

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2021.1001.035>

Effect of Planting Dates on Growth and Yield of Pearl Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Emergence,
Pearl millet,
Phenological, Yield

Article Info

Accepted:
04 December 2020
Available Online:
10 January 2021

An experiment was conducted to study the different dates of planting in pearl millet at the Instructional Farm, Department of Agronomy, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, Gujarat, India during the Summer season of year 2019. The objective of the study was to find out the effect of different dates of sowing on the yield of pearl millet. There were four planting dates viz., 25th January, 5th February, 15th February and 25th February with three cvs. GHB-538, GHB-558 and GHB-732 variety. The experiment was laid out in Split Plot Design with three replications.

Introduction

Pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) is one of the most important millet crop grown in India. In the world, it's ranks sixth followed by rice, wheat, corn, barley and sorghum. However, in India, it is fourth most important cereal crop after rice, wheat and sorghum. Pearl millet Belongs to family Poaceae and genus *Pennisetum*. Pearl millet originated in central tropical Africa and widely distributed in the drier tropics and India. India is the largest producer of pearl millet in the world. In India major producing states are Rajasthan (46 %), Maharashtra (19 %), Gujarat (11 %), Uttar Pradesh (8 %) and Haryana (6 %),

which share about 90 per cent of total pearl millet production. Pearl millet occupies an area of 7.12 million hectares with a production of 8.06 million tonnes and productivity of 1132 kg/ha in the country. While in Gujarat, Total grown area 4.31 lakh hectares with a total production of 9.31 lakh tonnes and productivity of 2158 kg/ha. (Anon. 2017). Nutritionally, the pearl millet grains are rich source of protein (9-15 %), fat (5 %), carbohydrates (67 %), mineral matters (2-7 %), high energy value (>360 Kcal/100g) and high Fe, Zn and Ca compared to other cereals. Thus, it is the cheapest source not only energy and protein but also for micronutrients such as Fe and Zn. It is rich in vitamin-A and B,

thiamine and riboflavin content and imparts substantial energy to the body with easy digestibility. It is gluten free and has also low glycine index. Apart from grain, dry fodder is an important secondary product in low resource agriculture for animal feed and fuel.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment was conducted during summer season of year 2019 at Instructional Farm, Department of Agronomy, JAU, Junagadh (Gujarat). Geographically the experimental site was situated at 21.51° N latitude and 70.55° E longitude at an altitude of 83 m above mean sea level. The experiment was laid out in split plot design, consisting 36 treatment combinations comprised of four sowing dates were 25th January (D₁), 5th February (D₂), 15th February (D₃) and 25th February (D₄) and three varieties were GHB-538(V₁), GHB-558 (V₂) and GHB-732 (V₃) with three replications.

After preparation of the field, the experiment was laid down. The recommended dose of nitrogen (120 kg N/ha) and phosphorus (60 kg P₂O₅/ha) were applied. Full dose of phosphorus and half dose of nitrogen were applied at the time of sowing and the remaining half dose of nitrogen was applied 25-30 days after sowing as top dressing. The source of nitrogen and phosphorus were Urea (46 % N) and Diammonium phosphate (46 % P₂O₅ and 18 % N), respectively. The pearl millet crop was sown as per treatments with 45cm x 10cm apart using seed rate of 3.75 kg/ha. Shallow furrows were opened and seeds were sown manually at the depth of 3 cm. Gap filling was done in a few plots as required for uniform plant population. Thinning of extra seedlings was done 12 days after sowing to maintain 10 cm plant to plant distance. All the sown treatments of pearl millet crop irrigated with 7 to 10 days interval. The crop was maintained weed free

by hand weeding twice at 20 and 40 days after sowing. Crop was harvested when majority of leaves (nearly 80 %) in plants senesced and earhead turned brownish in colour. The crop from net plot area was harvested plot wise separately. The harvested plants were handled vertically by keeping lower portion of plants downward to avoid the possible losses due to shattering.

Observations of the yield and yield attributes such as germination percentage, plant height at maturity (cm), number of total tillers per plant, number of effective tillers per plant, length of earhead, diameter of earhead, grain yield (kg/ha), stover yield (kg/ha), harvest index and test weight were taken. Five plants were randomly selected and tagged in each of the experimental plots for studying individual plant characters. The data collected for various growth and yield attributes of pearl millet will be subjected to statistical analysis of variance techniques as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1985).

Results and Discussion

The yield and yield attributes derived from different dates of sowing and varieties were analyzed statistically by using split plot design and the results are presented in Table 1.

The results revealed that all the yield attributing characters of varieties were mostly significantly affected by the dates of sowing.

Germination (%)

The germination was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum germination (90.89 %) was observed in third date of sowing (D₃ - 15th February) and minimum (79.72 %) was observed in first date of sowing (D₁ - 25th January). Among the varieties, maximum germination (89.71 %) was observed in GHB-538 (V₁).

was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum germination (82.15 %) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Plant height at maturity (cm)

The plant height was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum plant height (187.45 cm) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15th February). The minimum plant height (155.51 cm) was recorded in first date of sowing (D_1 - 25th January). Among the varieties, maximum plant height (190.80 cm) was observed in GHB 558 variety (V_2) and minimum plant height (150.72 cm) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Number of total tillers per plant

The number of total tillers per plant was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum number of total tillers per plant (6.43) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15th February). While minimum number of total tillers per plant i.e. 5.16 was recorded in first date of sowing (D_1 - 25th January). Among the varieties, maximum number of total tillers per plant (6.04) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum number of total tillers per plant (5.39) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Number of effective tillers per plant

The number of effective tillers per plant was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum number of effective tillers per plant (6.43) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15thFebruary) and minimum effective tillers per plant (3.86) were recorded in first date of sowing (D_1 - 25thJanuary). Similarly, number of effective tillers per plant was significantly affected by varieties. Maximum number of effective tillers per plant (4.32) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum number of effective tillers per plant

(3.98) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Length of earhead (cm)

The length of earhead was also significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum length of earhead (24.31 cm) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15th February) and minimum length of earhead (21.22 cm) was recorded in first date of sowing (D_1 - 25th January).

