

902 2291

GERMINABILITY OF SWEET PEPPER IN RELATION  
TO FRUIT MATURITY

15. 220 970 27.2

By  
MOHSIN HASSAN YAGHMOUR  
B. Sc. Ain Shams University  
1962



Thesis  
Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of  
MASTER IN SCIENCE

3740

Plant Production Department  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Ain Shams University



1970

This Thesis for the M.Sc. Degree has been  
revised by:

.....*M. L. Lush*.....

.....*J. H. L. Lush*.....

.....*J. H. L. Lush*.....

revised: / /1970



### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The writer wishes to express his great appreciation and gratitude to Professor Dr. M.A. Moursi, Professor of Horticulture and Fungus M. Gora lecture in Horticulture, for his constant supervision this work was undertaken. Thanks are also due to him for his assistance and precious advice for invaluable help in study and preparation of this work.

Sincere thanks are also due to Dr. H.M. Taha, Assistant Prof., Botany Dept., and Dr. D.M. El-Hariri, Member in National Research Centre.

Greatest thanks are also due to all who have given help and facilities to carry out this work.

-----

## C O N T E N T S

|                                                                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION                                                                                                        | 1  |
| REVIEW OF LITERATURE                                                                                                | 2  |
| MATERIALS AND METHODS                                                                                               | 12 |
| RESULTS AND DISCUSSION                                                                                              | 18 |
| a- Seasonal changes in some characters of<br>pepper fruit and its components                                        | 18 |
| 1- Seasonal changes in the fruit                                                                                    | 18 |
| b- Seasonal changes in moisture percentage                                                                          |    |
| c- Seasonal changes in some characters of seeds                                                                     |    |
| d- Seasonal changes in the area of the tissues<br>of the different parts of seeds                                   | 20 |
| e- Seasonal changes in the color of fruits<br>and seeds of pepper                                                   | 22 |
| b- Effect of soaking pepper seeds in growth<br>regulators solutions                                                 | 27 |
| 1- Effect of I.A.A.                                                                                                 | 27 |
| a- Effect of I.A.A. concentration on<br>germination percentage, germination<br>capacity, and germination rate index | 28 |
| b- Effect of time of soaking on germination<br>percentage, germination capacity and<br>germination rate index       | 37 |
| c- Effect of I.A.A. on seedling vigorosity                                                                          |    |
| d- Effect of time of soaking on seedling<br>vigorosity                                                              |    |

1- Effect of C.A.

- a- Effect of C.A. concentration on germination percentage, germination capacity and rate index
- b- Effect of time of soaking on germination percentage, germination capacity and rate index
- c- Effect of C.A. on seedling vigour
- d- Effect of time of soaking on seedling vigour

2- Effect of I.P.A.

- a- Effect of I.P.A. concentration on germination percentage, germination capacity and germination rate index
- b- Effect of time of soaking on germination percentage, germination capacity and germination rate index
- c- Effect of I.P.A. on seedling vigour
- d- Effect of time of soaking on seedling vigour

3- Effect of 2,4-D

- a- Effect of 2,4-D concentration on germination percentage and rate index
- b- Effect of time of soaking period
- c- Effect of 2,4-D on seedling vigour

4- SUMMARY

5- LITERATURE CITED

6- BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

## I - INTRODUCTION

For several reasons it is very important to attain the optimum stage of maturity in both the fruit and the seed at the time of harvest. It is important also to know the effect of the maturity stage of the seeds upon germination. In many cases a period of several days elapses between the first appearance of the seeds of ripening of seeds. So, it is very useful to know the most profitable stage to harvest the pepper plants. The stage of fruit and seed maturity of pepper plants is related to their keeping quality. It is necessary to know the best stages at which the seed can be harvested without any reduction in germination capacity, longevity and vigor of seedlings.

This work was designed to investigate the seasonal changes in the germination percentage of seeds of pepper plants. Particular attention was given to the effect of storing pepper seeds at different concentrations of some growth regulators on the germination percentage and vigorosity of seedlings.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Seasonal changes in the germination of seeds.

