

**STUDIES ON ABSORPTION OF SOME MINERAL ELEMENTS
AND BIOCHEMICAL COMPONENTS OF SUGAR BEET
PLANTS UNDER CONDITIONS OF
POTASSIUM FERTILIZATION**

By

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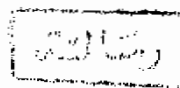
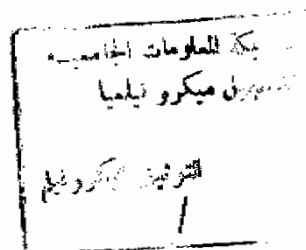
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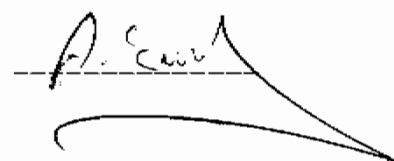
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ABSTRACT

Three pot experiments were carried out to evaluate the effect of fertilization along with mycorrhizal inoculation on growth and yield as well as nutritional status and some biochemical constituents of sugar-beet plants.

Obtained data indicated that, fertilization with nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium usually increased the dry matter content of studied plants and their nutrient uptake as well as carbohydrates status, the effect being dependent on both source and rate of applied fertilizer with growth stage being also effective. Different trend was obtained with mycorrhizal inoculation which seemed to be hazardous for studied sugar beet plants particularly what concerning sucrose of roots; again, effect was relatively dependent on source and rate of applied fertilizer as well as growth stage of concerned plants.

Finally, it may be worth to mention that invertase enzyme appeared to be almost not affected with either fertilization system or mycorrhizal inoculation. Of course, such trend may be a resultant of several factors dealing with metabolic activities within different plant tissues.

KEY WORDS

Sugar beet plants

Nitrogen fertilization

Phosphorus fertilization

Potassium fertilization

Plant growth

Pigments

Reducing sugars

Sucrose

Total soluble sugars

Total carbohydrates

N-status in plants

P-status in plants

K-status in plants

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4
2.1. Fertilization	4
2.1.1. Plant growth, nutritional status and carbohydrate metabolism	4
2.1.1.1. Nitrogen fertilization.....	4
2.1.1.2. Phosphorus fertilization....	8
2.1.1.3. Potassium fertilization.....	10
2.1.2. Pigments and enzymes	13
2.1.2.1. Pigments	14
2.1.2.2. Enzymes	16
2.2. Mycorrhizal inoculation	17
2.2.1. Plant growth, nutritional status and carbohydrate metabolism	17
2.2.2. Pigments and enzymes	27
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	28
3.1. Experimentation	28
3.2. Plant sampling	30
3.3. Chemical analysis of plant samples	31
3.3.1. Photosynthetic pigments	31
3.3.2. Activity of invertase enzyme	32
3.3.3. Carbohydrate fractions	32
3.3.4. Elements N, P and K	33

CONTENTS (Cont'd.)

	Page
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	34
4.1. Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM inoculation on behaviour of sugar beet plant.	34
4.1.1. Dry matter	34
4.1.2. Photosynthetic pigments	40
4.1.3. Carbohydrate fractions	42
a- Reducing sugars	42
b- Sucrose	45
c- Total soluble sugars	48
d- total carbohydrates	51
4.1.4. Acid invertase enzyme	53
4.1.5. Nutritional status	54
4.1.5.1. Nutrient content	54
a- Nitrogen	56
b- Phosphorus	57
c- Potassium	58
4.1.5.2. Nutrient uptake	58
a- Nitrogen	58
b- Phosphorus	60
c- Potassium	61
4.2. Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM inoculation on behaviour of sugar beet plant.....	68
4.2.1. Dry matter	68
4.2.2. Photosynthetic pigments	73
4.2.3. Carbohydrates fractions.	75
a- Reducing sugars	75
b- Sucrose	77
c- Total soluble sugars	79
d- total carbohydrates	81

CONTENTS (Cont'd.)

	Page
4.2.4. Acid invertase enzyme	83
4.2.5. Nutritional status	84
4.2.5.1. Nutrients content	84
a- Nitrogen	84
b- Phosphorus	86
c- Potassium	87
4.2.5.2. Nutrients uptake	87
a- Nitrogen	87
b- Phosphorus	89
c- Potassium	90
4.3. Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM inoculation on behaviour of sugar beet plants.	92
4.3.1. Dry matter	92
4.3.2. Photosynthetic pigments	96
4.3.3. Carbohydrates fractions.	98
a- Reducing sugars	98
b- Sucrose	101
c- Total soluble sugars	103
d- total carbohydrates	105
4.3.4. Acid invertase enzyme	107
4.3.5. Nutritional status	108
4.3.5.1. Nutrients content	108
a- Nitrogen	108
b- Phosphorus	110
c- Potassium	111
4.3.5.2. Nutrients uptake	111
a- Nitrogen	111
b- Phosphorus	113
c- Potassium	113

CONTENTS (Cont'd.)

	Page
5. SUMMARY	117
6. REFERENCES	126

ARABIC SUMMARY.

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
1	Some physical and chemical properties of the selected soil	29
2	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the dry matter content (g/plant) of both shoot and root of sugar beet plants	35
3	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the pigments content (mg/g dry matter) of sugar beet plants after 60 days from planting	41
4	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of reducing sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	43
5	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the sucrose percentage (on dry weight basis) of sugar beet plants	46
6	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total soluble sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	49
7	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total carbohydrates (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	52
8	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the content of N, P and K (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants.	55
9	Effect of nitrogen fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the uptake of N, P and K (mg/plant) by sugar beet plants....	59

LIST OF TABLES (Cont'd.)

Table No.		Page
10	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the dry matter content (g/plant) of both shoot and root of sugar beet plants.	69
11	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the pigments content (mg/g dry matter) of sugar beet after 60 days from planting	74
12	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of reducing sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	76
13	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the sucrose percentage (on dry weight basis) of sugar beet plants	78
14	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total soluble sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	80
15	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total carbohydrates (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	82
16	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the content of N, P and K (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants.	85
17	Effect of phosphorus fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the uptake of N, P and K (mg/plant) by sugar beet plants	88
18	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the dry matter content (g/plant) of both shoot and root of sugar beet plants	93

LIST OF TABLES (Cont'd.)

Table No.		Page
19	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the pigments content (mg/g dry matter) of sugar beetplants ...	97
20	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of reducing sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	99
21	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the sucrose percentage (on dry weight basis) of sugar beet plants.	102
22	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total soluble sugars (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	104
23	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the percentage of total carbohydrates (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants	106
24	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the content of N, P and K (on dry weight basis) in sugar beet plants.	108
25	Effect of potassium fertilization and VAM (M) inoculation on the uptake of N, P and K (mg/plant) by sugar beet plants	112

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Sugar-beet represents one of the sugar crops expected to be greatly economical in Egypt. This crop is known to be affected by several factors one of which is fertilization practice particularly what concerning potassium which is well-known to be a nutrient having roles in synthesis and translocation of carbohydrates. In fact, sugar beet is classified as a plant that has a high requirement for potassium; more potassium is usually absorbed by sugar beet than any other mineral nutrient element.

More nitrogen is usually required by plants than for any of the other essential mineral nutrients. It is an essential constituent for several metabolites including proteins, amides, amino acids along with nucleic acids as well as chlorophyll.

Phosphorus is one of the essential nutrients present in the plant both in inorganic form and in organic combinations. Inorganic phosphate is found in sugar beet at a concentration of about 60 percent of the total phosphorus in the harvested roots and about 40 percent of the total phosphorus in leaf blades. The organic compounds that contain phosphorus include several metabolites such