krishkov et al., 2005).

(Krishkov et al.,

(Martin-Prevel et al., 1987; Pacholak, 1990; Failla et al., 1990).

, 120

(Singh-Sidhuand Kaundal, 2005).

(Vitanova, 1979).

on the content of nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium in the leaves of 'Katinka' trees.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out in 2014-2017 at RIMSA-Troyan in a plum plantation of 'Katinka' cultivar, established in 2010 in an area of 8 da, on a pseudo-podzolic soil, poorly stocked with nutrients (Table 1). The exposure is northwestern exposure with a slope of 4-5°. The trees were planted in planting pits stocked with 30 kg of manure and 400 g of superphosphate in 5x3 m scheme.

2017 . -
2010 ., 8 da,
(1).
4-5°.
30 kg
400 g
5 3 m.

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

Soil depth cm	—		N	P2O5	K2O	Ca	
	H2O	KCl	NH4+NO3 mg/kg	mg/100g	mg/100g	Cmol/kg	%
0-20	5.1	4.7	15.0	5.2	25.3	10.6	2.32
0-40	5.1	4.1	8.6	1.1	14.9	17.0	1.17

The nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium content of the leaves was determined in the following variants:

1. Fallow - the interrows are maintained as a fallow by disking;
2. Natural grassland - the interrows are covered by turfgrass of natural perennial grasses;
3. Artificial grassland - interrows are covered by turfgrass of grass mixture from legume and grasses in ratio (1:1) with bird's-foot-trefoil and red fescue at a seeding rate of 5 kg/da;

The leaf samples for analysis were taken annually in August and were processed in the chemical laboratory of RIMSA-Troyan according the methods as follows:

- nitrogen (%) - according to Kjeldahl
- phosphorus (%) - colorimetrically with hydrazine sulfate reducer
- calcium (%) - complexometric

griculture.vic.gov.au, (2017):

The results of the chemical analyzes were compared with standard values, so that the nutrition status of the orchard was obtained. Table 2 gives standard values for the content of chemical elements in the plum leaves Agriculture.vic.gov.au, (2017):

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+

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

2014 .
(1,46%)
o
3 –
1 –
(1,17%) 2-
()
2-
()
2016,
0,68%
(1).
()
0,3 %.

At the setting of the experiment in 2014, the foliar samples of the third variant had higher nitrogen concentration (1.46 %) in the artificial grassland, followed by variant 1 - fallow, whereas the lowest nitrogen concentration (1.17 %) was found in the 2nd variant (natural grassland). The tendency for the lowest nitrogen concentration in the leaves in the 2nd variant (natural grassland) remained for the other three years, especially in 2016, when the lowest value of 0.68% nitrogen, half less, compared to the other two variants (Figure 1).

Higher nitrogen concentration during the study period was observed in leaf samples from trees of the first variant (fallow). Compared to the natural grassland variant, the difference is about 0.3%.

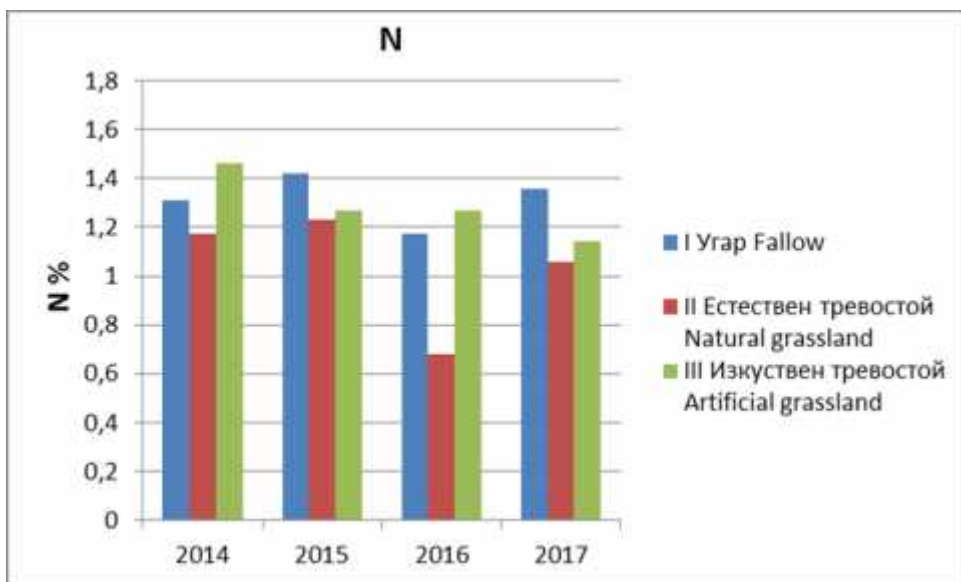


Fig. 1. Nitrogen content in leaves in different variants (2014-2017)

2)

2.4-3.0%,
1,7%

(1.7%).

The close values of the nitrogen concentration in the leaves, among the variants during the years studied, indicate that the soil maintenance system has no significant effect on nitrogen uptake.

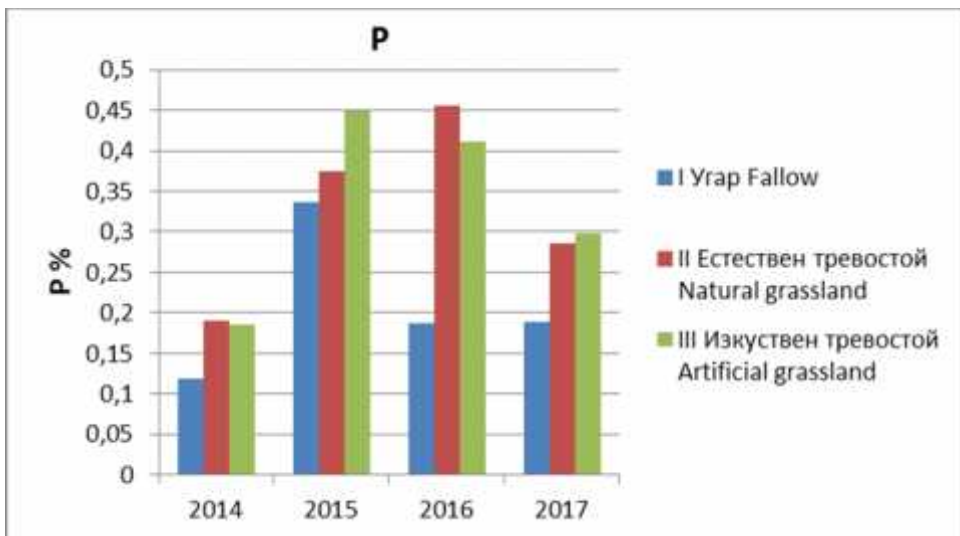
The analysis of nitrogen content in the leaves of the trees shows the need for introducing additional nitrogen.

The rate of nitrogen is 2.4-3.0% and the deficiency is considered to be less than 1.7% (Table 2). The nitrogen content in leaves of 'Katinka' cultivar during the years of the study, for the different variants of soil maintenance is half less than normal levels and below the critical threshold (1.7%). This, in turn, shows that pre-planting organic and mineral fertilization when establishing the plantation does not provide the necessary supplies, to provide the plants with the necessary amounts of nitrogen, for optimal development.

Regarding the phosphorus content, there is no significant difference between the different experimental variants in

2014 .. (0,19%).
 2.
 2016 . - 0,45% (2).
 2015, 2016 2017 ..

2014, as the phosphorus concentration had slightly higher values (0.19%) in grass covering (natural and artificial grassland). All variants are within the optimum limits of stockpile of nutrients in Table. 2. During the other years of the study period, the phosphorus content in leaves of grass covered variants was several times higher. The highest concentration (0.45%) was reported for the natural grassland variant in 2016 (Figure 2). In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the grass covered variants reported a high content and excess of phosphorus in the leaf samples, therefore the soil maintenance system had a significant impact on the absorption of phosphorus.



2. (2014-2017)
 Fig. 2. Phosphorus in leaves, in different variants (2014-2017)

An analysis of the phosphorus content in leaves in all three variants for the study period shows that they are sufficiently stockpiled, which does not require additional fertilizer application.

The calcium content in leaves was at the optimum rate in all three variants for the years studied.

2016 . - 4.33% (3).

The highest concentration (4.33%) was reported in 2016 (Figure 3).

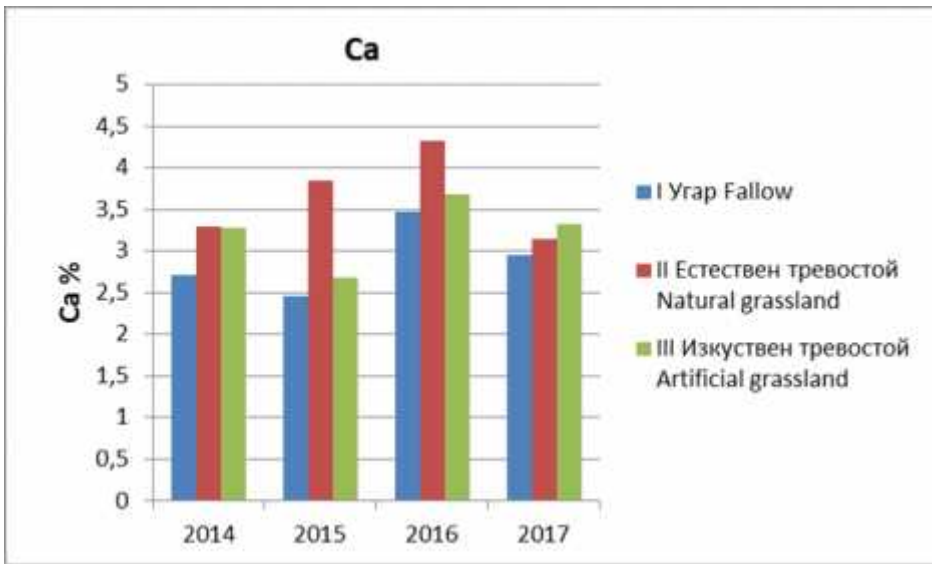


Fig. 3. Calcium in leaves in different variants (2014-2017)

There are differences in its content due to the soil maintenance system. The grass covered variants induce higher calcium content in leaves than the fallow variant, as the stockpile degree is because of excess storage.

CONCLUSIONS

During the study period, the soil maintenance system did not influence the nitrogen concentration in the leaves of 'Katinka' cultivar. In all three variants there is a nitrogen deficiency.

Maintaining the soil surface in natural and artificial grassland has a positive effect on the absorption of phosphorus and calcium, as the concentration levels in the leaves are high and above optimal values.

The foliar diagnostics of this study show that higher rates of nitrogen fertilization are required in all variants of soil maintenance, whereas when the soil is covered with turf (natural and artificial grassland), no additional application of phosphorous and calcium fertilizers is required.

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(*Plum pox virus*)

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*

19,

Sharka (*Plum pox virus*) in Serbia – Previous Research and Future Prospects for Its Control

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Review paper

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Plum pox virus (PPV, *Potyvirus*)
-
1932
-
PPV
-
1935
-
(PPV-M, -D -Rec).
-
-
-
Plum pox virus.
o
-

SUMMARY

Plum pox virus (PPV, genus *Potyvirus*) is the causal agent of Sharka disease that is considered the most detrimental viral disease of stone fruits. Since its discovery in 1932 in Bulgaria, the disease has spread progressively to entire Europe and other continents, except Australia. PPV causes significant yield losses and reduces fruit quality in sensitive plum, peach and apricot cultivars.