There is a great difference in germination of seeds of different crops with their advancement towards maturity. For example, in Brassica alba the testa prevented germination when the seeds were green as indicated by Kidd and West (1926). As the seeds ripened and turned yellow the seed coat was less effective in preventing germination until, with complete maturity, no appreciable influence was shown.

Sweet corn seeds harvested 13 to 55 days from silks and which showed low germination in very immature seeds as reported by Walker (1933). After 31 days from silks the seeds showed excellent germination was obtained. The conclusion was that good germination and strong plants could be obtained from quite immature but fairly well developed seeds that had been well cured and properly stored.

The relation of moisture content and time of harvest was investigated by Sprague (1936). He revealed that sweet corn seeds became capable of germination with an increase of moisture to approximately 25 percent.

Dechran (1937) pointed out that the young crop in

... four-celled embryo, which develops to a stage ...  
... of the mature embryo. The embryo ...  
... well in advance of those of the embryo ...  
... the entire embryo sac. The endosperm is ...  
... by the embryo, however, at maturity a large portion  
... still remains.

... samples of each species were taken at stages of  
... from that at which the flowers are still on the  
... the various stages of maturity after fertilization.  
... within the family composite ...  
... in the flowering stage ... did not ...  
... (1978).

... (1973) concluded that the stage of ripeness  
... has a direct effect upon the germination of the  
... seeds. Seeds planted immediately upon removal from  
... did not give more than 6.1 percent germination  
... the fruits had ripened sufficiently to be at least  
... only 12.7 percent of their seeds germinated. ...  
... as well as those which had remained on the plant  
... were dark red and shriveled yielded seeds ...  
... germination capacity.

... (1949) compared the seeds from mature ...

immature fruit picked when sufficiently mature. Seeds from mature squashes germinated 91 percent and weighed 7.2 grams/100 seeds, seeds from immature fruit germinated only 17 percent and weighed 5.42 grams/100 seeds.

Ali and Mahmoud (1952) working on California Wonder found that complete germination was achieved at the time when color had started to develop. Fruits of

marketable size at this time. The seed weight in relation to total fresh fruit weight ranged from 1.20 to 2.01. Fruits reached their marketable size at 10 days after anthesis, at which color had developed fully. The rate of germination followed the same general trend. The fruits started to change color, however at 36 days. The percentage of germination of 50 percent had been obtained from seeds obtained from fruits 43 or more days after anthesis. Complete germination was obtained from seeds obtained from fruits 36 days after anthesis. The rate of germination in relation to fresh fruit weight ranged from 1.20 to 2.01. It was noted that the development was slower than in the two mentioned previously.

Warrington (1952) working on muskmelon, found that after anthesis the percentage germination of the seeds was low and it increased steadily to 77 percent when it was harvested after 37 days from anthesis. The more mature the seeds up to 42 days, the higher was the germination.

Warrington (1959) indicated that peppers harvested before the red-ripe stage and then after ripened had thinner pericarp, less soluble matter and provitamin A, but more ash and carotene than those picked at the red-ripe stage.

Warrington (1960) noticed special features on the development of the embryo sac and division of the vegetative nucleus in the pollen tube.

Warrington (1961) concluded that the germination percentage of water-melon, sweet-melon, water-melon and squash increased steadily and consistently with age. He suggested that the seeds of these crops did not germinate till they reached a certain stage of development.

Warrington (1961) working on red pepper found that the date of flowering of the first flower and that of ripening of the first fruit were found to be the most reliable indicators of the stage of development.

Gordon (1962) demonstrated that sweet pepper seeds in different stages of ripening were of varying vigor. Germination capacity and seed vigorosity increased with ripening. The maximum weight, growing energy of seeds and productivity of seeds progeny occurred when seeds were 20-40 days old and decreased at 50 days.

