

EFFECT OF WEED COMPETITION ON WHEAT YIELD

By

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B. Sc. Agric. Sci. (Agronomy), Fac. Agric., Cairo Univ., Egypt, 2004

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تأثير منافسة الحشائش على محصول القمح

رسالة مقدمة من

مي حسين محمد العطار

بكالوريوس في العلوم الزراعية (محاصيل) – كلية الزراعة - جامعة القاهرة، ٢٠٠٤

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were carried out at Giza Agricultural Research Station (ARC), during the two successive winter seasons 2006/07 and 2007/08. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of grassy weeds competition especially *Avena spp.*, broad leaved weeds competition especially *Ammi majus* and the competition of total annual weeds, on wheat growth, yield and its components and grain quality. Results revealed that the reduction in wheat yield due to the broad leaved weeds was 32.5% and 25.7%, when grassy weeds were controlled by hand weeding. Concerning the reduction in wheat yield due to grassy weeds it was 43.5% and 38.6%. The reduction in wheat yield due to wild oat as dominant grassy weed alone caused 44.5% and 42.9%. While, the reduction in wheat yield due to the predominated weed *Ammi majus* as broad leaved weed alone caused 15.5% and 17.6%, whereas the reduction in wheat yield due to total annual weeds caused 50.5 % and 51.0 %, in the first and second seasons, respectively. Increasing in grain yield due to grassy weeds were controlled by hand weeding was 36.4% and 51.5 %, when broad leaved weed were controlled by hand weeding increased in grain yield was 14.1 % and 25.2 %. The increasing in grain yield due to *Avena spp.* as grassy weed alone was 12.1 % and 16.5 %. The increasing in grain yield due to *Ammi majus* as broad leaved weed alone was 70.7 % and 68.0%, in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Key words: Wheat, weed competition, grassy weeds, broad leaved weeds, herbicides, hand weeding .

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المستخلص العربي

تم زراعة التجربة الحقلية لهذه الدراسة في محطة البحوث الزراعية بالجيزة خلال موسمي ٢٠٠٦/٢٠٠٧ و ٢٠٠٧/٢٠٠٨ بهدف دراسة تأثير بعض معاملات مكافحة الحشائش خلال الفترة الحرجة لمنافسة الحشائش لمحصول القمح وبخاصة حشيشه الزمير كحشيشه نجيلية وحشيشه الخلة كحشيشه عريضة الأوراق وتأثير منافسة الحشائش الكلية على بعض صفات النمو و المحصول ومكوناته وجودة الحبوب في محصول القمح . بينت النتائج أن النقص الناتج في محصول القمح بسبب الحشائش عريضة الأوراق ٣٢,٥ % و ٢٥,٧ %، على التوالي في كلا الموسمين، عندما تم مكافحة الحشائش النجيلية بالنقاوة اليدوية . وكان النقص في محصول القمح بسبب الحشائش النجيلية بمقدار ٤٣,٥ % و ٣٨,٦ %، على التوالي في كلا الموسمين عندما تم مكافحة الحشائش عريضة الأوراق بالنقاوة اليدوية. كان النقص في محصول القمح بسبب حشيشه الزمير بمفردها ٤٤,٥ % و ٤٢,٩ %، على التوالي في كلا الموسمين . بينما، النقص في محصول القمح بسبب وجود حشيشه الخلة بمفردها كان ١٥,٥ % و ١٧,٦ %، على التوالي في كلا الموسمين ، بينما النقص في محصول القمح عند ترك الحشائش الكلية دون مكافحة كان ٥٠,٥ % و ٥١,٠ %، على التوالي، في كلا الموسمين. وكانت الزيادة في محصول القمح بسبب مكافحة الحشائش النجيلية بالنقاوة اليدوية ٣٦,٤ % و ٥١,٥ %، على التوالي، في كلا الموسمين ، عندما تم مكافحة الحشائش عريضة الأوراق بالنقاوة اليدوية كانت الزيادة في محصول القمح ١٤,١ % و ٢٥,٢ % وكانت الزيادة في محصول القمح بسبب ترك حشيشه الزمير بمفردها ١٢,١ % و ١٦,٥ %، على التوالي، في كلا الموسمين . وكانت الزيادة في محصول القمح بسبب ترك حشيشه الخلة بمفردها ٧٠,٧ % و ٦٨,٠ %، على التوالي، في كلا الموسمين.

الكلمات الدالة : القمح، منافسة الحشائش، الحشائش النجيلية، الحشائش عريضة الأوراق، المبيدات، النقاوة اليدوية .

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my father Hussein who passed away, for providing the solid foundation for my life. I also dedicate this work to whom my heart felt thanks; to my mother Sanaa for her patience and help, as well as to my brothers for all the support they lovely offered along the period of my post graduation.

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INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the most important cereal crops in Egypt and the world, because it is used for making bread, bakeries, and some industrial purposes. In Egypt, the cultivated area all over the country in 2008 / 2009 season computed to 2,944,924 feddans, where the grain yield averaged out to 18.6 ardab per feddan (FAO, 2009). There is a large gap between wheat production and the total human consumption. Therefore, efforts are made to minimize the gap between production and human consumption, through increasing grain yield /area and extending cultivated wheat area. Weed control comes, among agricultural practices, in the front to raise up grain yield / unit area.

There are large numbers of different weed species that commonly exist within wheat fields. Weeds associated with wheat reduce wheat yields through competition, particularly in the early stages of crop development (Wilson *et al.*, 1985). Weeds compete with wheat for light, nutrients and moisture. Certain weeds may also reduce wheat yields through increased lodging, while some can host wheat diseases and pests. Green weeds during wheat grain ripening maturation and at harvest can delay harvest and reduce its efficiency.

The most problematic weeds are those from the same family as wheat, *i.e.* the *Poaceae* (*Gramineae*) especially wild oat. Grassy weeds are often well adapted to the same ecological niches and farming systems commonly used for wheat production. Their requirements in terms of nutrients and canopy structure are similar to wheat, therefore,

are very competitive. *Avena spp.* is a very competitive grassy weed with wheat crop. Increased *Avena spp.* populations usually reduce both protein content and yield (Wimschneider *et al.*,1990).

The reduction in wheat grain yield by weeds ranges between 44.0 and 60.0 % (Dallas and John,1992 and EL – Maghraby *et al.*,1995). Mohammad and Noorul-haq, 2002, in Pakistan, found that grassy weeds decreased wheat crop by 30.0 %, but broad leaved weed decreased wheat crop by 24.0%. Many investigators (Abd El-Hamid *et al.* 1998, Nisha *et al.* 1999, Hassanein *et al.* 2001and Tagour 2006) reported that, the critical period of wheat – weed competition was between 4 and 6 weeks after sowing. Thus, the present study aimed to evaluate the effect of some weed control treatments during the critical period of wheat /weed competition on grassy weeds especially *Avena spp.*, broad leaved weeds especially *Ammi majus* and the total annual weeds and on wheat growth, yield and its components and grain quality.