Length of earhead was significantly affected by varieties. Maximum length of earhead (23.95) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum length of earhead (21.83) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Diameter of earhead (cm)

The diameter of earhead was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum diameter of earhead (4.02 cm) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15th February). Then, followed by (3.78 cm) in fourth date of sowing (D_4 - 25th February). Diameter of earhead was also significantly affected by varieties. Maximum diameter of earhead (3.60) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum diameter of earhead (3.30) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Grain yield (kg/ha)

The grain yield was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum grain yield (4613 kg/ha) was observed in third date of sowing (D_3 - 15th February) and minimum grain yield (3494 kg/ha) recorded in first date of sowing (D_1 - 25th January). Similarly, maximum grain yield (4741 kg/ha) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V_3) and minimum grain yield (3587 kg/ha) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V_1).

Table.1 Effect of sowing dates on yield and yield attributes of cultivars

Treatment	Germination (%)	Plant height at maturity (cm)	Number of total tillers per plant	Number of effective tillers per plant	Length of earhead (cm)	Diameter of earhead (cm)	Grain yield (kg/ha)	Stover yield (kg/ha)	Harvest index (%)	Test weight (gm)
D ₁	79.72	155.51	5.16	3.86	21.22	2.93	3494	6313	35.66	8.68
D ₂	85.00	170.20	5.52	4.02	22.81	3.06	3950	6932	36.01	9.12
D ₃	90.89	187.45	6.43	4.45	24.31	4.02	4613	7492	38.00	9.81
D ₄	88.00	180.60	5.72	4.34	23.51	3.78	4282	7263	36.97	9.53
S.Em. ±	2.15	4.78	0.20	0.13	0.54	0.10	181.22	234.35	1.49	0.22
C.D. at 5 %	7.45	16.55	0.69	0.44	1.87	0.33	627.11	810.94	NS	0.76
C.V. %	7.52	8.27	10.52	9.06	7.04	8.33	13.31	10.04	12.16	7.10
V ₁	82.15	150.72	5.39	3.98	21.83	3.30	3587	6516	35.50	8.80
V ₂	85.85	190.80	5.69	4.20	23.10	3.45	3925	6948	36.17	9.42
V ₃	89.71	178.81	6.04	4.32	23.95	3.60	4741	7535	38.31	9.64
S.Em. ±	1.75	3.95	0.17	0.09	0.46	0.07	147.81	202.54	1.09	0.19
C.D. at 5 %	5.24	11.85	0.50	0.26	1.39	0.21	443.14	607.20	NS	0.56
C.V. %	7.04	7.89	10.06	7.15	7.01	7.08	12.54	10.02	10.29	7.01
Interaction (D X V)										
S.Em. ±	3.49	7.91	0.33	0.17	0.93	0.14	295.62	405.07	2.18	0.38
C.D. at 5 %	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Stover yield (kg/ha)

The Stover yield was significantly affected by sowing dates. The maximum stover yield (7492 kg/ha) was observed in third date of sowing (D₃- 15th February). Whereas, minimum stover yield (6313 kg/ha) recorded in first date of sowing (D₁- 25th January). Among the varieties, maximum stover yield (7535 kg/ha) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V₃) and minimum stover yield (6516 kg/ha) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V₁).

Harvest index (%)

The harvest index was non-significantly affected by sowing dates as well as varieties. However maximum harvest index (38.00 %) was obtained from D₃ sown crop (D₃ - 15th February). Whereas, minimum harvest index (35.66 %) was obtained from D₁ sown crop (D₁ - 25th January). Among the varieties, maximum harvest index (38.31 %) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V₃) and minimum harvest index (35.50 %) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V₁).

Test weight (gm)

The test weight was significantly affected by

sowing dates. The maximum test weight (9.81 gm) was observed in third date of sowing (D₃- 15th February) and minimum test weight (8.68 gm) observed in first date of sowing (D₁- 25th January). Test weight was also significantly affected by varieties. Maximum test weight (9.64 gm) was observed in GHB 732 variety (V₃) and minimum test weight (8.80 gm) was observed in GHB 538 variety (V₁).

In conclusion from the results of one-year field study during summer 2019, it was highlighted that among different dates of sowing and varieties, D₃ (15th February) and GHB 732 variety were found to be the most suitable for higher productivity of pearl millet under agro-climatic condition of Junagadh (Gujarat).

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How to cite this article:

Kanjiya, H. N., M. C. Chopada, D. R. Vaghasiya and Savaliya, A. V. 2021. Effect of Planting Dates on Growth and Yield of Pearl Millet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.). *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 10(01): 287-291. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijemas.2021.1001.035>