Seeds in a fruit germinated till the 7th, 8th to 10th and 14th day after flower anthesis for vegetable marrow, cowpea and okra fruits respectively as shown by Hour 71- in Figure 1. She pointed out that the radicle length of vegetable marrow, cowpea and okra increased with the advancement of seeds maturity. She added that the germination percentage and the length of the fruits increased considerably for vegetable marrow, cowpea and pea fruits.

Simovska (1964) showed that seeds of several pepper varieties that had been stored in sacks showed that the total germination percentage and germinating power were high in 5 years old seeds, remained good in 5 years old seeds but decreased sharply after 7 years.

Spaldon and Pevné (1964) pointed out that the germination power and percentage, seed weight, plant productivity and seed weight were studied in two *Capsicum* varieties, 'Red

Seeds were obtained from fruits picked at various stages of maturity and extracted 1-5 days after picking. The seeds were stored after picking and after drying in a tobacco bag for 1-5 days. The qualitative characters of the seeds had no effect on productivity. Without post-harvest aftertreatment, only seeds from fully mature or nearly mature fruit had satisfactory germination.

Grillo (1965) reported that at the beginning of the ripening stage, the cavity of the pepper fruit contains 15.4 - 16.4%  $CO_2$  and 16.4 - 18.5%  $O_2$ . After fruit ripening the amount of  $CO_2$  gradually increased to 21.5 - 22.5% after 10 days, and that of  $O_2$  increased to 15.5 - 16.5%. This respiration probably stimulated viability of pepper seeds and promoted their germination inside overripe fruits.

Grillo (1966) cleared that the quality of sweet pepper seeds varies considerably. Seeds from the fruits located on the main stem and the branches of the 1st and 2nd orders had different physical and biological properties. During the 1st 10 days of maturity, the seed quality gradually improved.

Barry (1968) pointed out that the embryo passed through a series of discrete morphological stages which involved first the formation of the suspensor and the shoot

the formation of a seed prior to, the embryo proper, the cotyledon, and the shoot primordia. The process from zygote to mature embryo requires many days. During embryo development, especially the latter part of the cotyledons, the endosperm tissue was directly utilized by the embryo. Thus the endosperm was used up as high the embryo developed. When the embryo was mature, the endosperm may be all gone.

Effect of treating seeds with growth regulators on the germination percentage of seeds and seedling vigour.

Treating seeds with growth regulators gained considerable interest in the last two decades. The literature dealing with the effect of soaking pepper seeds in a solution of growth regulators is quite scarce. Consequently, the literature dealing with other yield crops was reviewed.

Cochran (1935) showed that soaking pepper seeds for 24 hours in tap water at 71° F previous to planting resulted in little or no increase in speed of germination. In three of the 10 comparisons the treatment increased the germination percentage.

Studies in moist chambers carried out by Allen and

It was shown that 2,4-D was found to a low concentration in the seeds of many species of plants, and in the leaves and cereal species.

Experiments carried out by Hsueh and others (1953) showed that the normal germination of many seeds was inhibited by a low concentration of 2,4-D. It was found that this inhibition occurs when certain seeds are treated with a solution containing as low as 1 p.p.m.

Experiments carried out by Hsueh and others (1953) showed that the growth of seeds treated with 2,4-D at low concentrations (0.01 p.p.m.) was inhibited; but at higher concentrations (0.1 p.p.m.) it was stimulated. This was reported by Schenck (1953).

Experiments carried out by Schenck (1953) on pepper found that the treatment of seeds with 2,4-D at low concentrations (0.01 p.p.m.) stimulated vegetative growth, and accelerated fruiting. This was reported by Schenck (1953).

Schenck (1955) on pepper found that the treatment of seeds with 2,4-D at low concentrations (0.01 p.p.m.) stimulated vegetative growth, and accelerated fruiting. This was reported by Schenck (1953).

Schenck (1955) on pepper found that the treatment of seeds with 2,4-D at low concentrations (0.01 p.p.m.) stimulated vegetative growth, and accelerated fruiting. This was reported by Schenck (1953).