Sharka was reported in Serbia in 1935, and so far the presence of three major strains (PPV-M, -D and -Rec) was confirmed. Fifteen years ago, a large-scale study on the presence, distribution, genetic diversity and epidemiology of *Plum pox virus* strains has begun at the Fruit Research Institute, a ak.

In this review, we summarized the results of our field and laboratory research and presented the future prospects for

disease control in the country where Sharka is endemic to maintain feasible commercial fruit production.

Key words: *Plum pox virus*, strains, disease control

Plums are considered one of Serbia's most traditional fruits. According to FAO's Food and agriculture database (FAOSTAT), the average annual production of plum fruits in Serbia in the period 2012–2017 was 404.109 t (FAOSTAT, 2017). Favorable climate and soil conditions, economic interest, and tradition of growing and processing made plum a leading fruit species in Serbia. Production of other stone fruits is considerably modest. In the same period, the average annual production of apricots and peaches was 22.529 t and 84.694 t, respectively.

A common pathogen of stone fruits in Serbia is *Plum pox virus* (PPV). PPV is the causal agent of the Sharka disease – the most detrimental viral disease of plum, apricot, peach and nectarine. There are no official data on the number of PPV infected trees worldwide, but according to the estimation from the 1990s, more than 100 million of stone fruit trees were infected in Europe (Roy and Smith, 1994).

Sharka occurrence has serious agronomic, economic and political consequences. Reduction of fruit quality and yield, premature fruit drop are the common problems in the growing of sensitive plum, apricot and peach cultivars. According to estimations, global costs (direct and indirect) associated with PPV amounts more than 10 billion Euros in the period of three decades (Cambra et al., 2006).

PPV was first described on European plum (*Prunus domestica* L.) in Bulgaria in 1932, and three years later in Serbia (Atanasov, 1932; Josifovi , 1937).

disease control in the country where Sharka is endemic to maintain feasible commercial fruit production.

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Josifovi , 1937).

80

” “ ,

” “ ,
 (“ ” , ”
” ” “ ”
“).

10-

(Scholthof et al., 2011).

plum pox virus.
PPV

Potyviridae.

Potyvirus

Potyvirus

PPV

(ORF),

340-370 kDa,

10 : 1,
HC- Pro, P3, 6K1, CI, 6K2, NIa, VPg, NIb
CP (Salvador et al., 2006).

ORF - *Potyviridae*
ORF (PIPO)
Potyvirus (Chung et al., 2008).

PPV
: PPV-M, -D, -EA, -C, -Rec, -W, -T,
-CR, -An and -CV. PPV-M, -D
Rec

()

PPV

Since then, the disease has spread throughout Europe and many countries on other continents, except Australia.

Sharka is present in Serbia more than 80 years, and apart other factors, contributed to the significant changes in plum growing. 'Požega a', once dominant plum cultivar, is today only present in old and abandoned orchards. Major cultivars in the production are 'Stenley' and cultivars bred at the Fruit Research Institute in a ak (' a anaska Rodna', ' a anaska Lepotica', 'Valjevka', ' a anaska Najbolja' and others).

Based on the scientific/economic importance PPV is one of the 'top 10' plant viruses in the world (Scholthof et al., 2011). Great efforts were made in the past two decades to improve the control and management of the *Plum pox virus*.

PPV belongs to the genus *Potyvirus* in the *Potyviridae* family. *Potyvirus* are numerous and economically important genus of plant viruses. PPV genome is typical for *Potyvirus* and contains one large Open Reading Frame (ORF) expressed as a polyprotein precursor of 340-370 kDa that is co- and post-translationally cleaved by virus-encoded proteinases to produce 10 protein products: P1, HC-Pro, P3, 6K1, CI, 6K2, NIa, VPg, NIb and CP (Salvador et al., 2006). Another short ORF - Pretty Interesting *Potyviridae* ORF (PIPO) was also reported for *Potyvirus* (Chung et al., 2008).

Ten PPV strains have been recognized so far: PPV-M, -D, -EA, -C, -Rec, -W, -T, -CR, -An and -CV. PPV-M, -D and -Rec strains are considered as major strains that are present in many countries and they infect plum, apricot and peach. Other (minor) strains are geographically or host limited.

PPV induce symptoms on different plant organs: leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds

PPV

80-100%.

PPV

(*P. salicina* Lindl.), (*P. persica* (L.) Batsch), (*P. armeniaca* L.), (*P. avium* L.), (*P. cerasus* L.) (*P. amygdalus* L.).

PPV

20

PPV

Plum pox virus

30-50-

(Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014). (ELISA)

ELISA PPV *Prunus* (Rankovi and Vuksanovi , 1981).

and branches. In sensitive cultivars, symptoms on fruits are severe and PPV infection make them unusable and unmarketable. In severe infection of plum 'Požega a' yield loses can reach 80–100%.

PPV naturally infects many cultivated stone fruit species: European plum, Japanese plum (*P. salicina* Lindl.), peach (*P. persica* (L.) Batsch), apricot (*P. armeniaca* L.), sweet cherry (*P. avium* L.), sour cherry (*P. cerasus* L.) and almond (*P. amygdalus* L.).

PPV is aphid borne virus and more than 20 aphid species are reported as more or less efficient vectors. Infected planting and reproductive material is the main manner for long distance virus spread.

PPV research in Serbia

Because of its great economic importance, Sharka is the most studied plant viral disease in Serbia. The survey on *Plum pox virus* presence in Serbia started after its discovery in late 1930s, but intensive studies were initiated during 1950s at the Fruit Research Institute in a ak.

First studies were aimed to investigate the impact of the disease on different plum cultivars, particularly on the fruit quality and yield loses, but also the disease spread within the orchards.

Later research was focused on the investigation of the most appropriate herbaceous and woody indicator plants for biological tests (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014). The development of serological techniques (ELISA) improved and speeded up the detection of the virus in different plant samples. ELISA technique was widely used for PPV detection in samples of different *Prunus* species since the beginning of 1980s (Rankovi and Vuksanovi , 1981).

15

PPV

PPV

2005 2013
618
(Jevremovi , 2008, 2013;
Paunovi Jevremovi , 2009).
(150).
IC-RT-PCR

(-)
PPV 434 (70%).
PPV-Rec -
51.8%

PPV-M PPV-D
(
) ,
28.3% 30.4%.
PPV

PPV-M PPV-D.

PPV-Rec. PPV-Rec
2004 . Glasa et al. (2004),

PPV
, Glasa et al. (2005)

PPV-Rec.

- In the last 15 years, the research was focused on the application of newly developed protocols for molecular detection and characterization of PPV isolates. The main goals of this research were to access into the presence, distribution and epidemiology of PPV strains in Serbia.

Strain characterization

- During study performed from 2005 to 2013, a number of 618 samples of stone fruits were collected and analyzed (Jevremovi , 2008, 2013; Paunovi and Jevremovi , 2009). The great majority of samples were from plum (338), followed by peach (74), apricot (56), and cherries (150). Samples were tested by IC-RT-PCR test that allowed proper characterization of present strain(s) in each tested sample. PPV was detected in 434 samples (70%). PPV-Rec was the most prevalent strain detected in 51.8% of the samples in single and mixed infections. PPV-M and PPV-D were almost equally detected in analyzed samples (in single and mixed infections), 28.3% and 30.4%, respectively.

- All three major PPV strains were found in plum and apricot. In peach, only PPV-M and PPV-D strains were confirmed. Even in high inoculum pressure not a single peach or nectarine tree infected with PPV-Rec was found. PPV-Rec strain was characterized in 2004 by Glasa et al. (2004), and significant distribution of this strain in East and Middle European countries suggests its long-term presence in this area.

- Analyzing recombinant PPV isolates from Serbia Glasa et al. (2005) put a hypothesis that former Yugoslavia is a center of origin of PPV-Rec strain. Results of further sequence analysis of the large number of recombinant isolates from Serbia and other countries disagree with this statement (Jevremovi , 2013).

(Jevremovi , 2013)

PPV

(1).

1935 ., PPV

70%

PPV

PPV

PPV

Plum pox virus (Paunovi Jevremovi , 2009).

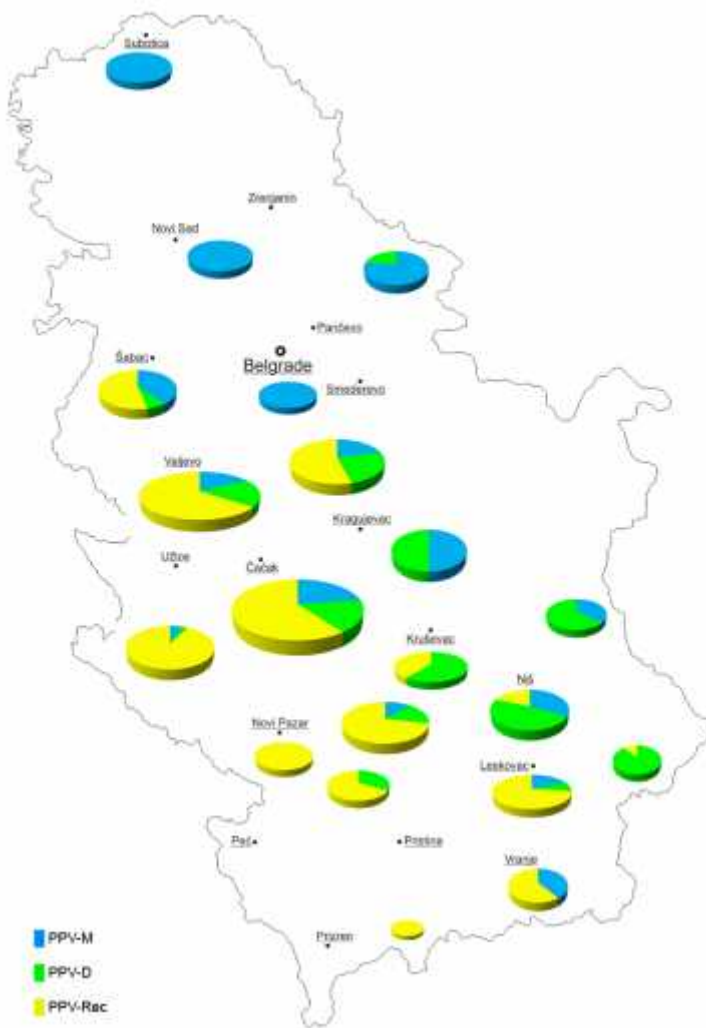
: PPV-C, PPV-CR PPV-CV (Chirkov et al., 2018).

PPV

All major PPV strains were confirmed in surveyed localities throughout Serbia (Figure 1). Geographical distribution of strains was directly dependent on the host species. Since discovery in 1935, PPV has spread to entire country infecting different species and cultivars. Today, according to our estimation, about 70% of plum trees are infected.

All plum cultivars that are grown in commercial plum orchards express clear foliar symptoms of PPV infection. Sharka symptoms on apricot and peach leaves are not easily noticeable as in plum, or disappear during high summer temperatures making visual surveys complicated. There are no estimation for the percentage of infected apricot and peach trees. During our studies we have not found association of the PPV strain and the type and intensity of the expressed foliar symptoms.

