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Impact of Osiryl Biostimulator on the Grafted Cuttings Growth in a Vine Nursery First Announcement

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The first results of the impact of Osiryl biostimulator on the grafted cuttings growth in a vine nursery were presented in this paper. The trial was carried out in 2018 and 2019 with Kailashki Rubin wine variety grafted to Berlandieri x Riparia SO4 rootstock. The effect of the treatment was evaluated by the indicators reflecting the main shoot growth intensity, the second internode diameter and the overall growth of the rooted vines. Although only the results from the second year were statistically proven, it was observed an overall tendency for the product positive impact in favor of the treated variant for both years.

Key words: Osiryl, biostimulators, vine nursery, grafted cuttings, main shoot, growth, overall growth

INTRODUCTION

(Nankova, 2015).

(Prodanova-Marinova, 2016).

(IFOAM)

(Staneva and Gospodinova, 2018).

Nikolskiy et al. (2010)

80-

XX

5000

- The extended and improper intensification of agricultural production
- has been one of the reasons that adversely affected the soil fertility (Nankova, 2015). There have been cases where, due to the influence of various factors, plants did not get all the nutrients they need from their natural source (Prodanova-Marinova, 2016).
- On the one hand, in the context of a dynamic climate changes and anthropogenic loading, the specific needs of a great number of crops and varieties grown under different technologies could not be satisfied.
- On the other hand, the consumer demand for organic products has increased dramatically over the last decade, for which the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) Standards for Plant Protection and Fertilization only allowed preparations of natural origin (Staneva and Gospodinova, 2018).
- According to Nikolskiy et al. (2010), growth regulators, grouped under different names, emerged as a separate class of physiologically active substances in the late 1980s. To date, around 5000 such compounds of chemical, microbiological and plant origin have been discovered and studied to varying levels.
- Such substances were the mineral nutrients, humic and fulvic acids, vitamins, polysaccharides, peptides, amino acids, enzymes, proteins, phytohormones, etc.
- They were used in the plant multiplication through the propagation material, in the pre-sowing treatment of seeds, for root and foliar nutrition during the growing season. Last but not least, it was important to note that a wide variety of commercial products were produced on their basis.

Therefore, the great number of results in the specialized literature should not be interpreted unequivocally, and applied into practice as a pattern. That was necessitated by the fact that different plants and varieties had their own biological features, specific requirements for the environment, as well as different response to it and the technologies through which they were cultivated. In the case of vine, it should also be considered that it was subjected to a high stress associated not only with the lesions on the cuttings, but also with a number of other factors during its vegetative propagation.

The indicators of the growth intensity and the amount of the annual growth give an idea of the vine growth power, and in the case of the propagation material, its quality. The issue of the root stimulation during the plant propagation material production had been particularly urgent, as at present in Bulgaria a number of new and promising vine varieties have not been studied yet in this aspect.

The objective of the study was to determine the impact from the treatment with Osiryl biostimulator on the growth dynamics and the overall growth of the rooted vines.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The trial was carried out with the wine Kaylashki Rubin variety (Ivanov et al., 2011), grafted to Berlandieri x Riparia rootstock, selection Openhaim 4 (Roychev, 2012).

The grafted cuttings were planted with open top part (to the wax) in two-row beds (Dimitrova et al., 2007; Todorov, 2005). Micro-sprinkling and drip irrigation was used (Tsvetanov, 2019).

The trial pattern included 2 variants: V1 - Control (no treatment) and V2 - Osiryl treatment, each with 4 repetitions of 50 cuttings.

(Ivanov et al., 2011),
4 (Roychev,
2012).
(
(Dimitrova et al., 2007;
Todorov, 2005).
(Tsvetanov, 2019).
: V1 –
) V2 –
4 50

- The nurseries at the Experimental Base of IVE-Pleven are located in areas with the same soil type - heavy sandy-clay leached chernozem formed on clay loess (Krastanov and Dilkova, 1963).

- OsiryI biostimulator promoted the root growth and regeneration, optimizing the water and soil minerals absorption. It was approved for use in the organic growing of all crops. The treatment was performed in rainy conditions, during the irrigation or by spraying (www.groupe-frayssinet.fr). For the objective of the trial, it was done in accordance with the development of the nourishing roots of the cuttings during their rooting, and the method of introduction - with the technology of cultivation in IVE-Pleven (through the irrigation water). It was performed four times at a dose of application 1000 ml/da.

The biostimulator impact was evaluated by the following indicators:

- Main shoot growth intensity (cm);
- Overall growth length (cm);
- Overall growth mass (g);
- Main shoot second internode diameter (cm).

The main shoot growth was monitored during rooting at 5 intervals of 7-14 days. The overall growth and the second internode diameter were recorded after the propagation material was graded. The measurements were taken on 3 vines of each replicate.

The results were processed by analysis of variance (ANOVA) from a one-factor field trial based on the long plots method (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 2018, the rooting of the grafted cuttings was done from May 19 to November 1 (166 days), while in 2019 – from May 23 to October 29 (159 days). The main shoot growth in the first year

2018 .
 19 1 (166)
 2019 . – 23 29 (159)
).

31 ,
23 .

11
12

(1).

2018 .,
0,2 cm.

