

Original Research Article

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Effect of Different Sowing Dates on Grain Yield and Incidence of Lentil Wilt Caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lentis*

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ABSTRACT

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Wilt of lentil, caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *lentis* is a serious disease and plays major role in reducing lentil yield in India and Abroad. There are many factors which influence disease development. The present studies were, therefore, undertaken to study the effect of different dates of sowing on disease incidence and grain yield. The crop was sown on four dates during *rabi* 2019-20 and 2020-21 i.e. 15th October, 30th October, 15th November and 30th November. The disease incidence was maximum (10.74 per cent) in early sown crop as compared to the late sown crop (3.32 per cent). The grain yield was maximum at third date of sowing i.e. 15th November (10.94 q/ha).

Introduction

Pulses constitute an important part of human food and are very rich in protein content and quality. The protein content ranges from 17-24 percent in pulses which is 2-3 times more than cereals. Pulses also play an important role in the food and farming economy of our country (Garkoti *et al.*, 2013). Lentil (*Lens culinaris* Medikus) is considered as the oldest pulse crop, maybe domesticated in habitation up to 13,000 years BC. It is mainly grown in India, Egypt, Greece, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Italy, countries in the Mediterranean region and

North America. Lentil is highly proteinaceous crop as it contains 25 per cent of protein and is suitable for cultivation under varied climatic conditions. It improves the soil fertility in the areas where other legumes are not grown. Lentil provides affordable protein; hence it is also known as poor man's meat. *Fusarium* wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lentis* is predominant in the lentil growing areas worldwide. The pathogen is soil and seed borne. It colonizes and completely blocks the xylem vessels leading to wilting of plant. The disease can occur at any stage of the crop starting from seedling stage however, the yield

losses depend upon the stage at which the plant wilts. Time of sowing and temporal factors also affects the disease incidence. Hence the current study was conducted to see effect of different dates of sowing on lentil wilt incidence and grain yield

Materials and Methods

The effect of four dates of sowing on the development of lentil wilt was studied by conducting an experiment under field conditions at CSK HPKV Research Sub Station, Akrot (Una) in a Randomized Block Design (RBD). Lentil variety HPL-5 was used during two seasons i.e. *rabi* 2019-20 and 2020-21 on four different dates, i.e. 15th October, 30th October, 15th November and 30th November. The wilt incidence was recorded at weekly intervals starting from first appearance of the disease.

Results and Discussion

The pooled data presented in Table 1 reveals that disease incidence was more in crop sown on 15th October (10.74 per cent) followed by

30th October (8.12 per cent), 15th November (5.82 per cent) and 30th November (3.32 per cent) during *rabi* 2019-20 and 2020-21. The grain yield was maximum (10.94 q/ha) on third date of sowing (15th Nov.) followed by second date of sowing i.e. 30th Oct. (9.55 q/ha) and first date of sowing i.e. 15th Oct.(8.68 q/ha). As has been observed during the present studies, Kannaiyan and Nene (1975) reported that among 5 dates of sowing at 15 days intervals starting from 15 October till 15 December, incidence of wilt was lower in later sown crops. Mittal (1997) reported that the sole crop of lentil variety VL Massor-1 was more susceptible to disease i.e. wilt, rust, downy mildew, root rot etc. than the crop mixed with wheat variety VL 616 and the disease incidence declined gradually with the sowing dates.

The present observations of low wilt incidence in late planting were supported by the results of Ahmed *et al.*, (1998) who reported the effect of different control options i.e. sowing dates, host plant resistance and fungicide seed treatment on wilt disease and yield parameters.

Table.1 Effect of date of sowing on lentil wilt and grain yield under field conditions

Sowing date	Season (Rabi 2019-20)		Season (Rabi 2020-21)		Pooled Average (2019-20 & 2020-21)	
	wilt incidence (%)	grain yield (q.ha)	wilt incidence (%)	grain yield (q.ha)	wilt incidence (%)	Grain yield (q/ha)
15th Oct.	11.32	8.38	10.16	8.99	10.74	8.68
30th Oct.	8.28	9.38	7.96	9.72	8.12	9.55
15th Nov.	6.00	10.82	5.64	11.06	5.82	10.94
30th Nov.	3.68	8.49	2.96	8.10	3.32	8.29
CD (p= 0.05)	0.65	0.53	0.83	0.34	0.74	0.43

They found that percent terminal wilt incidence and areas under the disease progress curve were the lowest during November plantings for all genotypes. Similarly, Nashwa

and Monaster (2012) reported that late sowing i.e. (November or December) and sowing depth of 2 cm were the best for the reduction of lentil wilt.

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