Investigating the PPV presence in cherries not a single sweet and sour cherry tree infected with *Plum pox virus* was found (Paunovi and Jevremovi , 2009). Cherry-adapted strains and isolates naturally infect only sweet and sour cherries. To date, three strains infecting cherries were described: PPV-C, PPV-CR and PPV-CV (Chirkov et al., 2018). These isolates were detected in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Hungary, Italy and Croatia. The PPV effect of on cherry industry is still unknown.



1. PPV (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014)
 Fig. 1. Distribution of PPV strains in Serbia (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2014)

PPV-Rec PPV-D
 2008 . (Jevremovi , 2013).

Competitiveness of strains

The ongoing research on the competitiveness and dynamics of spreading of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains has started in 2008 (Jevremovi , 2013). The focus of the research was to evaluate the disease spread in plum and apricot experimental orchards using up-to-date molecular techniques.

The experiment was set up in plum and apricot orchards planted in 2008 in locality

2008				Ostra, Western Serbia. PPV strain spread was followed-up in plum orchard of 400 ' a anska Lepotica' trees and apricot orchard of 400 'Roxana' trees.
PPV				
400				
"	400	"	"	Since the beginning of the experiment, all trees were annually visually inspected and tested by ELISA and IC-RT-PCR. All detected isolates were partially sequenced (n-ter CP region) and analyzed.
RT-PCR.		ELISA	IC-	
		(n-ter CP)	
PPV-Rec			PPV-D	Obtained results showed that PPV-Rec isolates are competitive and potentially more epidemic than PPV-D isolates within the plum orchard in Serbian agro-ecological conditions (Jevremovi et al., 2017). Similar research in plum orchard was also performed in Bulgaria (Kamenova et al., 2017), confirming the dominance of PPV-Rec spread within the orchard. In apricot, there was no disease spread within the orchard several years after planting (Jevremovi , unpublished results).
(Jevremovi et al., 2017).				
al, 2017),		(Kamenova et	-	
		PPV-Rec.		
		(Jevremovi ,		
).		
				Epidemiology
				A three-year study was conducted to evaluate flight activity and species composition of the aphids landing on plum and apricot trees in Western Serbia (Jevremovi et al., 2016). Aphid populations were monitored using sticky shoot method from late April to late September. More than 40 different species were detected and identified that visit plum and apricot orchards. The most abundant species identified during two years of the study belonged to the genus <i>Aphis</i> , and <i>Myzocallis</i> in one year of the study.
(Jevremovi et al., 2016).				
40				
-				
<i>Aphis</i> ,				
<i>Myzocallis</i> .				
		PPV		Twelve captured species were previously reported as PPV vectors: <i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> (Linnaeus), <i>Aphis fabae</i> Scopoli, <i>Aphis craccivora</i> Koch, <i>Aphis spiraecola</i> Patch, <i>Hyalopterus pruni</i> (Geoffroy), <i>Phorodon humuli</i> (Schrank), <i>Brachycaudus helichrysi</i>
: <i>Rhopalosiphum padi</i> (Linnaeus),				
<i>Aphis fabae</i> Scopoli, <i>Aphis craccivora</i>				
Koch, <i>Aphis spiraecola</i> Patch, <i>Hyalopterus</i>				
<i>pruni</i> (Geoffroy), <i>Phorodon humuli</i>				
(Schrank), <i>Brachycaudus helichrysi</i>				

(Kaltenbach), *Myzus persicae* (Sulzer) *Brachycaudus cardui* (Linnaeus), *Aphis gossypii* Glover, *Macrosiphum rosae* (Linnaeus) *Metopolophium dirhodum* (Walker).

Myzus persicae (Sulzer), *Brachycaudus cardui* (Linnaeus), *Aphis gossypii* Glover, *Macrosiphum rosae* (Linnaeus) and *Metopolophium dirhodum* (Walker). The maximum peaks of aphid populations in the plum and apricot orchards in Serbia were recorded during spring.

Plum breeding

The spread of PPV is not under control in most of Europe. Cultivation of less susceptible and/or tolerant cultivars is one of the most important measures for PPV control in countries with endemic PPV presence.

Plum breeding program for developing PPV tolerant/resistant cultivars in Serbia has started in 1980s at the Fruit Research Institute. Teams of breeders and virologists have been realizing this long-lasting program with the goal to create new cultivars of better fruit quality, but tolerant or resistant to PPV. New hybrids have been tested on the PPV susceptibility by artificial inoculation with different PPV strains. A part of the program includes hybrid evaluation in open field conditions to PPV infection by aphids.

In the past 15 years, nine new plum cultivars tolerant to PPV were released from the Fruit Research Institute: 'Mildora', 'Timo anka', 'Boranka', 'Krina', 'Pozna Plava', 'Zlatka', 'Nada', 'Divna' and 'Petra' (Luki et al., 2016; Gliši et al., 2018). All stated cultivars are considered as tolerant as they express only foliar symptoms of PPV infection, but the fruits are without any visible damage.

Two plum cultivars 'Mildora' and 'Zlatka' showed high field resistance to PPV infection by aphids and may represent a significant source in plum breeding in the following period.

PPV
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PPV.
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PPV
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PPV.
PPV,
PPV
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PPV: "
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(Luki et al., 2016; Gliši et al., 2018).
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PPV
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PPV

<p>PPV.</p> <p><i>Prunus</i></p>	<p>Control</p> <p>There are no ongoing programs for PPV eradication in Serbia. To conduct eradication successfully all <i>Prunus</i> trees from the stated area must be removed.</p>
<p>(</p> <p>)</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>2008–2009</p> <p>(</p>	<p>Because of the latency period, partial eradication (removal of only trees with Sharka symptoms) is not sufficient. PPV is widely dispersed in Serbia and eradication is not an option for the control. Useful and required measure is eradication of the small-scale areas intended for the production of planting material in an open field satisfying all law regulations. Such measure was conducted during 2008–2009 in a location in central Serbia (Lazarevac, Kruševac) with significant number of nurseries.</p>
<p><i>Prunus</i></p> <p>PPV</p>	<p>The aim of the program was to eradicate all <i>Prunus</i> trees from the cadastral municipality of Lazarevac and to create PPV-free area and wider buffer zone for nurseries. All producers were compensated for the costs of removing the trees. The measure gave positive results, but program was not expanded to wider area.</p>
<p><i>Plum pox virus</i>-PPV (Paunovi Jevremovi , 2008).</p>	<p>The control of Sharka virus in Serbia is important part of the phytosanitary control in the country. PPV is regulated plant pathogen and survey and detection methods have been described in the Standard Operating Procedure for plant diagnostic laboratories <i>Plum pox virus</i>-PPV (Paunovi and Jevremovi , 2008). Mother blocks of stone fruits are annually visually inspected and all trees are laboratory tested on PPV presence using serological and molecular methods.</p>
<p>PPV,</p>	<p>This measure is obligatory for plum, apricot, peach and nectarine mother blocks. Cherries are not under this control because cherry-adapted strains are not present in Serbia. Visually inspections are also regular procedure for nurseries.</p>

PPV

PPV

PPV.

2002

(Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2010).

14
PPV

PPV.

PPV

All trees must be free from Sharka-like symptoms, and if any of these symptoms are noticed plants are subjected to the laboratory analysis. If PPV-infected trees are found in the mother block, they must be eradicated and the block is suspended for one year. For nurseries, if there is a laboratory confirmation of PPV presence the entire nursery is suspended and not a single planting material from the nursery block can enter onto the market. Commercial plantations are not a subject of any official control on the PPV presence.

Specialized institutions for certification of fruit planting material do not exist in Serbia. In order to implement the certification program in the production of plum planting material Fruit Research Institute has started this activity in 2002 (Jevremovi and Paunovi , 2010).

As a result, pre-basic material of 14 plum cultivars have been produced and verified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

PPV control is a complex task within the phytosanitary system and all participants in the stone fruit production, from the government and scientific institutions, phytosanitary service, producers of the planting material to the growers should be included in its control.

Future prospects

Plum breeding program is one of the key topics of the Fruit Research Institute activity. Breeders and virologists are continuously working to create new plum cultivars with large and high quality fruits, high and regular fertility, early or late maturation time and tolerance to the significant diseases and pests, particularly to PPV.

Tolerance or resistance to PPV is one of the main prerequisite for successful

	growing of stone fruits in endemic PPV presence.
<p>PPV.</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>" " " "</p> <p>PPV.</p> <p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New cultivars and hybrids will be evaluated under controlled conditions after artificial inoculation with different local PPV isolates of major strains. Lately recognized plum cultivars 'Divna' and 'Petra' will be also evaluated in the field in several locations with different PPV inoculum pressure.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further research on PPV strains will be focused on the investigation of the possible presence of other PPV strains in Serbia. Serbia is a big exporter, but also importer of fruit planting material.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The import of stone fruits planting material from countries with confirmed presence of other PPV strains poses a risk of their introduction. During each import event, official laboratory performs laboratory test on the PPV presence in the material. - Visual surveys and laboratory analysis of the symptomatic samples from newly planted orchards should be performed in the first years after planting.
<p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p> <p>PPV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide PPV distribution, presence of all three major strains, significant percentage of mixed infections detected in single trees represent a prerequisite for possible occurrence of new recombinants, as reported earlier. The research of PPV diversity in plum should continue because plum represents the "ideal" host for emerging new recombinants.
<p>PPV-D</p> <p>PPV-Rec</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Epidemiological study on the competitiveness of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains in plum orchard will be continued in the following years. The plan is to follow the spread of these strains until the infection of all trees from the orchard.

CONCLUSIONS

Plum pox virus
15
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PPV
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PPV-Rec PPV-D
;
PPV
;
Plum pox.

In this review, we summarize our results of the research on *Plum pox virus* in Serbia in the last 15 years.

- Long-term studies were aimed to:
- access into the prevalence and genetic diversity of PPV isolates using the most accurate molecular methods for detection and characterization; investigate the intensity of spreading and competitiveness of PPV-Rec and PPV-D strains in experimental plum and apricot orchards; evaluate flight activity and species composition of the aphids landing in stated orchards; test newly recognized plum cultivars and hybrids on PPV susceptibility; and implement the certification program in the production of plum planting material.

These studies have brought new and improved existing knowledge on *Plum pox virus*. Breeding and cultivating tolerant and resistant stone fruit cultivars and the production and use of virus-free planting material are the most important measures to ensure feasible commercial stone fruit production.

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Susceptibility of Plum Cultivars to Fungi Diseases: Red Leaf Spots, Rust and Shot Hole Disease

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SUMMARY

2017-2018 .
:
(*Polystigma rubrum*),
(*Tranzschelia pruni-spinosae f. typical*)
a (*Stignima carpophila*)
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2017 .
(5%)
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-
15%, . 2018 .
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In the period of 2017-2018, a study was carried out on the causes of fungal diseases: red leaf spot (*Polystigma rubrum*), rust (*Tranzschelia pruni-spinosae f. typical*) and shot hole disease (*Stignima carpophila*) and responses of plum cultivars: 'Malvazinka', 'Tuleu Timpuriu', 'Opal', 'Nevena', 'Anna Spaeth' and 'Stanley'. The study was conducted in an eleven-year plum plantation at the Plum Experimental Station in Dryanovo, a branch of RIMSA-Troyan. The commonly used methodology for the study of plant resources was used in the studies. During the study period, a high sensitivity to red leaves was observed in 'Opal' and 'Anna Spaeth'. In 2017 the damages to rust were in very low percentage (less than 5%) for all cultivars observed. Compared to the Malvinkinka and Anna Schweit variety, the sensitivity of more than 15% was recorded for the same period. Compared to 'Malvazinka' and 'Anna Spaeth', higher susceptibility was reported for the same period. In 2018 rust damages were greater, as for the

15%. 2018 .