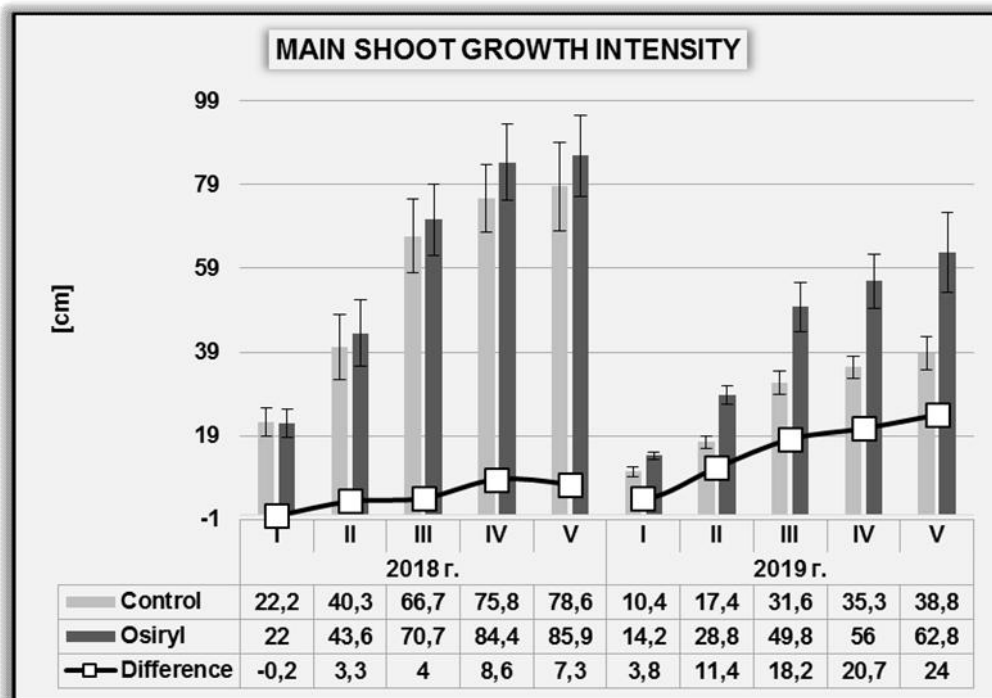
3,3 8,6 cm
(7,3 cm),

2019 .
3,8 24 cm.

was monitored from July 11 to August 31,
and in the second – from July 12 to
August 23.

The results from both years
generally showed a trend where the main
shoots of OsiryI-treated cuttings were
more advanced in their growth compared
to those of the controls (Figure 1). The
only exception was the 1st recording in
2018, with the control variant leading by
an insignificant difference of 0.2 cm. It
should be considered here that the active
vegetation was still in its onset and that
only the first treatment was carried out.

Over the next three recordings during the
season it increased from 3.3 to 8.6 cm
and despite the slight decrease (7.3 cm)
in the last one, it was kept in favour of
the treated variant. In 2019 this difference
was only in favour of the treated variant
and grew in the range from 3.8 to 24 cm.



. 1.
Fig. 1. Main shoot growth intensity

9,4 % -

61,9 %.

2018 .

2019 .

39,8 cm (50,7 %),
- 23,2 cm (27 %).

2018 .

17,1 cm,
- 3,64 g.

26,1 %

2019 .

26,4 % -

27,1 cm 5,71 g,
- 57,2 86,9 %.

2019 .

0,124 cm (22,9 %).

2018 .

(0,004 cm,
0,5 %),

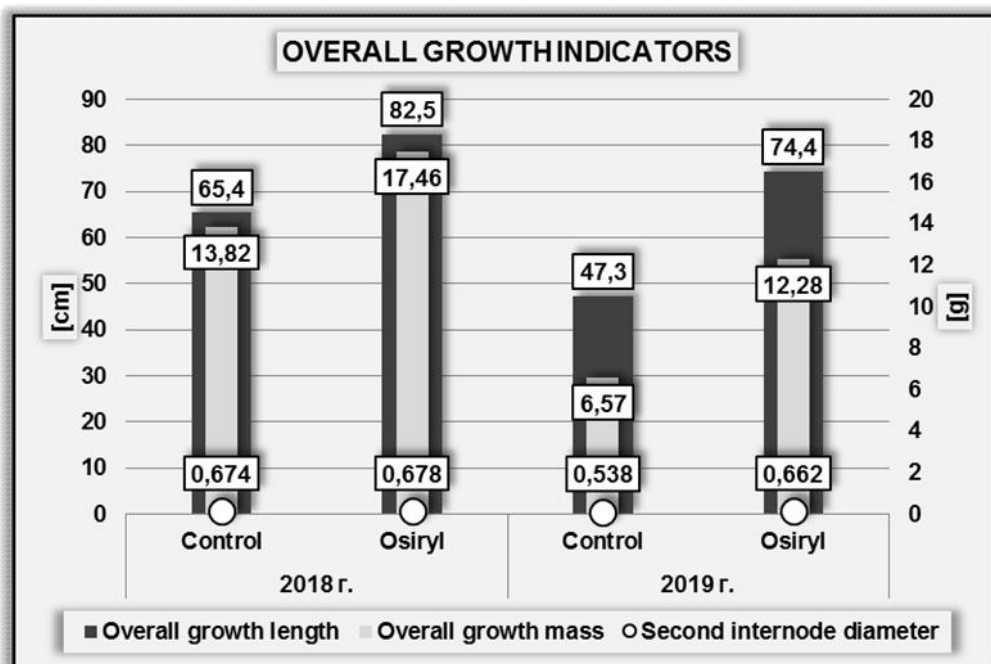
The final result could also be expressed as a ratio showing that in the first year the active growth in the nursery ended by 9.4% longer main shoots from the treated variant, and in the second year – by 61.9%.

Figure 1 clearly revealed that in 2018 the main shoot growth was more intense than that in 2019 due to the specific conditions for each of these years. The last recording demonstrated that the difference between the control variants was 39.8 cm (50.7%) and between the treated ones – 23.2 cm (27%).

The result from the biometric measurements fully confirmed the observed trend for more intensive growth under the influence of Osiryl biostimulator, since for both years the overall growth of rooted vines showed a positive difference from the control variant (Figure 2).

In 2018, this difference was 17.1 cm in length and 3.64 g for the mass. Expressed as a ratio between the two variants, it was 26.1% longer growth and 26.4% greater mass. In 2019, this difference in absolute values was 27.1 cm and 5.71 g, and in relative values – 57.2 and 86.9%, respectively.

That trend was also observed for the main shoot second internode diameter (Figure 2). In 2019, the reported difference was higher and was expressed in 0.124 cm (22.9%). Although this difference was minimal in 2018 (0.004 cm, 0.5%), it was still in favour of the treated variant.



