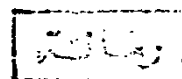


**EFFECT OF SOME CULTURAL PRACTICES ON YIELD,
QUALITY AND NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF TOMATO**

By

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ABSTRACT

Tomato plants of Super Marmand and Peto 86 cultivars were grown in field with 3 N levels (50, 100 and 200 kg N/fed.) and 3 N Sources ($[(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4]$, NH_4NO_3 and $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$), using the split - split plot design. The experiments were carried out in 1989 and 1990 early summer seasons, to study these factors on yield, quality and nutritional value of tomato. The obtained results indicated that Super Marmand plants had more vegetative growth, number of clusters, fruit set ratio, total yield, fruit size and fruit physiological disorders compared to Peto 86 cv. which produced fruit having the higher firmness, T.S.S., titratable acidity and ascorbic acid contents. Whereas, the cultivar had no significant effects on number of branches stem diameter, N,P,K, carbohydrates (in plant tissues), NO_3 and chlorophyll (in leaves), N,P,K,Mg, Ca and NO_3 (in fruits).

Increasing N level increased plant growth, mineral and carbohydrates content (in plant tissues), leaf chlorophyll and yield, but decreased textural and appearance fruit quality, ascorbic acid content and fruit shelf life. The application of $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ gave more plant growth, N content of plant organs, yield, fruit T.S.S., titratable acidity, ascorbic acid content and shelf life period. As for NH_4NO_3 influence, it increased fruit set ratio per cluster and plant, fruit size and K content in plant and fruit. The addition of calcium nitrate raised plant P and carbohydrates as well as fruit Mg, Ca and NO_3^- contents.

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	33
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	41
4.1. Plant growth	41
4.1.1. Morphological characters	41
4.1.1.1. Plant height	41
4.1.1.2. Leaf number	45
4.1.1.3. Number of branches	49
4.1.1.4. Stem diameter	53
4.1.1.5. Leaf area index	56
4.1.2. Fresh and dry weight	60
4.2. Chemical composition of the plant	76
4.2.1. Mineral content	76
4.2.2. Chlorophyll content	91
4.2.3. Total carbohydrates	93
4.3. Flowering and fruit set	98
4.4. Yield	105
4.5. Fruit quality.	110
4.5.1. Appearance and textural quality....	110
4.5.2. Chemical composition of fruit	115
4.5.2.1. Mineral content	115
4.5.2.2. T.S.S., acidity and ascorbic acid	123
4.6. Shelf life	129
5. SUMMARY	135
6. REFERENCES	143
7. ARABIC SUMMARY	---

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LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Mechanical and chemical analysis of soil at the experimental sites.....	34
2	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant height (cm) after 25 days from transplanting	42
3	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant height (cm) after 50 days from transplanting.....	43
4	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant height (cm) after 75 days from transplanting.	44
5	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato leaves number after 25 days from transplanting.	46
6	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato leaves number after 50 days from transplanting.	47
7	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato leaves number after 75 days from transplanting.	48
8	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on number of main branches of tomato plants after 25 days from transplanting.....	50
9	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on number of main branches of tomato plants after 50 days from transplanting.....	51
10	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on number of main branches of tomato plants after 75 days from transplanting.....	52
11	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant stem diameter (cm) after 50 days from transplanting.....	54
12	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant stem diameter (cm) after 75 days from transplanting.	55

13	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant leaf area index (cm ²) after 25 days from transplanting.....	57
14	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant leaf area index (cm ²) after 50 days from transplanting.....	58
15	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato plant leaf area index (cm ²) after 75 days from transplanting.	59
16	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on roots fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	61
17	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on roots fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	62
18	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on roots dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	63
19	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on roots dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	64
20	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoots fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	65
21	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoots fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	66
22	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoots dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	67
23	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoots dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	68
24	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaves fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	69
25	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaves fresh weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	70
26	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaves dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 50 days from transplanting.....	71

27	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaves dry weight (gm.) of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	72
28	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on root nitrogen per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	77
29	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoot nitrogen per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	78
30	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaf nitrogen per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	79
31	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaf nitrate per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	80
32	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on root phosphorus per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	81
33	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoot phosphorus per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	82
34	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaf phosphorus per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	83
35	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on root potassium per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	84
36	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on shoot potassium per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	85
37	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on leaf potassium per cent of tomato plants at 75 days from transplanting	86
38	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total leaf chlorophyll content of tomato plant after 50 and 75 days from transplanting in 1990 season (mg/dm ²).....	92
39	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total root carbohydrates per cent of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	94
40	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total shoot carbohydrates per cent of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	95

41	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total leaf carbohydrates per cent of tomato plant after 75 days from transplanting.....	96
42	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on number of clusters per plant of tomato plants...	99
43	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato fruit set ratio per cluster (per cent)...	100
44	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato fruit set ratio per plant (per cent).....	101
45	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato fruit yield (kg/plant).....	106
46	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total yield of tomato plants (Ton/feddan).....	107
47	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato fruit volume (cm ³).....	111
48	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on the percentage of some physiological disorders of tomato fruits	112
49	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on tomato fruits firmness (lbs/dm ²)	113
50	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on total nitrogen per cent of tomato fruit.....	116
51	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on phosphorus per cent of tomato fruit.....	117
52	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on potassium per cent of tomato fruit.....	118
53	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on magnesium per cent of tomato fruit.....	119
54	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on calcium per cent of tomato fruit.....	120
55	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on nitrate per cent of tomato fruit.....	121
56	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on the total soluble solids (T.S.S. per cent) of tomato fruit.....	125
57	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on the titratable acidity per cent of tomato fruit.	126
58	Effect of cultivar, N level and form on the ascorbic acid content (mg/100 gm.) of tomato fruit.....	127

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Fig. No.</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	Effect of fruit age after anthesis on calcium content	124
2	Effect of cultivar on tomato fruit shelf life	130
3	Effect of nitrogen fertilizer level on tomato fruit shelf life.....	131
4	Effect of nitrogen fertilizer form on tomato fruit shelf life.....	132

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INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Tomatoes are Egypt's most important vegetable crop in value and acreage. The annual cultivated areas is estimated to be more than 400,000 feddans* amounting to about 40% of the total vegetable area. Egypt tomato soils do not contain enough of most nutrients needed for tomato production, especially nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium which must be added. Plant vigour generally increases with the supply of nitrogen, but the yield usually increases with the moderate dressings of this element.

The response to applied nitrogen depends not only on the initial nitrogen content of the soil but also on immobilization or mineralization of nitrogen, or denitrification, during cropping. Realizing these facts, investigations have been focused on the study of influence of nitrogen form, nitrogen level and cultivars on yield, quality and nutritional value of tomato.

In recent years, many farmers and tomato producers have got accustomed to supply heavy nitrogen fertilizers to obtain high tomato yield. But, the influence of such heavy

* Ministry of Agriculture, 1987-1989.

N fertilization on the quality and (or) chemical composition of fruit should be investigated.

Bearing in mind all the above points, the present study was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of nitrogen level and form, along with cutlivars, on tomato yield and fruit quality.