(18,8%)

10%.

(Vitanova et al., 2006).

(*Polystigma rubrum Pers.D.S.*)

(Balevski et al., 1971).

(2006)

Iliev Stoev (2011)

25

);

);

(2012)

Tsonkovski (1970)

susceptible cultivars 'Stanley' and 'Opal' they were over 15%. The attacks of shot hole disease in 2018 were larger for 'Anna Spaeth' (18.8%) and 'Malvazinka', and for other cultivars they were below 10%.

Key words: disease, susceptibility, cultivar, rust, red leaf spots, shot hole disease

INTRODUCTION

Plum is a fruit species that is attacked by many diseases caused by viruses, fungi and bacteria. Fungal diseases cause serious damage to plum crops. They are influenced by the climatic factors of the regions, but most strongly by the cultivar characteristics (Vitanova et al., 2006). Economically significant fungal diseases are red leaf spots, rust and shot hole disease.

Red leaf spots (*Polystigma rubrum Pers.D.S.*) occurs almost annually in the typical plum-growing regions of Bulgaria.

The disease manifests only on the leaves in the form of relatively large rounded spots, whose colour changes during vegetation from pale green to red. In severe attack, it causes premature leaf fall as early as mid-summer, leaving the fruits unripe (Balevski et al., 1971).

According to observations by Borovinova (2006), early leaf fall leads to fewer fruit buds set for next year. Iliev and Stoev (2011) examined the susceptibility of 25 plum cultivars, grouping them into four categories according to their response: practically resistant ('Octomvriiska', 'Kishinevska ranna', 'Vizian' and 'Ruth Gerstetter'); slightly susceptible ('California blue', 'Jalta butilkovidna', 'Stanley'); moderately susceptible (' a anaska najbolja', 'Centenar', 'Valor'); highly susceptible (' a anaska leptica' and 'Kystendilska plum'). Todorova (2012) found that the 'Gulyaeva' is tolerant to red leaf spots.

According to Tsonkovski (1970),

Tranzchelia pruni-spinosae Pers. D. f. *typical* (Tranzchelia pruni-spinosae Pers. D. f. *discolor*)

rust causes the greatest damage to the plum plantations in closed and airless hollows of Bulgaria. The causative agent (*Tranzchelia pruni-spinosae* Pers. D. with two forms *f. typical* and *f. discolor*) attacks the leaves and less often the shoots. There are small, angular, yellowish or violet reddish spots on the upper side of the leaves. On the underside of them, in the summer, piles of sori are formed, with a light brown colour – a fructification for mass contamination, and in the autumn – sori with a black colour, a fructification for wintering.

(20-23⁰) and Andreev, 2000). (Karov and Minev, 2005). (Stoyanova and Minev, 2005).

The disease erupts massively when large masses of uredospores are transported to the device in moderate warm (20-230C) and wet weather (Karov and Andreev, 2000). Although rust occurs relatively late in mid-summer, it can cause significant damage due to premature leaf falling (Stoyanova and Minev, 2005).

Stigmina carpophila. (Stancheva, 2001).

The fungal shot hole disease on the plum leaves is caused by *Stigmina carpophila*. The causative agent is characterized by relatively small, necrotic spots with a clearly marked reddish border of the affected tissue and separating it from the healthy part. The results are pierced spots. Severely damaged leaves turn yellow and fall prematurely (Stancheva, 2001).

The aim of the present study is to determine the susceptibility of the tested plum cultivars to the economically important fungal diseases in the region of Dryanovo.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

e 2017-2018 . : , : (Polystigma

The survey was conducted during the period 2017-2018 in plum plantations in the region of Dryanovo. The response of six plum varieties was studied: 'Malvazinka', 'Tuleu Timpuriu', 'Opal', 'Nevena', 'Anna Spaeth' and 'Stanley', to the cause of fungal diseases: red leaf spots (*Polystigma rubrum*), rust

rubrum), (*Tranzschelia pruni-spinosae* f. *typical*)
spinosa f. *typical*) (*Stignima carpophila*).

1979).

5 , 200
 %)
 McKinney:

$$I = \sum \frac{(n.k)}{N.K} \cdot 100 ,$$

I – %;
 n – ;
 k – ();
 N – ;
 K – - ().

(Nedev et al., 1979),
 : 0 –
 ; 1 –
 – ; 2 – 5%
 ; 3 – 10%
 – ; 4 – 25%
 ; 5 – 50%

(*Tranzschelia pruni-spinosae* f. *typical*) and shot hole disease (*Stignima carpophila*) The trees are eleven years old and no fungicides have been sprayed. They are grown according to accepted methodology under non-irrigation conditions (Nedev et al., 1979). Disease development was monitored against a natural background. Samples are recorded during the mass development of the disease, taking 200 leaves from 5 trees of each cultivar. Disease development (expressed as % of affected area) is calculated using the McKinney formula:

where I is the disease development index in %;
 n – number of plants reported in a given category;
 k – degree of damage according to the corresponding score (scale);
 N – total number of recorded plants;
 K – highest damage rate on the received score (scale).

To determine the resistance of cultivar to fungal diseases, the methodology for the study of plant resources in fruit plants is used (Nedev et al., 1979), using the following scale: 0 – immune – no spots on the leaves; 1 – practically resistant – small single spots; 2 – slightly susceptible – up to 5% leaf damage; 3 – medium susceptible – up to 10% damaged surface; 4 – susceptible – up to 25% damage on leaves; 5 – highly susceptible – 50% or more damage on leaves.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are favourable conditions in
 - the region of the Central Balkan Mountain
 - (frequent rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the vegetation season) for the development of fungal diseases.

1.

2017-2018 .

Table 1. Total precipitation amount and average monthly temperatures for 2017-2018

Month	Precipitation amount – l/m ²		Average monthly temperatures -	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
/ January	71.7	33.2	-5.6	1.4
/ February	14.0	96.1	1.2	2.3
/ March	55.2	80.5	8.9	5.4
/ April	57.7	10.6	9.9	16.7
/ May	127.8	65.3	15.2	19.5
/ June	57.4	114.5	20.7	21.1
/ July	122.5	147.0	23.5	21.8
/ August	3.0	19.5	22.2	22.6
/ September	29.9	39.5	18.8	17.9
/ October	134.5	28.5	14.0	12.7
Total precipitation amount	673.7	628.4		

(1).

2018

628
100 l/m².
2017

l/m²,

(1).

2.

At the beginning of the vegetation season, temperature differences were observed during the two years, which had an impact on the epidemiology of the pathogens (Table 1). Precipitation amount during the vegetation season is almost similar for both years. In 2018, the total precipitation amount for the period January-October is 628 liters with quantities exceeding 100 l/m² fell in June and July. For 2017, the amount of precipitation for the same period is 673.7 l/m², with a higher amount reported in May, July and October, and for August it is only 3.0 l/m² (Table 1).

2017-2018 .

Table 2. Susceptibility of plum cultivars to fungal diseases – Red leaf spots, rust and shot hole disease for the period 2017-2018

Cultivar	Red leaf spot		Rust		Shot hole disease	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
/ Opal	19.2%	18.0%	2.0%	15.6%	8.8%	9.0%
/ Stanley	2.2%	2.2%	2.8%	15%	8.0%	9.2%
/ Nevena	4.6%	5.0%	4.0%	9.8%	2.4%	9.8%
Malvazinka	4.0%	1.6%	1.8%	3.0%	9.8%	15.2%
Anna Spaeth	12.8%	11.8%	3.2%	5.0%	9.2%	18.8%
'Tuleu Timpuriu'	2.6%	3.8%	2.2%	2.8%	8.0%	11.4%

2017 .
 31.03 - 17.04;
 2018 .
 07.04 - 21.04.

1- 43-

6 - 2018 .

2017 ., 2018 .
 (1).
 57,7 l/m²
 10,6 l/m²

19,2% – 2017 . 18% 2018 .
 – 12,8% 2017 . 11,8%
 2018 . (2).

5%,
 Nedev et al. (1979)

(2).

2017 .
 – 5%

2018 .
 : 114,5

According to the literature, infestation with red leaf spots occurs in spring and during blossoming in frequent and prolonged rainfall. Phenological observations of plum cultivars were made during the study period, taking into account the phases – beginning of blossoming and end of blossoming. In 2017 blossoming took place in the period 31.03 - 17.04; and in 2018 in the interval 07.04 - 21.04. The young leaves from day 1 to day 43 are susceptible to the disease, after which they become immune. The appearance of the leaf begins two to three days after blossoming begins. Meteorological conditions during the two years, during blossoming, differ in both precipitation and monthly temperatures.

In April, the average monthly temperature in 2018 is 6°C higher than the previous one, and the precipitation for the same period is 57.7 l/m² for 2017, and in 2018 it is only 10.6 l/m² (Table 1).

'Opal' cultivar has a high degree of red leaf spots during both years of observation, with 19.2% – 2017 and 18% for 2018. 'Anna Spaeth' is also susceptible – 12.8% for 2017 and 11.8% for 2018 respectively (Table 2). In the other plum cultivars observed, the rate of attack is below 5% for two-year observations. According to the scale of Nedev et al. (1979), we define them as slightly susceptible to red leaf spots (Table 2).

There is a different degree of attack of rust for two year observations. In 2017, the plum cultivars tested showed a weak reaction - below 5% attack rate. This is due to the low activity of the pathogen.

In June and July 2018, the monthly rainfall is above normal, respectively: 114.5 l/m² and 147.0 l/m² (Table 1) at the

l/m² 147,0 l/m² (1)

– 15,8 15,0%.

– 9,8% (2).

2018 .

– 15,2%

11,4%.

(2). 2017 .

optimum average monthly temperature, which favors the development of the uredospores. Under these conditions, a very high degree of attack was observed in all the cultivars tested compared to the previous year. From the surveys, for the same period, a low susceptibility is observed in the following cultivars: 'Malvazinka', 'Anna Spaeth' and 'Tuleu Timpuriu'. 'Opal' and 'Stanley' cultivars are susceptible, with an attack rate of 15.8% and 15.0%, respectively. 'Nevena' cultivar has medium susceptibility of 9.8% (Table 2).

Long rainy periods are favourable conditions for the development of shot hole disease. The disease is able to develop not only in spring and summer, but also in autumn, but in warm weather and in winter. Similar conditions have been observed for both years.

Compared to shot hole disease in 2018, a higher attack rate was observed for all cultivars observed. 'Anna Spaeth' – 18.8%, 'Malvazinka' – 15.2% and 'Tuleu Timpuriu' – 11.4% are susceptible.