2.
Fig. 2. Overall growth indicators

2018 . (n.s),
2019 . 5 % (+).

Although the reported differences for both years of the study were in favour of the Osiryl treated variant, the analysis of variance showed a significant difference between the two years (Table 1). In 2018, there was no statistical significance between the variants (n.s), and in 2019, the differences were proven with a confidence level of 5% (+) for all studied indicators.

1.
Table 1. Analysis of variance of the studied indicators

Variant	Main shoot length, cm			Overall growth length, cm			Overall growth mass, g			Second internode diameter, cm			
	Mean	Difference	Proven	Mean	Difference	Proven	Mean	Difference	Proven	Mean	Difference	Proven	
2018													
V1	Control	78.6	x	x	65.4	x	x	13.82	x	x	0.674	x	x
V2	Osiryl	85.9	7.3	n.s	82.5	17.1	n.s	17.46	3.64	n.s	0.678	0.004	n.s
2019													
V1	Control	38.8	x	x	47.3	x	x	6.57	x	x	0.538	x	x
V2	Osiryl	62.8	24	+	74.4	27.1	+	12.28	5.71	+	0.662	0.124	+

The difference was significant at confidence level: 5% (+/-); 1% (++/-); 0.1% (+++/-) and < 5% (n.s) – not significant

CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the results obtained so far allowed the following trend to be outlined:

The main shoot growth of Osiryl treated variant was more intense compared to that of the control in both years of the trial. In 2018, the active vegetation in the nursery ended with a difference in the length of 7.4 cm (9.4%), and in 2019 – with a difference of 24 cm (61.9%).

The overall growth of the rooted vines correlated with the result of the growth dynamics that confirmed the observed tendency for the positive impact of the root stimulator. In 2018, the reported differences in the length and the mass were 17.1 cm (26.1%) and 3.64 g (26.4%), and in 2019 – 27.1 cm (57.2%) and 5.71 g (86.9%), respectively.

The main shoot second internode diameter also showed a positive difference in favour of the treated vines however in 2018 it was minimal (0.004 cm, 0.5%), while in 2019 it was greater (0.123 cm, 22.9%).

The reported differences for the four indicators were statistically proven with confidence levels of 5% (+) only in the second year of the study.

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The Influence of the Green Pruning Treatments and the Climatic Conditions of the Year on the Fertility Elements in Organic and Conventional Vine-growing

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The objective of the study was to determine the degree of influence of the climatic factors of the year and the green pruning treatments on some elements of fertility in organic and conventional vine cultivation by two-factor analysis of variance. The obtained results revealed that the fertility indicators, both for organic and conventional vine cultivation, were affected by the climate of the year, while the effect of the green pruning factor was not proven statistically.

Key words: vine, organic and conventional growing, actual fertility, green pruning treatments, climate

INTRODUCTION

The actual fertility represented the average number of clusters per shoot and had been the indicator revealing the most

(Mokreva and Roychev, 2004; , 2011; Simeonov, 2014).

(Danailov et al., 1977; Vlachos, 1982; Stoev, 1983; Braykov and Roychev, 2003).

(Simeonov and Roychev, 2013).

(Katerov and Donchev, 1985; Simeonov et al., 2012).

Archer and Hunter (2000),

(Romisonodo, 1969; Todorov, 1978; Volpe and Boselli, 1983).

(Strelnikov, 1951; Katerov et al., 1990).

Mozer (1970) Pondev

properly the productive potential of each vine variety and its yield (Mokreva and Roychev, 2004; Mokreva, 2011; Simeonov, 2014). For the different varieties, its expression was specific and depended on various factors – genetic, agrobiological and soil-climatic (Danailov et al., 1977; Vlachos, 1982; Stoev, 1983; Braykov and Roychev, 2003). It had been the basic ampelographic criterion that determined the economic importance of each variety and its distribution in different regions and micro-regions (Simeonov and Roychev, 2013).

The grapes quality had been in direct correlation of the variety with its specific morphological, agro-biological and technological features, as well as the complex group of environmental factors and the growing conditions, among which the soil and climatic resources of the region were the most rationally used (Katerov and Donchev, 1985; Simeonov et al., 2012). One of the most commonly applied practices in vine growing resulting in the improvement of the grapes quality had been the green pruning treatments cluster thinning, shoot topping, clearing in the cluster area, etc.

According to Archer and Hunter (2000), maintaining an optimal foliar area during the growing season, and especially during the critical stages of the vine plant's development, increased the bud fertility. A number of authors had found in their researches that the inflorescences in the winter eyes were directly dependent on the shoots' growth potential (Romisonodo, 1969; Todorov, 1978; Volpe and Boselli, 1983). The removal of the shoot vegetative apex led to the growth processes activation under the place of topping, and the formed lateral shoots positively influenced the bud fertility (Strelnikov, 1951; Katerov et al., 1990).

Just the opposite was the opinion of Mozer (1970) and Pondev (1991), who

(1991), , believed that shoot topping and suckering did not affect the fertility.

et al. (2016) , Acimovic - Acimovic et al. (2016) found that
6 8 - defoliation in the blossoming phase of 6 to
- 8 major nodes might regulate the fertility
- of Pinot Noir variety under cooler climatic
conditions and did not adversely affect the
bud fertility and yield of the vines the
following year.

Nedelkovski (2016) . According to Nedelkovski (2016), the
- application of defoliation during the
- second half of the growing season did not
- significantly influence the indicators of the
- potential fertility of the winter eyes in
- Vranets variety, but the normalization of
the yield by thinning the clusters (up to 6
(6 10 /), - and 10 clusters/vine) affected the
- differentiation of inflorescences in the
- winter eyes by increasing the fertility
- rates, the fruit main buds, the fruit buds
with 2 inflorescences and inflorescences
2 750 750 µm long. Amati et al. (1994) found
µm. Amati et al. (1994) , that cluster thinning did not have a
significant effect on the bud fertility
however it changed the yield and affected
the sugars and titratable acids content in
the grapes. The cluster thinning enhanced
the overall growth of the vine and the
vegetative and reproductive balance.

