

Research
Paper

Effect of sowing dates and nutrient management on growth and seed yield fenugreek

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment entitled, effect of sowing dates and nutrient management on growth, and seed yield of fenugreek was conducted at the Main Garden, University Department of Horticulture, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola during *Rabi* season of the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The experiment was laid out in split plot design with four replications and twenty-four treatment combinations. The result of present investigation indicated that, the vegetative growth in terms of plant height, number of branches and number of leaves, were increased due to an early sowing (1st November) supplied with the nutrients as 37.50 kg N + 18.75 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ + FYM @ 10 t ha⁻¹. While, number of pods, number of seeds per pod, weight of seeds per pod, seed yield per plot and seed yield per hectare were found to be the maximum with an early sowing (1st November) supplied with the nutrient as 37.50 kg N + 18.75 kg P₂O₅ ha⁻¹ + FYM @ 10 t ha⁻¹.

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KEY WORDS : Fenugreek, Sowing dates, INM, Growth, Seed yield, Nutrient management

Fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum* L.) is an important seed spice popularly known by its vernacular name *methi* belongs to a leguminous vegetable crops. Fenugreek is considered to be a native of eastern Europe and Ethiopia. It is also found growing wild in north-western India. It is an important condiment crop grown in southern India during the *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons. The common *methi* is quick growing and produces erect shoot to a height of 40-70 cm. It has a light to dark green leaves with or without pink margin and produces 2-3 small white flowers at the base of each leaf. The pods are slender and of straw colour when ripened, beak shaped and are about 8-10 cm long with 8-15 yellowish brown colour smooth surface seeds. The seed is about 0.3-0.5 cm long. There are two species of the genus *trigonella* viz., *Trigonella foenum-graecum* the common *methi* and *Trigonella corniculata* the *kasuri methi*. Fenugreek is the third largest seed spice in India after coriander and cumin (Thangaraj and Vijaykumar, 2001).

Generally, the seed production of *methi* is taken after 2-3 cuttings, but, the seed yield obtained without cuttings are better than the seed yield obtained after 2-3 cuttings. It is therefore, recommended to take the seed production of *methi* without any cuttings.

In Maharashtra, though *methi* is cultivated as an important leafy vegetable and is also grown as a spice, but less attention is being paid on its commercial seed production. Fenugreek seed production is highly specialized job and it requires intimate knowledge of crop production particularly, the floral biology, mode of pollination, isolation distance, climatic and nutritional requirements, etc.

To increase the productivity of improved varieties of fenugreek by adoption of recommended package of practices for cultivation is very high step today. Among the various cultural practices, proper time of sowing and optimum quantity of manure and fertilizers to a given area are prerequisites to achieve a uniform crop stand which ultimately reflects on the seed yield and quality of crop.

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

A field experiment entitled, effect of sowing dates and nutrient management on growth, seed yield and quality of fenugreek was conducted at the Main Garden, University Department of Horticulture, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola during *Rabi* season of the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The experiment was