

THE EFFICIENCY OF LEAF SURFACE OF SOME SOYBEAN CULTIVARS IN RELATION TO SOWING DATES

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ABSTRACT

Nine soybean varieties representing most of known maturity groups were evaluated at four planting dates to study the efficiency of leaf surface. Medium sowing date (15th May) gave the highest growth measurements of soybean plants after 110 days from sowing date, i.e., plant height, number of branches, leaves and pods/plant, dry weight of pods, leaves and stems/plant, leaves area per plant and leaf area index, and the highest values for number of branches/plant and plant height after 54 and 82 days from sowing, respectively.

The results indicated that soybean varieties significantly differed in growth characters after 54, 82 and 110 days from sowing date.

INTRODUCTION

Varietal differences in growth characters of soybean crop may enable plant breeders to select the most promising combiners in their breeding programs. Many workers showed that soybean cultivars differ in growth characters, i.e., plant height, number and dry weight of branches, leaves and pods/plant, leaves area per plant and LAI (*Eid et*