-

The objective of the study was to determine the degree of influence of the factors: climate of the year and the green pruning treatments on some fertility elements in organic and conventional vine-growing by two-factor analysis of variance.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2017, The trial was carried out in the
2018 2019 . - years 2017, 2018 and 2019. The
- vineyards were planted with Muscat
- Kaylashki variety, located within the
Experimental Base of the Institute of
Viticulture and Enology - Pleven. The
3,20 1,20 . planting density was 3.20 x 1.20 m. The

m,

-
1m.

4 (CO4),

18

4

3

12

“ - :
 1 - 2017 ;
 2 - 2018 ;
 3 - 2019 .
 “ - :
 1 - - ;
 2 - ()
 - 1/3 (30-35%)
 ;
 3 - +
 ;
 4 - +
 () +
 ;
 :
 - , (%);
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(Sirakov, 1981)

iMetos,

1

vines were grown on medium-high training system with a stem height of 1m. The rootstock was Berlandieri x Riparia Selection Openheim 4 (SO4), the pruning was done in spurs. The loading was 18 eyes per vine. After counting the inflorescences, the vines were distributed into four variants with approximately the same average number of inflorescences in both modes of cultivation. Each variant had 4 replicates of 3 vines per repetition, or a total of 12 vines per variant. One suckering was carried out in all variants on the cordons. Twice suckering at the base and on the vine stems was also performed.

Trial variants:

Factor “A” – nature of the year:

1 – 2017;
 2 – 2018;
 3 – 2019.

Factor “B” – green pruning treatments:

1 – control – no summer pruning;
 2 – normalization (thinning) of clusters – 1/3 (30-35%) of the clusters total for the variant have been removed;
 3 – thinning of the clusters + clearing in the cluster area;
 4 – thinning of the clusters + shoot topping (July) + clearing in the cluster area;

Indicators of the study:

- developed eyes rate, (%);
 - number of developed shoots, (pc.);
 - fruit shoots rate, (%);
 - fertility rate;

The climatic characteristics of the study years were determined by the methods of mathematical statistics (Sirakov, 1981) for the period May - October. Temperature and precipitation data were recorded by iMetos automatic meteorological station located in the area of the Experimental Base of IVE - Pleven, where the vineyards were located. Table 1 shows the climatic characteristics of the study years.

1

Table 1. Climatic characteristics of the years of the trial

/years		2016	2017	2018	2019
$N_{(V-IX)}$		36 – Average wet (384,2mm)	6 – Very wet (622,4mm)	19 – Very wet (477,8mm)	50 – Average (332mm)
$^{\circ}_{(V-IX)}$	%	59 – Average cool (19,5 °)	33 – Average hot (19,8 °)	17 – Very hot (20,6 °)	20 – Very hot (20,47°)

– (probability), N – (precipitations), ° – (average air temperature)

2016 .
384,2 mm.
36 %,
19,5 °
59 %
2017 622,4 mm
6%,
19,8 ° 33%
2018 19%,
477,8 mm
20,6 ° 17%,
2019
332mm,
50%,
20,47
20 %,

Due to the fact that the climate of the previous year had an influence on the fertility elements, the characteristic for the year 2016 was also presented here.

The precipitation sum for the year 2016 was 384.2 mm. Its distribution was even and the probability was 36%, determining the period as average wet. The average daily air temperature was 19.5 ° with probability of 59% characterizing the period as average cool.

The precipitation in 2017 was 622.4 mm, evenly distributed throughout the period. The probability was 6%, determining the year as very wet. The average daily air temperature was 19.8° with probability of 33% defining the year as average hot.

The precipitation rate in 2018 was 19% defining the year as very wet. The sum of the precipitation was 477.8 mm, equally distributed throughout the period. The average daily air temperature was 20.6 ° with probability of 17% characterizing the year as very hot.

The precipitation distribution in 2019 was uneven, with the most rainfall in May, June and July, while in August, September and October there were almost no rainfall. The total sum of the rainfall was 332 mm, and their probability was 50%, determining the year as average. The average daily air temperature was 20.47 ° with probability 20 %, defining the year as very hot.

Based on the climatic characteristics it could be said that the trial was carried

(ANOVA) (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

(Lakin, 1990).

out during two very wet years, one – average wet and one average year. As for the average daily temperatures there were two very hot years, one – average hot and one – average cool.

The results were statistically processed by two-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999). The power of influence of the factors and its significance were calculated by the method of Plohinski (Lakin, 1990).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the data on the impact of the green pruning treatments and the climatic nature of the year on the fertility indicators per variants and cultivation technology.

2.

Table 2. Fertility elements per variants and cultivation technology

Cultivation technology	Variants	Developed eyes, (%)	Developed shoots, (pc.)	Fruit shoots, (%)	Fertility rate	
Conventional	1	1	78.89	17.60	43.50	0.51
		2	84.17	17.55	44.69	0.53
		3	75.46	17.75	45.64	0.55
		4	83.80	18.00	41.67	0.52
Organic	1	1	91.67	18.08	63.06	0.68
		2	92.59	18.00	61.11	0.69
		3	87.04	18.00	62.04	0.69
		4	88.43	18.00	58.33	0.67
Conventional	2	1	92.50	20.40	73.99	1.05
		2	91.94	20.90	69.15	1.00
		3	95.83	20.92	73.84	1.00
		4	93.52	19.83	80.46	1.05
Organic	2	1	95.37	20.42	86.50	1.29
		2	95.83	19.25	83.24	1.37
		3	92.59	20.08	82.02	1.30
		4	95.37	20.42	87.19	1.31
Conventional	3	1	90.00	17.35	90.29	1.34
		2	94.72	18.45	86.43	1.35
		3	95.37	18.75	83.57	1.26
		4	93.52	18.00	91.73	1.27
Organic	3	1	91.67	17.92	89.00	0.66
		2	94.44	18.58	91.37	0.92
		3	87.96	17.58	89.45	0.82
		4	85.19	16.83	91.71	0.59

- The analysis of variance for the
- influence of the factors the climate of the
- year, green pruning treatments and their

- interaction on the studied indicators in conventional and organic cultivation are presented in Tables 3 - 6.