In the other cultivars, the rate of attack is less than 10% and is considered to be slightly susceptible (Table 2). In 2017, a low response to shot hole disease was observed in all cultivars. This is probably due to a low infectious background.

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn from the conducted surveys during the period 2017 and 2018:

'Opal' and 'Anna Spaeth' are susceptible to red leaf spots (*Polystigma rubrum* Pers.D.S.) Slightly susceptible, with an attack rate of less than 5% are 'Stanley', 'Nevena', 'Malvazinka' and 'Tuleu Timpuriu'.

The plum varieties tested in 2017

2017 2018 o

:
Polystigma
rubrum Pers.D.S.)
 5%
Tranzchelia

<i>pruni-spinosae</i> Pers. D.	2017	5%	showed a weak reaction to rust (<i>Tranzchelia pruni-spinosae</i> Pers. D.) – below 5% attack rate. Under the optimum conditions for the development of the disease in 2018, 'Opal' and 'Stanley' cultivars are susceptible, while 'Malvazinka', 'Tuleu Timpuriu' and 'Anna Spaeth' are slightly susceptible.
	–		
	2018		
(<i>Stignima carpophila</i>),	2018		In 2018, a higher percantah of shot hole disease (<i>Stignima carpophila</i>) was reported for all cultivars observed. 'Anna Spaeth', 'Malvazinka' and 'Tuleu Timpuriu' are considered as susceptible, and 'Opal', 'Stanley' and 'Nevena' as slightly susceptible.

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Opportunities for Biological Control of Certain Fungal Diseases on Black Currant

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SUMMARY

The survey was conducted during the period 2017-2018 in a collection plantation with black currant in the region of the Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture in Troyan with 'Lissil' 'Titania' cultivar.

The following certified biological preparations were tested: Sectomyel, Grafox, Myelfos and Demolution MPT, Funguran for fight over the economically important diseases, such as anthracnose (*Gloeosporium ribis*) and powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*) on black currant.

During the study period, climatic conditions were favourable for the development of fungal diseases. There was a lesser attack on variants with biologically-certified preparations compared to controls in both years.

'Titania' was less susceptible to both diseases (7.29% attack index in 2017 of powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*) and 6.70% of anthracnose

2017-2018	-
Lissil Titania.	-
: Sectomyel, Grafox, Myelfos Demolution MPT, Funguran	-
(<i>Gloeosporium ribis</i>)	-
(<i>Sphaerotheca mors-uvae</i>)	-
Titania	-
(7,29% 2017	-

(*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*) 6,70%
(*Gloeosporium ribis*)

2018

(0,70%

Lissil 8,00%

Titania (*Gloeosporium ribis*)

11,30% Titania 12,0%

Lissil (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*).

(*Gloeosporium ribis*) in 2018.

In the variant of copper containing preparations, the attack index of both diseases was low (0.70% for 'Lissil' and 8.00% for 'Titania' by *Gloeosporium ribis*) and 11.30% for 'Titania' and 12.0% for 'Lissil' cultivar by *Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*).

The results of the study provide a basis for the development of plant protection technologies for the control over black currant diseases.

Key words: black currant, diseases, cultivars, biological preparations, fight

INTRODUCTION

Black currant (*Ribes nigrum*) is a berry crop that ranks second in the world after strawberries. In Bulgaria it was most widespread in the 1960s. Recently, that fruit crop has undergone a new development, which is determined by its valuable nutritional, dietary, therapeutic and economic qualities (Hristov, 1980).

Grown under inappropriate conditions – closed and nonventilated habitats, the blackcurrant is attacked by a variety of diseases, including anthracnose and powdery mildew, which cause major damage, resulting in significant yield reductions, with damages affecting the fruit in the following year (Tsonkovski and Krasteva, 1970).

The development and extent of disease onset depends on the weather conditions and the biological characteristics of the cultivars (Goryacheva, 1962; Natalina, 1963; Litvinova and Ravkin, 1972; Kuzmina, 1986).

The susceptibility of some newly introduced and promising cultivars to both economically important black currant diseases, such as powdery mildew and anthracnose in the natural background of

(*Ribes nigrum*)

60-

(Hristov, 1980).

(Tsonkovski and Krasteva, 1970).

(Goryacheva, 1962, Natalina, 1963; Litvinova and Ravkin, 1972; Kuzmina, 1986).

Ben Sarek, Titania, Ometa (Stoyanova et al., 2008).
 (Minkov, 2012).
 (*Gloeosporium ribis*)
 (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*).

the infection, has been studied in the Troyan region. 'Ben Srek', Neosypayuschiyasya, 'Bogatir', 'Titania', 'Ometa' cultivars show a complex slight and average susceptibility to the studied diseases (Stoyanova et al., 2008).

A new plant protection system has been developed to combat some blackcurrant pests using only biological agents (Minkov, 2012).

The purpose of the study is to develop alternative methods for the biological control of economically important diseases on black currant - anthracnose (*Gloeosporium ribis*) and powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*).

Titania Lissil, 2015
 : Sectomyel, Grafox, Myelfos, Demolition MPT Funguran 50
 4
 I - Sectomyel (500 ml/d) + Grafox (0,3 l/d) + Myelfos (200 ml/d) + Demolition MPT (400 ml/d)
 II - Funguran 50 0,15%
 III - -
 . 0,03% + - 0,07%
 IV - -
 7
 15 10-

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the area of the Institute on blackcurrant cultivars of 'Titania' and 'Lissil' grown in a collection fruit plantation, established in 2015. The following certified biological preparations were tested: Sectomyel, Grafox, Myelfos, Demolition MPT and Funguran OH 50 VP. There are 4 variants with the following combinations:

I variant - Sectomyel (500 ml/da) + Grafox (0.3 l/da) + Myelfos (200 ml/da) + Demolition MPT (400 ml/da)

II variant - Copper preparation Funguran OH 50 VP at a dose of 0.15% solution

III variant - Chemical Treatment - Sistan Super in concentration of 0.03% + Nurelle Dursban - 0.07%

IV variant - untreated control

Seven treatments were performed from the beginning of the growing season every 10-15 days. The results of the first and second variants were compared with the chemical variant and the control.

Disease attack reports and the effects of the preparations used were made according to the Methodology for Studying Plant Resources in Fruit Plants

et al., 1979).

(Nedev

(Nedev et al., 1979). The attack index of the diseases studied is calculated using the formula of Mc Kinney (1923).

Mc Kinney (1923).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The increased consumer demand
- for organic fruits and environmental requirements necessitate the development of alternative methods of disease control by limiting the use of chemicals.

The fight with economically important diseases on black currant is an important element for the cultivation and conservation of this fruit species. During the period 2017-2018, we conducted field experiments on black currant cultivars of 'Titania' and 'Lissil', using combinations of biological preparations for the protection of anthracnose (*Gloeosporium ribis*) and powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca mors-uvae*).

- The results of the biological efficiency of the studied biological preparations for the control of economically important diseases on black currant are presented in Table 1 and 2.

In 2017, there were favourable conditions for the development of the studied diseases during the period of infection. The amount of precipitation for May only was 133.1 l/m². Combined with the high air humidity and moderate temperatures, the anthracnose attack on 'Lissil' cultivar was 11.20% in the first variant and 12.00% in the second variant.

Similar values were reported for the third variant (using chemical agents with the control) - 11.20%. The highest attack index was reported in the untreated control variant (25.60%). The attack of powdery mildew on 'Lissil' cultivar is 25.60% for the first variant and 24.00% for the second one.

2017-2018

Titania Lissil,

(*Gloeosporium ribis*)

(*Sphaerotheca*

mors-uvae).

1 2.
2017

133,1 l/m².

Lissil

11,20%
12,00%

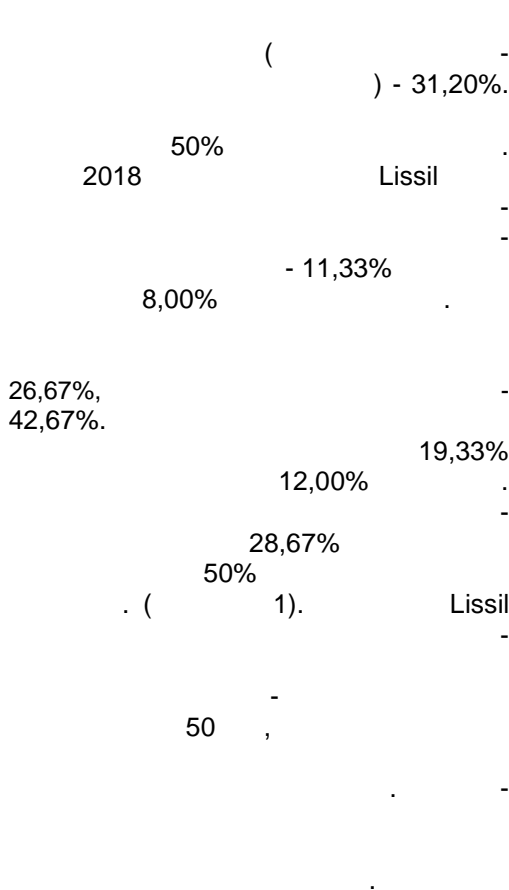
() - 11,20%.

(25,60%).

Lissil

25,60%

24,00%



There is a relatively similar value in the third variant (control using chemical preparations) - 31.20%. More than 50% attack index was reported in the untreated control variant. In 2018, similar attack values for 'Lissil' cultivar were reported to those in the previous year by anthracnose - 11.33% for the first variant and 8.00% for the second variant.

The attack index for the chemical control was 26.67% and in the untreated control was 42.67%. The attack index for powdery mildew was 19.33% in the first variant and 12.00% in the second one.

For comparison, controls accounted for 28.67% in the third variant and over 50% in the untreated control, respectively. (Table 1). For 'Lissil' cultivar during both years of study, the lowest attack index was reported in the second variant - using Funguran OH 50 VP, followed by the first variant with the use of biologically certified preparations.

The agents used in both biological variants show a very good effect on the diseases studied.

1. (%)
Lissil (2017-2018)

Table 1. Attack index (%) of powdery mildew and anthracnose for 'Lissil' black currant cultivar (2017-2018)

Variants	2017		2018	
	<i>Sphaerotheca mors-uvae</i>	<i>Gloeosporium ribes</i>	<i>Sphaerotheca mors-uvae</i>	<i>Gloeosporium ribes</i>
I- Green Smile products	25,60	11,20	19,33	11,33
II- Funguran OH 50 WP	24,00	12,00	12,00	8,00
III- chemicals	31,20	11,20	28,67	26,67
IV- untreated control	50%	25,60	50%	42,67

Titania	2017	-	-
	8,00%	-	-
	1,60%	-	-
	3,20%	-	-
50%		-	-
2017		-	-
		-	-
7,20%		-	-
3,20%.		-	-
(22,40%).	2018	-	-
Titania		-	-
		-	-
0,67%,		-	6,67%
(2).		
		28,67%	
	34,00%		
(
Titania			
		-	16,67%
	11,33%		
			50%.

The relatively low anthracnose and powdery mildew attack index was reported for 'Titania' cultivar in 2017 for both biological variants for anthracnose - the attack index for the first variant was 8.00% and 1.60% in the second variant. In the control variants, the attack index was 3.20% in the third variant and above 50% in the untreated control. In 2017, the attack index of powdery mildew in the first variant was 7.20% and it was 3.20% in the second one. In both control variants, the third and fourth one, the values were the same (22.40%).