3. : () ()

Table 3. Influence of the factors: climate of the year () and green pruning treatments () on the developed eyes rate in conventional and organic cultivation

/ Conventional		/ Organic	
Source of variance	Power of influence (%)	Source of variance	Power of influence (%)
Year () *** (0.1%)	56.04 *** (0.1%)	Year () ** (1%)	22.17 *** (0.1%)
. Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-	. Green pruning () ** (1%)	18.99 n.s. (< 5%)
Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
Errors	30.38	Errors	45.28

4. : () ()

Table 4. Influence of the factors: climate of the year () and green pruning treatments () on the number of developed shoots in conventional and organic cultivation

/ Conventional		/ Organic	
Source of variance	Power of influence (%)	Source of variance	Power of influence (%)
Year () *** (0.1%)	64 *** (0.1%)	Year () *** (0.1%)	60.11 *** (0.1%)
. Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-	. Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-
Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
Errors	25.55	Errors	25.65

5. : () ()

Table 5. Influence of the factors: climate of the year () and green pruning treatments () on the rate of developed fruit shoots in conventional and organic cultivation

Conventional		Organic	
Source of variance	Power of influence (%)	Source of variance	Power of influence (%)
Year () *** (0.1%)	84.98 *** (0.1%)	Year () *** (0.1%)	80.44 *** (0.1%)
. Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-	. Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-
Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
Errors	9.99	Errors	16.61

Table 6. Influence of the factors: climate of the year () and green pruning treatments () on the fertility rate in conventional and organic cultivation

/ Conventional		/ Organic	
Source of variance	Power of influence (%)	Source of variance	Power of influence (%)
Year () ***(0.1%)	86.76 *** (0.1%)	Year() *** (0.1%)	56.81 *** (0.1%)
.Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-	.Green pruning () n.s. (< 5%)	-
Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-	Interaction n.s. (< 5%)	-
Errors	10.91	Errors	37.86

The analyses revealed that for all four studied indicators, both in conventional and organic cultivation technology, the influence of the climatic conditions of the year was the determining one with a power of influence over 55% and a high level of confidence. The effect of factor B (green pruning treatments) was not statistically proven. The only exception was the developed eye rate in organic growing where the factor green pruning had an evident effect however its power of influence was not statistically proven. It should be stated that in this analysis there was a high rate of influence of other factors not covered by the study (45%).

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CONCLUSIONS

The statistical analyses revealed that the fertility indicators, both for organic and conventional vine cultivation, were mainly influenced by the climate of the year, while the effect of the green pruning factor was not proven statistically.

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Changes of Chlorophyll and Carotenoid Content in Peach Leaves during the Vegetation Period

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Original scientific paper

SUMMARY

The study was carried out in a fruit-bearing peach plantation of 'Glohaven' cultivar grafted on the vegetative rootstock GF677, located on the territory of the Fruit-Growing Institute of Plovdiv. The aim of the study was to investigate how the contents of the photosynthetic pigments – chlorophyll *a*, *b*, *a+b* and carotenoids in the peach leaves changed during the vegetation period under the influence of different fertilization rates of the bioproducts Lumbreco, Agriful and Humustim. The variation of chlorophyll pigments during vegetation was insignificant. The best results about the content of chlorophyll *a*, *b* and *a+b* were reported in the variant of foliar nutrition with Lumbreco and soil application of Agriful at the rate of 1 L/da. The high fertilization rates of Agriful and Humustim bioproducts had an adverse effect on the green pigment content. The highest values for carotenoids were reported in August (105 days after full bloom – DAFB) in all the treated variants.

DAFB)

(Sofi et al., 2006) (Misra et al., 2002; Satisha et al., 2007; Arabzadeh, 2009). (Masinovsky et al., 1992; Misra et al., 2011, 2012). a b , (Kauser et al. 2006, Abdalla and El-Koshiban 2007).

Key words: photosynthetic pigments (chlorophyll a , b , $a+b$, carotenoids), peach, bioproducts.

INTRODUCTION

Photosynthesis is the most important process in the biological system, determining the biomass production rate (Sofi et al., 2006) and it is the major physiological parameter influenced by the stress factors (Misra et al., 2002; Arabzadeh, 2009; Satisha et al., 2007). Chlorophyll is the main catalyst of photosynthesis and as a green pigment it is found in all the plant tissues having an effect on the photosynthetic process. The composition of chlorophyll is relatively unstable, i.e. it is broken down over time as a result of adverse environmental conditions (Masinovsky et al., 1992; Misra et al., 2011, 2012).

The photosynthetic pigments, chlorophyll a and b , play a significant role in the process of photosynthesis as they are responsible for the absorption of light and the transfer of excitation energy to chlorophyll molecules in the reaction centers. Under unfavourable conditions, the pigment content decreases from the optimal level in many plant species. Therefore, the low concentrations of chlorophyll can directly limit the photosynthetic potential of the plant. Plants reduce photosynthetic pigment content in dry periods because this is a mechanism for the prevention of photosynthetic apparatus damage by allowing less light to be absorbed (Kauser et al. 2006; Abdalla and El-Koshiban, 2007). Physiological, biochemical studies are necessary to evaluate the adaptability of fruit crops to the environment conditions.

The aim of the present study was to investigate how the content of the photosynthetic pigments – chlorophyll a , chlorophyll b , chlorophyll $a+b$ and carotenoids in the leaves of the peach cultivar ‘Glohaven’ changed during the

- vegetation period after treatment with
- Lumbreco, Agriful and Humustim bioproducts.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was carried out at the Fruit-Growing Institute in Plovdiv in a fruit-bearing peach orchard. The subject of the study was 'Glohaven' peach cultivar grafted on the vegetative rootstock GF677. Agriful was applied to soil as water solution at two rates of 1.0 and 2.0 L/da. Humustim was applied as a foliar fertilizer at three rates – 200, 240 and 300 ml/da. Lumbreco was introduced in three variants: I – soil application (2 L/da) II – combined: foliar nutrition (360 ml/da) + soil application (2 L/da) and III – foliar nutrition (1 L/da). Each of the variants was in three replications. The control was untreated.

The fertilization rates were introduced four times during the vegetation period, every 15-20 days from April to July inclusive.

During the vegetation season in 2019, leaf samples were collected for pigment analysis (Chl *a*, Chl *b* and Chl *a* + *b* and carotenoids). Samples were taken in dynamics on three dates: May 28th, July 11th and August 14th, i.e. 45, 70 and 105 days after full bloom (DAFB), respectively.

Chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*), chlorophyll *b* (Chl *b*) and carotenoids were determined spectrophotometrically, in an extract with 95% ethyl alcohol at 660 nm, 642.5 nm and 440 nm, respectively. Statistical processing of the results was performed by Duncan's test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The maximum photosynthesis in the peach leaves was reached at the end of April and lasted until the first days of July. Chlorophyll content varied during vegetation (Cappelini and Dettori, 1992). The results obtained about the effect of the bioproducts on the green pigments (Chl *a*, *b* and *a*+*b* and carotenoids) during vegetation are presented graphically in

GF677.
 2,0L/da.
 300 ml/da.
 : I – (2 L/da) III
 L/da).
 K
 15-20
 2019 .
 (. , .b . +b)
 : 28 , 11
 14 , 45, 70 105
 – DAFB.
 a (Chl *a*) b
 95%
 642.5nm 440nm 660nm,
 Duncan.

(Cappelini and Dettori, 1992).

(, b, a+b o)

(1, 2, 3 4).

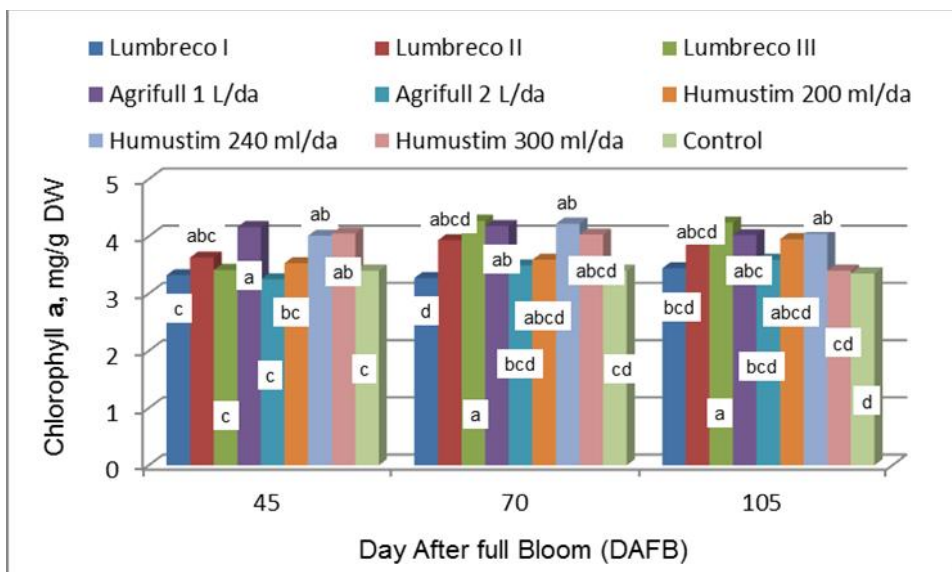


Fig. 1. Chlorophyll a content during vegetation (45, 70 and 105 DAFB) after treatment with Lumbreco, Agrifull and Humustim

The values obtained for chlorophyll a were in the range of 3,25 mg/g to 4,27 mg/g DW (Figure 1). On the first date of leaf sampling, 45 DAFB, the chlorophyll a content was lower, followed by a slight increase in its content at the stage of fruit growth (70 DAFB). The variant with Agrifull application at the rate of 1 L/da (4,16 mg/g DW) showed the highest value and statistically significant difference to the untreated control. The content of chlorophyll a increased insignificantly with the progress of vegetation period, probably due to its instability and its faster destruction under the influence of adverse factors during the aging process of the assimilation tissues. The lowest values throughout the vegetation season were reported in the variants of soil nutrition with Lumbreco (3,27 mg/g DW), 2,0 L/da of Agrifull (3,25 mg/g DW) and Humustim 200 ml/da (3,53 mg/g DW).

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mg/g DW),

the values obtained being comparable with those of the untreated control.

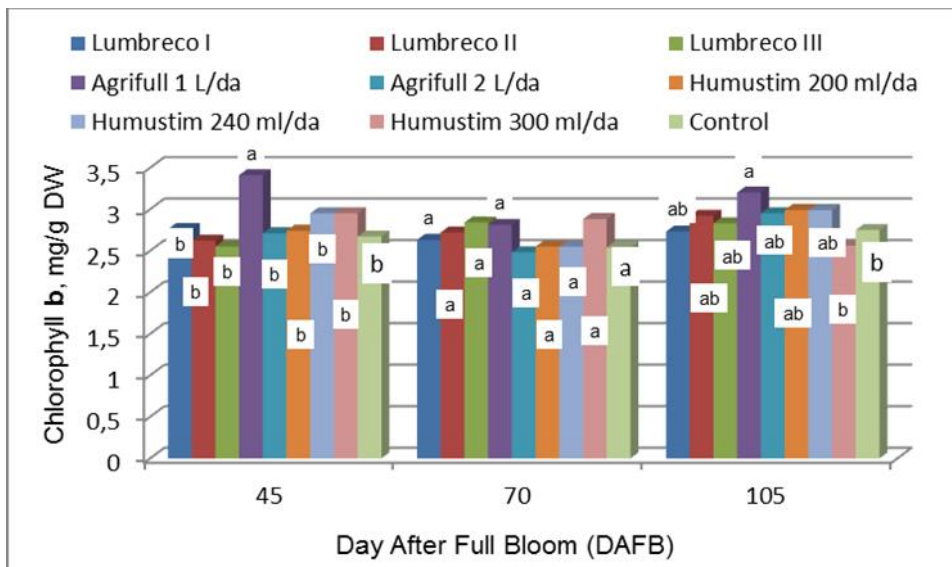


Fig. 2. Chlorophyll *b* content during vegetation (45, 70 and 105 DAFB) after treatment with Lumbreco, Agriful and Humustim