In 2018, the anthracnose attack index for Titania cultivar was again the lowest for both biological variants - 0.67% in the second variant and 6.67% in the first variant (Table 2). Both control variants were respectively 28.67% for the third variant and 34.00% for the fourth variant (untreated control). The powdery mildew attack index for 'Titania' cultivar was higher than the previous year - 16.67% for the first variant and 11.33% for the second variant, compared to the untreated control which reported an attack of more than 50%.

2. (%)

Titania (2017-2018)

Table 2. Attack index (%) of powdery mildew and anthracnose for 'Titania' blackcurrant cultivar (2017-2018)

Variants	2017		2018	
	<i>Sphaerotheca mors-uvae</i>	<i>Gloeosporium ribes</i>	<i>Sphaerotheca mors-uvae</i>	<i>Gloeosporium ribes</i>
I- Green Smile I Green Smile products	7,20	8,00	16.67	6.67
II- 50 II Funguran OH 50 WP	3,20	1,60	11.33	0.67
III- III chemicals	22,40	3,20	40.67	28.67
IV- IV untreated control	22,40	50%	50%	34.00

		Titania	-
	50		,
Lissil		Titania	
		Lissil	Titania

For 'Titania' cultivar, the lowest anthracnose and powdery mildew attack index was reported in the second variant using Funguran OH 50 VP preparation, followed by the first variant. The test preparations in the first and second variants have a very good effect on the diseases studied.

CONCLUSIONS

- During the study period, the lowest anthracnose and powdery mildew attack index for 'Lissil' and 'Titania' cultivars was reported after using Funguran product.

The biologically certified preparations used in the first variant show a very good effect in the control of anthracnose and powdery mildew for 'Lissil' and 'Titania' cultivars compared to the untreated control variant.

The present studies and good results show that biological protection can be successfully applied for plant protection of black currant.

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The Importance of Phytocystatins for the Resistance of Crop Plants to Abiotic Stress Factors

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SUMMARY

Plant cystatins (phytocystatins) are object of intense investigations more than 30 years. They are cysteine protease inhibitors that have been isolated from various plant species. Phytocystatins are involved in many important functions in the life cycle of plants, starting from seeds germination, protection to biotic and abiotic stress factors, senescence and programmed cell death.

The on-going global climate changes over the last decades require better adaptation of plants to the suddenly altering environments. Therefore, the role of plant cystatins is significant for the activation of a cross tolerance mechanisms for plant protection and the improvement of agricultural crops sustainability.

Our 15-year studies in this topic proved the importance of a wheat cystatin in the plant response to abiotic and biotic stress.

Key words: phytocystatins, drought, cold temperatures, salinity, plant protection

INTRODUCTION

(Martinez et al., 2003; Alvarez-Alfageme et al. 2007; Goulet et al. 2008; Popovic et al., 2012)

(Gaddour et al., 2001; Massonneau et al., 2005; Chojnacka et al., 2015).

Arroyo et al., 2018b).

(Van der Vyver et al. 2003; Zhang et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2012; Quain *et al.* 2014; Tan et al., 2016).

(Porter et al., 2014).

Phytocystatins are well known protease inhibitors that are involved in protective mechanisms of plants to biotic (Martinez et al., 2003; Alvarez-Alfageme et al. 2007; Goulet et al. 2008; Popovic et al., 2012) and abiotic stress factors (Gaddour et al., 2001; Massonneau et al., 2005; Chojnacka et al., 2015). They take a part in the complex of regulatory events that leads to the response to a various unfavourable conditions of the environment (Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018b). Therefore, plant cystatins are important for plant survival, crop improvement and increase of yields in the agriculture.

Their modified expression has a key role in the adaptation of plants to climate changes that become much more extreme and frequently occurred.

Several examples presented elevated tolerance to abiotic stress of crops or model plants based on higher level of the expression of phytocystatins (Van der Vyver et al. 2003; Zhang et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2012; Quain et al. 2014; Tan et al., 2016).

Accumulating evidence for the significance of the cystatins for plant protection suggests their potential usage in strategies for the improvement of crops and sustainable agriculture.

The effect of abiotic stress conditions such as drought and flooding, cold and heat, salinity and other factors on the yield of a major crop species worldwide is thoroughly explored. A lot of investigations assessed their impact on agricultural production and global food security (Porter et al., 2014).

Moreover, a variety of modelling systems to predict the risk for yield losses of crop plants caused by abiotic stress have been developed (Zhao et al., 2017; Leng and

<p>(Zhao et al., 2017; Leng and Hall, 2019).</p>	<p>Hall, 2019).</p>
<p>,</p>	<p>Several analyses showed that annual increasing of temperature can lead to the reduction of crop yields across a wide area (Porter et al., 2014).</p>
<p>(Porter et al., 2014).</p>	<p>As the most important agricultural crop, cereals are strictly monitored and series of analyses have been published.</p>
<p>,</p>	<p>According to a new study that calculates the impact of each degree Celsius of rising global temperature, corn and wheat are at a major risk (Zhao et al., 2017). It was estimated that corn and wheat yields could fall average of 7.4% and 6% respectively, if the temperature rise up with 1°C. The yield of rice will decrease by 3.2% as a result of the same temperature changes.</p>
<p>1° ,</p>	<p>2017 .</p>
<p>(Zhao et al., 2017).</p>	<p>7.4%</p>
<p>6%,</p>	<p>3.2%.</p>
<p>3.2%.</p>	<p>Significant decrease of barley yields worldwide cause by extreme weather conditions was predicted by using Earth System Models (Xie et al., 2018).</p>
<p>Earth System Models (Xie et al., 2018).</p>	<p>Calculated losses started from 3% and can reach up to 17% depending on the severity of stress factors. More recently it was found that the yields of wheat could fall below the average at the result of exceptional drought conditions (Leng and Hall, 2019). Besides cereal plants, other agricultural crops also suffer by the extreme changes of environmental conditions.</p>
<p>3%</p>	<p>17%,</p>
<p>17%,</p>	<p>(Leng and Hall, 2019).</p>
<p>(Leng and Hall, 2019).</p>	<p>Quality and nutritional value of fruits and vegetables depend on water supply and temperature, and can be significantly affected by unfavourable factors during harvest, handling, storage and distribution (Toivonen and Hodges, 2011).</p>
<p>(Toivonen and Hodges, 2011).</p>	<p>A lot of investigations showed that drought stress for example implicates fruit quality and yield of orchards (Girona et al., 2010; Marsal et al., 2010; Lopez et al., 2013). Therefore, the stress tolerance is a one of the main targets for crop breeding and improvement programmes in</p>
<p>,</p>	<p></p>
<p>(Girona et al., 2010; Marsal et al., 2010; Lopez et al., 2013).</p>	<p></p>

(Araus et al., 2008; Parry et al., 2012).

sustainable agriculture (Araus et al., 2008; Parry et al., 2012).

This review presents a summarized data for phytocystatins that are involved in response of crops to abiotic stress factor, their diverse expression under different environmental conditions and the potential application in stress tolerance of plants.

Phytocystatins of crop plants involved in abiotic stress response

Involvement of phytocystatins in the response to different abiotic stress factors was reported for various crop plants. Some examples of cystatins from cereals, field and fruit crops are presented at Table 1.

1.

Table 1. Phytocystatins of crop plants involved in abiotic stress response

Cystatin;	Crop plant;	Abiotic stress;	Author;
HvCPI	barley; (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>)	cold shock, dark;	Gaddour et al., 2001
		drought;	Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018a
TaMDC1	wheat; (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	cold, drought, salinity, abscisic acid;	Christova et al., 2006
TrcC-8	triticale; (<i>Triticum monococcum</i>)	water-deficit;	Chojnacka et al., 2015
OsCYS	rice; (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	cold, drought, salt;	Wang et al., 2015
CC	maize; (<i>Zea mays</i>)	cold, drought;	Massonneau et al., 2005
BvM14	sugar beet; (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>)	salt;	Wang et al., 2012
VuC1	cowpea; (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>)	drought, abscisic acid;	Diop et al., 2004
AhCPI	amaranth; (<i>Amaranthus hypochondriacus</i>)	drought, salinity, cold, heat;	Valdés-Rodriguez et al., 2007
Cystatin	grape; (<i>Vitis vinifera</i>)	drought, salinity;	Cramer et al., 2007
MdCYS	apple; (<i>Malus sp.</i>)	drought, cold, heat;	Tan et al., 2014

Several cysteine protease inhibitors associated with response to cold, drought

13

(Gaddour et al., 2001),

(Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018a).
(*Zea mays*)

(Massonneau et al., 2005).
(*Oryza sativa*)

(Massonneau et al., 2005).
(*Oryza sativa*)

11

(Wang et al., 2015).

(*Triticum aestivum* cv. Chihoku)
TaMDC1,

(Christova et al., 2006).

ABA.
(*Triticum monococcum*),

TrcC-8
(Chojnacka et al., 2015).

(*Vigna unguiculata*)

(Diop et al., 2004).

AhCPI (*Amaranthus hypochondriacus*;
Valdes-Rodrigues et

and salinity of cereal crops have been identified. The cystatin family of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) is consisted of 13 members and some of them are induced by cold shock and dark (Gaddour et al., 2001), whereas others are involved in drought tolerance (Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018a). A number of cystatins with distinct functions that respond to cold and drought stress were also identified in maize, *Zea mays* (Massonneau et al., 2005). Wang et al. (2015) characterized 11 cystatin genes in rice (*Oryza sativa*) genome and showed that majority of them are responsive to various environmental stress factors as cold, drought and salt, as well as plant hormones (Wang et al., 2015).

A cold inducible multidomain cystatin TaMDC1 was isolated from cold acclimated winter wheat *Triticum aestivum* cv. Chohoku (Christova et al., 2006). In addition to cold, accumulation of the TaMDC1 was provoked by other stresses including drought, salt and ABA treatment. The elevated expression of the TrcC-8 cystatin in triticale (*Triticum monococcum*), a hybrid of wheat and rye, in a response to water-deficit was recently reported (Chojnacka et al., 2015).

In addition to cereals, phytocystatins from other crop plants that are involved in response to abiotic stress were also identified and characterized. A multicystatin VuC1 containing of two two cystatin-like domains was isolated from leaves of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) after induction by drought stress (Diop et al., 2004). Involvement of the VuC1 cDNA in the cellular response to progressive drought-stress, desiccation and application of exogenous abscissic acid was studied. A multiple abiotic stress factors, including water deficit, heat, cold and salinity, induced tissue-specific expression of the AhCPI cystatin in amaranth *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* (Valdés-Rodrigues et al., 2007). An

al., 2007).
 (Vitis vinifera cv. Cabernet Sauvignon;
 Cramer et al., 2007).

4-
 8-
 16-
 (Beta vulgaris)
 BvM14 (Wang et al., 2012).
 (Malus × domestica
 Borkh.)
 26 PhyCys
 8
 (Tan et al., 2014).

(Tan et al., 14).

AhCPI,

induction of cystatin expression in vegetative tissues of grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* cv. Cabernet Sauvignon) under water deficit and salinity stress was demonstrated by the large-scale mRNA analysis (Cramer et al., 2007). Results of this experiment showed that transient peak of cystatin at the day 4th followed by increasing accumulation between the day 8th and the day 16th proved that the cystatin in grape is involved in early changes in gene expression associated with stress response.