(Lichtenthaler et al., 1981, Green et al. 1991).
 (1 L/da)
 : 3,41 mg/g (45 DAFB)
 3,2 mg/g (105 DAFB).
 0,74 mg/g

Chlorophyll *b* regulates the degree of plant adaptation to higher light intensity and its content increases in the case of adaptation to darkness (Lichtenthaler et al., 1981, Green et al., 1991).
 The chlorophyll *b* content was lower than that of chlorophyll *a* (Figure 2). A positive effect during vegetation was established in all the variants with fertilization, but statistically significant differences were observed in the variant of fertilization with Agriful (1 L/da) on the first and third dates of leaf sampling, the values being: 3,41 mg/g (45 DAFB) and 3,2 mg/g (105 DAFB), respectively.
 The values were higher by about 0,74 mg/g compared to the control and to the other treated variants. The high rates of Humustim and Agriful application had an adverse effect on the green pigment content. The values obtained for

Humustim
 b
 : -
 2,56 mg/g (300ml/da Humustim)
 2,48 mg/g (Agriful 2 L/da), 2,54 mg/g
 (Control).

chlorophyll *b* after the application of
 Humustim and Agriful were comparable to
 those in the control plants: 2,56 mg/g (300
 ml/da of Humustim) and 2,48 mg/g
 (Agriful 2 L/da), respectively, vs 2,54 mg/g
 (untreated control).

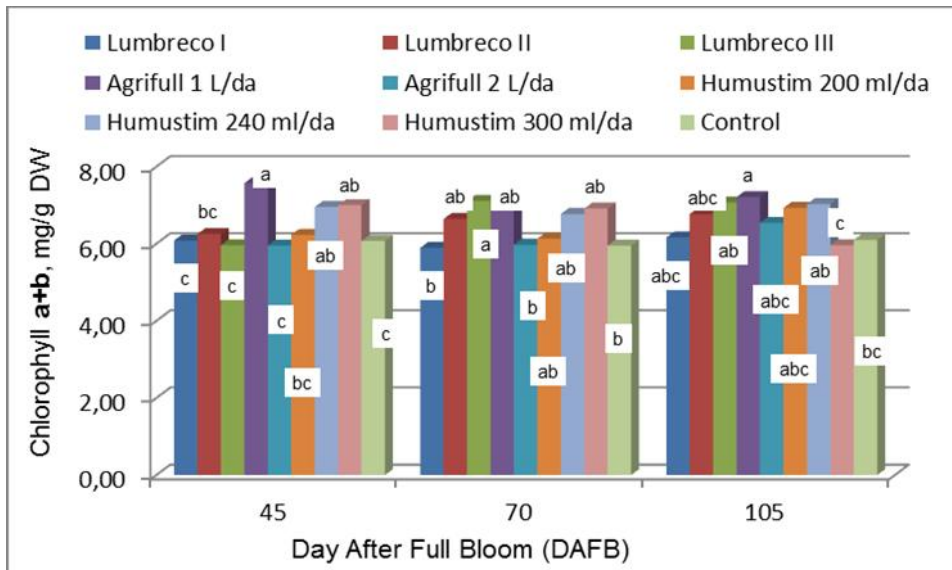


Fig. 3. Chlorophyll *a+b* content during vegetation (45, 70 and 105 DAFB) after treatment with Lumbreco, Agriful and Humustim

The results of the total chlorophyll content *a+b*, observed in dynamics, showed stability during the vegetation period in all the three variants of fertilization with the bioproducts (Agriful, Lumbreco and Humustim), which implies a good plant adaptation to the growing conditions. Quantitative data on the content of chlorophyll *a+b* during vegetation remained consistently high and in August they ranged from 5,96 to 7,21 mg/g DW (Figure 3). The studies showed a decrease in chlorophyll content *a+b* in July. At the fruit ripening stage, a decrease in the content of chlorophyll pigments was observed due to the gradual decrease of their biosynthesis.

The slight decrease in the content was observed after treatment with Agriful and

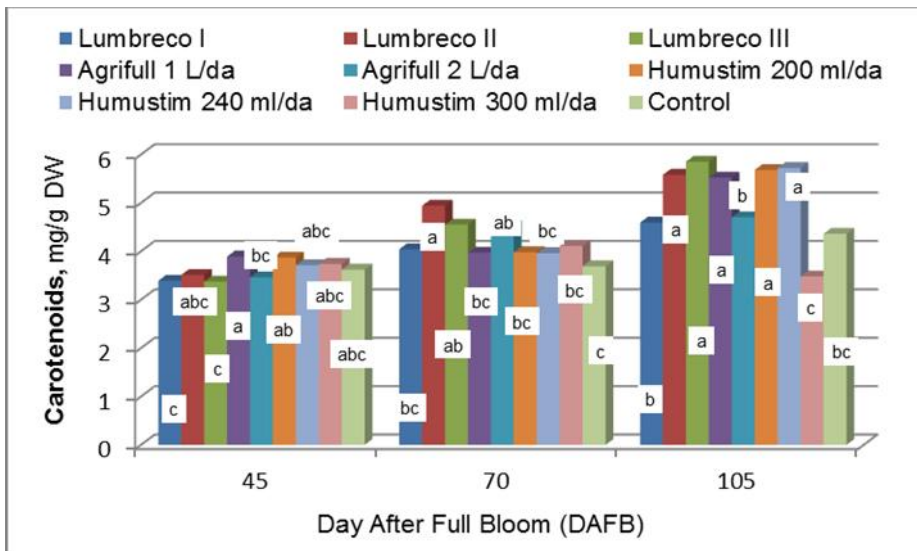
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The slight decrease in the content was observed after treatment with Agriful and

7,11 mg/g DW,

5,89

Lumbreco. The values ranged from 5,89 to 7,11 mg/g DW, which is rather a plant response to the effect of the high temperatures during that period.