In the other experiments, Wang et al. (2012) reported that salt-stress treatment led to accumulation of the BvM14 cystatin in seedlings of the sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*). Cystatin family consisting of 26 PhyCys genes were identified within the entire apple genome (*Malus × domestica* Borkh.) and eight selected genes involved in response to treatment with one or more abiotic stresses were analyzed (Tan et al., 2014).

Expression pattern in response to abiotic stress and multiple functions of cystatins

Most of plant cystatins have been found to be up-regulated by different stress factors. Moreover, their expression is also associated with organ or tissue specificity, as well as multiple functions.

For example, the up-regulation of eight cystatin genes from apple in response to abiotic treatments was reported (Tan et al., 14). Their transcription level was also elevated during maturation and senescence of leaves indicating for the involvement of cystatins in the tissue development and leaf senescence, in addition to stress tolerance.

Diverse functions were described also for the amaranth cystatin AhCPI that was described as a regulator of seed germination as well as a protective agent against abiotic stimuli.

			The expression of the AhCPI cystatin was significantly elevated in roots and stems in the response to water deficit, salinity, cold and heat treatment, whereas a transient accumulation of the transcript in leaves as a result of high temperatures was detected suggesting for tissue and stress-specific mode of the cystatin accumulation (Valdés-Rodrigues et al., 2007). The role of the VuC1 cystatin in response to drought stress, desiccation and treatment with ABA was analyzed using two cowpea cultivars with different water stress tolerance (Diop et al., 2004).
et al., 2007).	(Valdes-Rodrigues		
	VuC1		
		ABA	
et al., 2004).		(Diop	
	VuC1		Diverse accumulation pattern of the VuC1 transcript in each cultivar was observed, corresponding to their level of stress tolerance. Our investigations with the multidomain wheat cystatin TaMDC1 also confirmed pleiotropic functions of plant cystatins (Christova et al., 2006; Christova et al., 2018).
		TaMDC1	
(Christova et al., 2006;			
Christova et al., 2018).	TaMDC1		Elevated expression of the TaMDC1 mRNA in crown, shoots and roots during cold acclimation of wheat was detected. Accumulation of the TaMDC1 in shoots and roots was also induced by drought, salt and ABA treatment (Christova et al., 2006).
	ABA (Christova et al., 2006).		Whilst the majority of cystatins demonstrated elevated expression, some members of the family have been reported to be down-regulated by abiotic stimuli or remain stable (Massonneau et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2015).
(Massonneau et al., 2005; Wang		(CC8	
et al., 2015).		CC9)	Two cystatin genes in maize (CC8 and CC9) were induced by cold stress, but other five genes (CCII, CC3, CC4, CC5 and CC9) were down-regulated in response to water deficiency (Massonneau et al., 2005). Moreover, the CCI gene was mainly expressed in immature tassels, CC8 and CC10 genes were accumulated in developing kernels, while the other seven cystatin genes were expressed in more than one plant tissue.
	(CCII, CC3, CC4, CC5	CC9)	
	(Massonneau et al., 2005).		
	CCI		
(CC8	CC10)		

<p>11</p> <p>CC (Massonneau et al., 2005).</p>	<p>All these findings demonstrated the variety of distinct functions performed by CC genes in the maize plant (Massonneau et al., 2005). Multiple roles of eleven rice cystatin genes in the response of plants to environmental changes as well as at the time of seeds development were established based on their expression pattern (Wang et al., 2015). Most of the genes were responsive to different abiotic factors, while some others were stable under stress, indicating their essential roles in normal plant development (Wang et al., 2015).</p>
<p>(Wang et al., 2015).</p>	<p>The accumulation of phytocystatins in response to abiotic stress, their expression pattern and the performance of multiple functions proved the key place of cystatins into the complex response to different stimuli.</p>
<p>(Wang et al., 2015).</p>	<p>Their pleiotropic effect and potential for the crop improvement is presented by a number of investigations (Munger et al. 2012; Kunert et al., 2015; Chrsitova et al., 2018; Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018b).</p>
<p>(Munger et al. 2011; Kunert et al., 2015; Chrsitova et al., 2018; Velasco-Arroyo et al., 2018b).</p>	<p>Overexpression of phytocystatins for stress tolerance</p>
<p><i>Arabidopsis</i></p>	<p>Collected data for phytocystatins showed that they are important for the adaptation of plants to various stress factors. A series of studies have explored the function of plant cystatins in the response to abiotic stress by exogenous expression of cysteine protease inhibitors mainly into model plants <i>Arabidopsis</i> and tobacco, but also in some crop species as soybean, sugar beet and apple.</p>
<p>(OCI)</p>	<p>The oryzacystatin I (OCI) decreased negative effect of chilling temperatures on photosynthesis in transgenic tobacco plants expressing rice cystatin (Van der Vyver et al., 2003).</p>

<p>Vyver et al., 2003). , OCI (<i>Glycine max</i>) <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i></p>	<p>(Van der - - In addition to temperature stress, OCI is also associated with drought tolerance in soybean (<i>Glycine max</i>) and <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> through strigolactones-mediated signalling (Quain et al. 2014).</p>
<p>2014). - (<i>Malus prunifolia</i>) <i>A. thaliana</i>.</p>	<p>(Quain et al., - - Recently, the involvement of the apple cystatins in various abiotic stress factors was proved by overexpression in apple (<i>Malus prunifolia</i>) and <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>.</p>
<p>MpCYS5 <i>A.</i> <i>thaliana</i> (Tan et al., 2016), MpCYS4 <i>Arabidopsis</i> (<i>Malus domestica</i>)</p>	<p>- - The ectopic expression of the MpCYS5 cystatin led to salt stress tolerance of <i>A. thaliana</i> (Tan et al., 2016), whereas overexpression of MpCYS4 in <i>Arabidopsis</i> and apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>) enhanced drought tolerance by ABA-mediated signal transduction (Tan et al., 2017).</p>
<p>(Tan et al., 2017). <i>Arabidopsis</i></p>	<p>ABA - - Improved salinity tolerance of homozygous <i>Arabidopsis</i> plants as a result of overexpression of the sugar beet cystatin BvM14 was reported (Wang et al., 2012). A multiple tolerance to drought, cold, salt and oxidation in <i>Arabidopsis</i> plants was achieved by overexpression of two cysteine proteinase inhibitors <i>AtCYSa</i> and <i>AtCYSb</i> isolated from the model plant (Zhang et al., 2008).</p>
<p>BvM14 (Wang et al., 2012). , <i>Arabidopsis</i></p>	<p>- - Improved salinity tolerance of homozygous <i>Arabidopsis</i> plants as a result of overexpression of the sugar beet cystatin BvM14 was reported (Wang et al., 2012). A multiple tolerance to drought, cold, salt and oxidation in <i>Arabidopsis</i> plants was achieved by overexpression of two cysteine proteinase inhibitors <i>AtCYSa</i> and <i>AtCYSb</i> isolated from the model plant (Zhang et al., 2008).</p>
<p><i>AtCYSa</i> <i>AtCYSb</i> (Zhang et al., 2008). , , ,</p>	<p>- - - - All these plant model systems overexpressing phytocystatins supply significant knowledge for the role of cystatins into abiotic stress tolerance and support the examination of a resistance mechanism, that is still not well examined.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

- Phytocystatins they are a key factor in the adaptation of crop plants to unfavourable conditions of the environment. In addition to response of plants to abiotic stress factors, they take a part in resistance to biotic stress factors.
- Therefore, plant cystatins play an important role for the activation of a cross tolerance mechanisms for the protection

- | of plants and the sustainability of agricultural crops.

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In vitro

Phytophthora

8, 1164

***In vitro* Susceptibility to Fungicides by *Phytophthora* Species Isolated from Different Ecosystems in Bulgaria**

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SUMMARY

Phytophthora (Phytophthora rosacearum, P. cryptogea, P. plurivora, P. cambivora, P. citricola P. megasperma) in vitro

(667 g/kg 44 g/kg), (90 g/kg 600 g/kg), (625 g/l 62,5 g/l) (64% 4% -)

in vitro

P. rosacearum 8/2. -

Six *Phytophthora* species originating from Bulgaria (*Phytophthora rosacearum*, *P. cryptogea*, *P. plurivora*, *P. cambivora*, *P. citricola* and *P. megasperma*) were tested in *in vitro* experiment for susceptibility to different fungicides. Four popular fungicides registered for control of the *Oomycetes* were used: Verita WG (667 g/kg fosetyl aluminum and 44 g/kg fenamidone), Acrobat M DG (90 g/kg dimethomorph and 600 g/kg mancozeb), Infinito SC (625 g/l propamocarb hydrochloride and 62.5 g/l fluopicolide) and Ridomil Gold MZ 68 WP (64% mancozeb and 4% metalaxyl-M). The four fungicides exhibited varying mycelial growth inhibiting effect on the tested isolates. Among the tested isolates, the most sensitive to all fungicides was *P. rosacearum* T 8/2. The fungicide Verita had the lowest impact on the growth of isolates in the *in vitro* experiments, which may be explained by its action mechanism.

Phytophthora
Phytophthora infestans
Phytophthora capsici
 (Cucurbitaceae),
Phytophthora cactorum *Phytophthora*
cryptogea (Erwin and Ribeiro,
 1996).
Phytophthora
Phytophthora
 (Fagus sylvatica L.)
Phytophthora plurivora,
Phytophthora cambivora *P. cactorum*
 (Jung et al., 2005).
Phytophthora alni, *Phytophthora*
ramorum
 () (Brasier et al., 1999, Garbelotto et
 al., 2001).
Phytophthora
in vitro

A greater fungistatic effect on the mycelial
 growth of the isolates was demonstrated
 by the fungicides Acrobat, Ridomil Gold
 and Infinito, which are promising in
 restriction of disease symptoms caused
 by these plant pathogens *in vivo*.

Key words: *Phytophthora*,
 fungicides, mycelial growth

INTRODUCTION

Species of the genus *Phytophthora*
 are important pathogens on agricultural
 crops. *Phytophthora infestans* is the
 causative agent of the potato late blight,
Phytophthora capsici is a pathogen on
 economically important crops from
 Cucurbitaceae family, *Phytophthora*
cactorum and *Phytophthora cryptogea*
 are causing diseases on horticulture plants
 and etc. (Erwin and Ribeiro, 1996). In the
 last two decades the importance of plant
 pathogens from the genus *Phytophthora*
 for forest ecosystems has increased. As a
 result of a various factors, like the
 intensification of international plant trade
 and others, alien *Phytophthora* species
 have become a major problem for natural
 ecosystems.