4.

(45, 70 105

DAFB)

Fig. 4. Carotenoid content during vegetation (45, 70 and 105 DAFB) after treatment with Lumbreco, Agriful and Humustim

1988).

(Karnaukhov,

(105 DAFB)

3,48 mg/g

5,85 mg/g DW

(300 l/da)

– 5,58 mg/g,

Carotenoids are also an important element of the pigment complex. They protect chlorophylls from excess light and oxidation of oxygen produced by photosynthesis. The increased carotenoid accumulation under the unfavourable conditions during the summer vegetation period is necessary to stimulate adaptive responses and reduce overall plant stress (Karnaukhov, 1988). During vegetation, a gradual increase in carotenoid content was observed. The highest values were reported in August (105 DAFB) in all the fertilized variants and ranged from 3,48 mg/g for Humustim (300 ml/da) to 5,85 mg/g DW after foliar application of Lumbreco. The best results were reported after the application of Lumbreco foliar nutrition at the rate of 5,58 mg/g, combined application – 5,85 mg/g, as well as treatment with Agriful at the rate of 1

- 5,85 mg/g
 1l/da – 5,52mg/g DW,
 (3).

a b (Chl a/Chl b),
 -
 -
 -
 Chl a/Chl
 b. Chla /Chl b

2L/da Agrifful - 1,20mg/g DW
 () - 1,22 mg/g DW,
 (1).
 Chla /Chl b
 1,26 1,5 mg/g DW, -
 -
 Chla/Chlb

-
 (Terashima and Hikosaka, 1995).

a+b
 ,
 -
 -
 -
 Chl.

(+)/
 - 1,21mg/g;
 (1l/da) - 1,31mg/g
 200 l/da - 1,22mg/g.

b ,
 ,
 -
 -
 -
 +b/
 (1,4 1,8mg/g DW), (1).

L/da – 5,52 mg/g DW, the differences to the control being statistically significant (Figure 3).

An important parameter in physiological studies is the chlorophyll *a* to chlorophyll *b* ratio (Chl *a*/Chl *b*), characterizing the level of pigment system tolerance to light intensity. Sunlit leaves have a higher Chl *a*/Chl *b* ratio. The low value of Chl *a*/Chl *b* ratio was observed when applying the rate of 2 L/da of Agrifful (1,20 mg/g DW) and soil application of Lumbreco (1,22 mg/g DW), (Table 1).

In the other variants the Chl *a*/Chl *b* value was in the range of 1,26 to 1,5 mg/g DW, the highest being in the variant of foliar nutrition with Lumbreco. The higher values of the Chl *a*/Chl *b* ratio in the treated variants compared to the control plants can be explained as a response to the higher intracellular light intensity in the treated versus untreated peach plants (Terashima and Hikosaka, 1995).

The quantitative ratio of chlorophyll *a+b* to carotenoids is an indicator reflecting the degree of plant adaptation to the adverse environmental factors.

The smaller the ratio of chlorophylls to carotenoids, the more resistant is the plant. The lowest values of the ratio Chl *a+b* to carotenoids were reported in August in the variants of foliar nutrition with Lumbreco – 1,21 mg/g; Agrifful (1 L/da) – 1,31 mg/g and Humustim at a rate of 200 ml/da – 1,22 mg/g.

In those fertilization variants, the plants adapted by synthesizing more chlorophyll *b* and carotenoids, protecting chlorophyll *a* from excess light absorption, which is typical in August. The other fertilization variants showed mean values of the ratio chlorophyll *a+b* to carotenoids (1,4 to 1.8 mg/g DW), (Table 1).

+b/ 1. **Chl.a/Chl.b** **Chl**
(45, 70 105 **DAFB)**

Table 1. Mean values of the ratio Chl a/Chl b and Chl a+b to carotenoids during the vegetation period (45, 70, and 105 DAFB) after treatment with Lumbreco, Agrifull and Humustim

Variants	Lumbreco I	Lumbreco II	Lumbreco III	Agrifull 1L/da	Agrifull 2L/da	Humustim 200ml/da	Humustim 240ml/da	Humustim 300ml/da	Control
45 Day After Full Bloom									
a/b	1,22	1,38	1,33	1,22	1,20	1,29	1,36	1,37	1,28
Chl.(a+b)/carot.	1,79	1,78	1,77	1,96	1,72	1,62	1,88	1,88	1,68
70 Day After Full Bloom									
a/b	1,39	1,47	1,46	1,41	1,40	1,41	1,39	1,40	1,44
Chl.(a+b)/carot.	1,52	1,42	1,56	1,61	1,50	1,55	1,74	1,62	1,54
105 Day After Full Bloom									
a/b	1,26	1,32	1,50	1,26	1,26	1,33	1,35	1,35	1,22
Chl.(a+b)/carot.	1,35	1,21	1,21	1,31	1,39	1,22	1,23	1,80	1,40

The data obtained show that most likely the bioactive components and potassium humates contained in organic fertilizers, favoured the accumulation and maintenance of chlorophyll in the leaves during the vegetation period of peach, which led to improved photosynthetic activity of the plants, and hence to better adaptability of the plants to the growing conditions.

CONCLUSIONS

The variation of chlorophyll pigments during vegetation is insignificant. The best results about the content of chlorophyll a, b and a+b were reported in the variants of Lumbreco foliar application and soil application of Agrifull at the rate of 1 L/da.

The high fertilization rates of Agrifull and Humustim bioproducts had an adverse effect on the green pigment content. The highest values for carotenoids were reported in August (105 DAFB) in all the fertilization variants.

In the variants of foliar and combined application of Lumbreco, as well as in the variant of Agrifull applied at

+ /	Chl. the rate of 1 L/da, an optimal ratio of Chl <i>a+b</i> to carotenoids was reported, - reflecting the degree of plant adaptation to . the adverse environmental factors.
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