For example, beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.)
 decline is associated with *Phytophthora*
plurivora, *Phytophthora cambivora* and *P.*
cactorum (Jung et al., 2005). The alder
 decline is associated with *Phytophthora*
alni, and *Phytophthora ramorum* is the
 causative agent of Sudden Oak Death in
 the mixed forests of the central California
 coast and Oregon (USA) (Brasier et al.,
 1999, Garbelotto et al., 2001). The control
 of diseases caused by oomycetes,
 including *Phytophthora*, through
 fungicides, has been a subject of a
 number of studies. Because oomycetes
 do not synthesize sterols, they are not
 susceptible to fungicides that inhibit
 synthesis of sterols as opposed to the
 Fungi. In the present study six
Phytophthora isolates recovered from
 different ecosystems in Bulgaria

Phytophthora
rosacearum, *P. cryptogea*, *P. plurivora*, *P. cambivora*, *P. citricola* *P. megasperma*)

(*Phytophthora rosacearum*, *P. cryptogea*, *P. plurivora*, *P. cambivora*, *P. citricola* and *Phytophthora megasperma*) have been tested for susceptibility to various fungicides in *in vitro* experiment.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The *Phytophthora* isolates used in this study have shown to be the most aggressive in pathogenicity tests performed in a previous study (Lyubenova et al., 2016): *P. rosacearum* T 8/2, *P. cryptogea* B10/2, *P. plurivora* T 2/1, *P. cambivora* V 4/1, *P. citricola* GD 1 and *P. megasperma* Vr. s. 3/2a.

A 1% solution was prepared in sterile distilled water of each fungicide. At the center of petri dishes with carrot agar (16 g agar, 3 g CaCO₃, 100 ml carrot juice/1L) were placed small agar pieces with culture of each of the studied isolates.

Two Petri dishes for each fungicide/isolate combination and four other non-fungicidal controls were prepared in this way.

Petri dishes were left for one day under room conditions to initiate growth. A line intersecting the center of the colony and the points where the fungicide will be drip in the center of each Petri dish was drawn. Before the dripping of the fungicide, the end of the colony on the line is indicated, from where should be the starting point for measuring. 30 µl of 1% solution of each fungicide was dripped from the two opposite sides of the colony onto sterile circles of filter paper with a diameter of about 3 mm.

Measurements are done twice - after three and five days. The radius of the colony was measured along the lines intersecting the center of the colony and the drop-in point.

Phytophthora
 (Lyubenova et al., 2016).
Phytophthora
 4
 : *P.*
rosacearum 8/2, *P. cryptogea* 10/2, *P.*
plurivora 2/1, *P. cambivora* 4/1, *P.*
citricola 1 *P. megasperma* 3/2
 1%
 (16 g , 3 g
 CaCO₃, 100 ml /1L)
 /
 30 µl
 1%
 3 mm.

- Two measurements were made for each Petri dish. The results of the fungicide variants were compared with those of the control variants without fungicide.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four popular fungicides were used in this study: Verita WG (667 g/kg fosetyl aluminum and 44 g/kg fenamidone), Acrobat M DG (90 g/kg dimethomorph and 600 g/kg mancozeb), Infinito SC (625 g/l propamocarb hydrochloride and 62.5 g/l fluopicolide) and Ridomil Gold MZ 68 WP (64% mancozeb and 4% metalaxyl-M). The fungicide Verita has a precautionary and curative effect, falling into the III category for use and is registered for potato late blight on tomatoes (*P. infestans*) for greenhouse production.

Acrobat MC is registered for use against downy mildew on grapevine, vegetables and technical cultures, with protective and curative action, at a dose of 200 g/da and is third category for use.

Infinity has active substance of 625 g/l propamocarb hydrochloride and 62.5 g/l of fluopicolide, the third category for use, registered for potato late blight (*P. infestans*). It possesses protective, curative and antispore action against Oomycete pathogens.

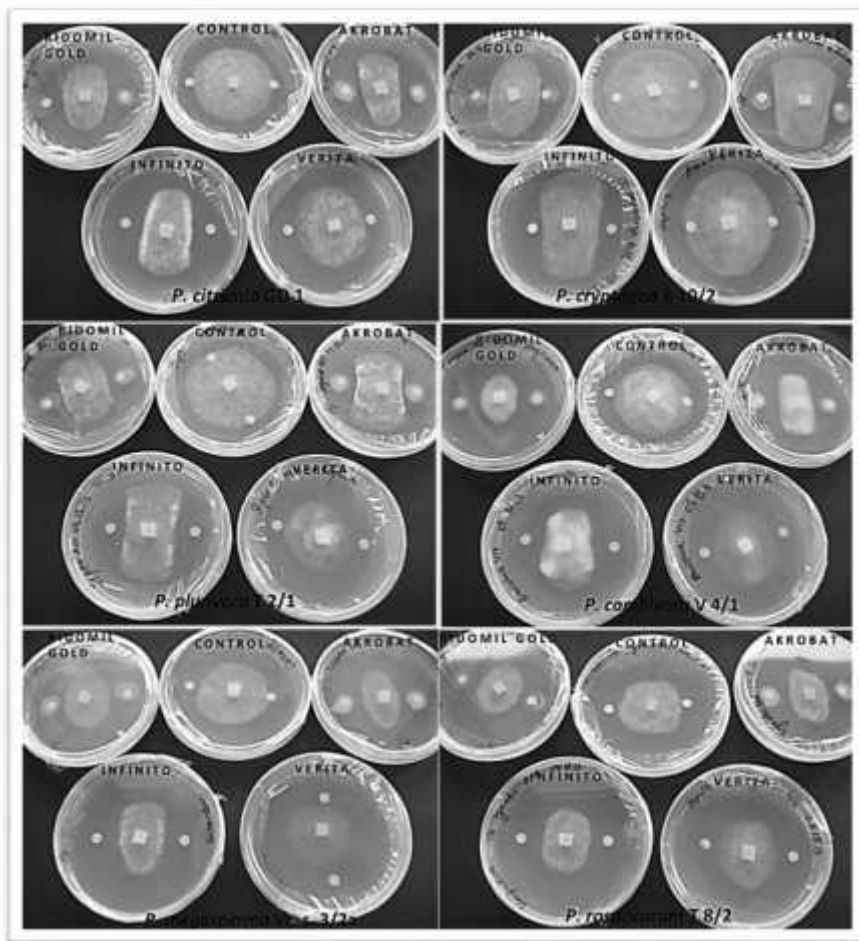
The preparation is taken through the leaves and from there spreading through the conductive system of plants. Propamocarb is involved in several stages in the synthesis of phospholipids and fatty acids, thus destroying the formation of the cell membranes. Fluopicolide disrupts the cellular structure of the pathogen and interferes with the formation of proteins that play an important role in the cell membrane's stability. It is used at a concentration of 0.024-0.06%.

The fourth fungicide used is Ridomil Gold

(Bayer crop science),
 (BASF), (Bayer crop science)
 (Syngenta).
 667 g/kg 44
 g/kg III-
 18
);
 (*P. infestans*) (
).
 90 g/kg 600
 g/kg
 200 g/da III-
 g/l 62,5 g/l
 , III-
 (*P. infestans*).
 omycetes.
 0,024-0,06
 %.

64% (), III-
 250 g/da.
 (30
 -
 -
 (1).

- MC with active ingredients 64% mancozeb and 4% metalaxyl-M (mefenoxam), 3rd category for use, registered for late blights on vegetable crops with protective and curative action. It is applied at a dose of 250 g/da. Mefe noxam is a systemic fungicide that is rapidly absorbed by the green parts of the plants (for 30 minutes) transported by the movement of the plant juice and distributed to the foliage. All of the four tested fungicides - Ridomil Gold, Acrobat, Infinito and Verita exhibited inhibitory effect on the growth of the studied isolates (Figure 1).



1. *Phytophthora*

Fig. 1. Growth of *Phytophthora* isolates after treatment with the fungicides Ridomil Gold, Acrobat, Infinito and Verita

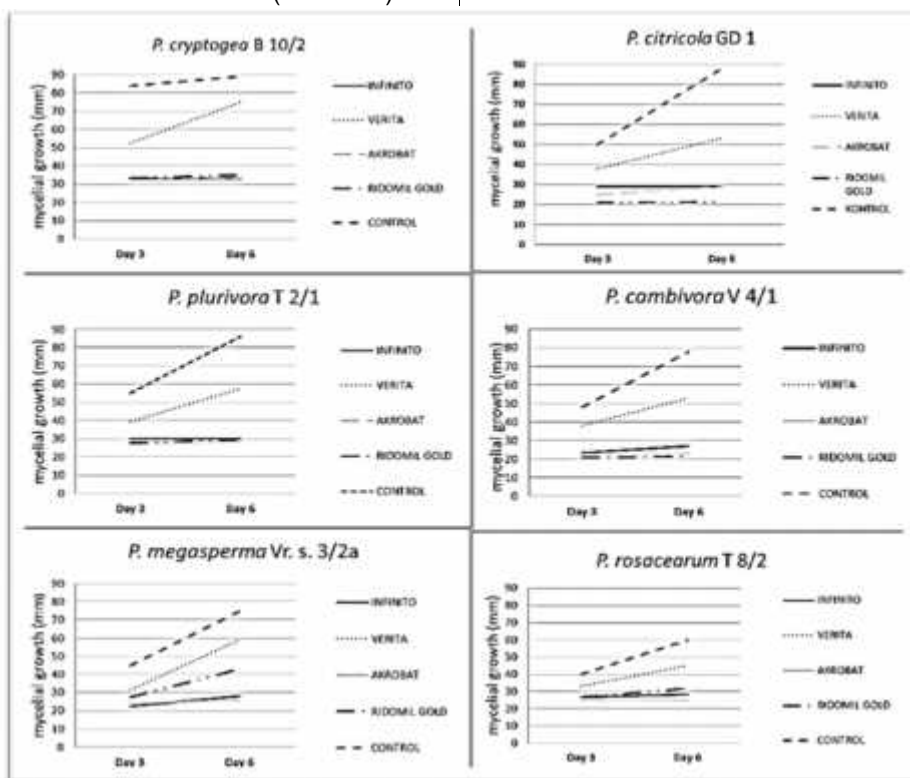
in vitro

(Smillie et al., 1989).

P. rosacearum 8/2.

(2).

Fungicide Verita has the lowest impact on the growth of isolates in *in vitro* experiments. This can be explained by its mechanism of action appearing in the living plant. The fungicidal action of its active substance kg fosetyl aluminum is largely due to its indirect action, expressing in that the treated plants much more rapidly synthesize phytoalexins when are in contact with the pathogen, than untreated and cause various changes in the host-pathogen interactions (Smillie et al., 1989). Of the tested isolates, *P. rosacearum* T8/2 is the most sensitive to all fungicides. The major fungistatic effect on the growth of the isolates has the fungicides Acrobat, Ridomil Gold and Infinito (Figure 2).



2.

P. cryptogea 10/2, *P. citricola* 1, *P. plurivora* 2/1, *P. cambivora* 4/1, *P. megasperma* 3/2, *P. rosacearum* 8/2.
 Fig. 2. Effect of the fungicides Ridomil Gold, Acrobat, Infinito and Verita on the growth of Bulgarian isolates *P. cryptogea* B 10/2, *P. citricola* GD 1, *P. plurivora* 2/1, *P. cambivora* V 4/1, *P. megasperma* Vr. s. 3/2 and *P. rosacearum* 8/2

Phytophthora

CONCLUSIONS

- The most potent inhibitory effect on mycelial growth of all tested isolates, is generally demonstrated by Infinito and Acrobat, followed by Ridomil Gold and the weakest Verita.
- The first three fungicides appear to be potentially effective in limiting the spread of tested *Phytophthora* species under natural terrain conditions.

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