

Original Research Article

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Effect of Organic Manures and Different Levels of NPK on Growth and Yield of Bottle Gourd [*Lagenaria siceraria* (Mol.) Standl.]

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Bottle gourd,
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A field experiment was conducted during *kharif*, season 2012 to study the effect of organic manures and different levels of NPK on growth and yield of Bottle gourd. The experiment consisting of 16 treatments *viz.*, four levels of NPK (control, 100:50:50, 80:40:40 and 60:30:30) and organic manures (control, vermicompost, poultry manure and FYM) factorial designed in RBD with three replications. Results indicated that application of NPK (100:50:50) + vermicompost (5.0 t/ha) was recorded minimum days taken to appearance of first female flower, maximum length of main vine (m), number of primary branches per vine, length and width of leaf (cm) 65 days after sowing, per cent fruit set, number of fruit per vine, length and girth of fruit, weight of fruit, total yield per vine, yield and return rupees investment.

Introduction

Among, cucurbits, bottle gourd [*Lagenaria siceraria* (Mol.) Standl.] is extensively grown in India and fruits are available throughout the year. Fruits at tender stage are used as a cooked vegetable and for preparation of sweets (*e.g. kheer, petha, burfi, and halwa*), pickles and rayta. Hard shells of mature fruits are used as water jugs, domestic utensils, floats for fishing nets and making musical instruments, etc. As a vegetable it is easily digestible. It has cooling effect and has diuretic and having cardio-tonic properties. Fruit pulp is used as an antidote against certain poisons and is good for controlling constipation, night blindness and cough. A decoction made out of leaf is taken for curing jaundice (Thamburaj and Singh, 2001). The

fruit contain 0.2% protein, 2.9% carbohydrate, 0.5% fat and 11 mg vitamin C of per 100 g fresh weight. In the area, cucurbits are growing extensively as kitchen garden especially during *kharif* season or as commercial scale throughout the year. The tribal's of the area are growing it and train the vines on boundary of the house and on pandal. Among cucurbits, bottle gourd is being grown by majority of the farmer than other cucurbitaceous vegetables In India, bottle gourd is grown in the area of 111 thousand hectares with annual production of 1836 thousand tonne and having 12.21 tonnes ha⁻¹ productivity. It occupies 3.20 Thousand hectares area in Rajasthan producing 22.40 tonne with a productivity of 3.48 tonnes ha⁻¹

¹(Anonymous, 2015). The effect of organic and inorganic fertilizers is complementary to each other in terms of soil fertility improvement and sustainable agriculture. Therefore, it is necessary to make their judicious use in right proportion for harvesting better yield of different crops in cropping sequence and for sustaining soil fertility. The integrated nutrient management helps in restoring and sustaining soil fertility and crop productivity. It also helps in arresting the emerging deficiencies of macro, secondary and micronutrients favorably by optimizing the physical, chemical and biological environment of soil and achieving economy and efficiency in fertilizer use. Hence, the present study was undertaken to find out the combined effect of organic manures and inorganic fertilizers on the growth and yield of bottle gourd.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was laid out at Horticulture Farm, College of Agriculture, Bikaner, during *Khari* season 2012. The soil was loamy sandy with pH 8.2 and contained 0.09% organic carbon, 80.19 kg ha⁻¹ available N, 17.34 kg ha⁻¹ available P, 185.42 kg ha⁻¹ available K. The experiment was laid out Randomized Block Design (factorial) with three replications. There were sixteen treatment combinations, which included various combination of NPK (control, 100:50:50, 80:40:40 and 60:30:30) and organic manures (control, vermicompost, poultry manure and FYM). The well rotten farm yard manure (5.0 t ha⁻¹), vermicompost (5.0 t ha⁻¹) and poultry manure (7.0 t ha⁻¹) were applied and spread uniformly in the plots as per treatment. Three seeds per hill were sown manually by dibbing method on 3rd August 2012. The seeds were soaked in cold water overnight before sowing for better germination. The sowing was done in the row keeping 2.5 m inter –row spacing and 0.80 m

plant to plant spacing. At each hill and seed were sown at a depth of 1.5 to 2.0 cm. Germination took place within six days after sowing. One third dose of N, full doses of phosphorus and potassium were applied at the time of sowing. The remaining doses of nitrogen were applied 30 and 60 days after sowing into standing crop. The sources of N, P and K were used as urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash, respectively the recommended dose of NPK was 80:40:40 kg ha⁻¹ (Anonymous, 2010). Data were taken five plants were selected randomly from each plot and tagged. Growth (days taken to appearance of first female flower, length of main vine (m), number of primary branches per vine, length and width of leaf (cm) 65 days after sowing) and yield (fruit set, number of fruit per vine, length and girth of fruit, weight of fruit, yield per vine) were recorded as per standard methodology. Estimated yield per hectare was calculated by number of fruit vine⁻¹ yield vine⁻¹ and total plant density and returns ha⁻¹ calculated by sale price of Rs 800 q and total yield q ha⁻¹, where returns rupees investment calculated by dividing net return to total cost of cultivation ha⁻¹.

Results and Discussion

Effect of organic manure

The data presented in (Tables 1 and 2). Organic manures, NPK levels effect on growth and yield attributes of bottle gourd. The application of vermicompost (5.0 t ha⁻¹). Recorded length of main vine (4.09), number of primary branches per vine (11.85), length of leaf 65 days after sowing (27.35 cm), per cent fruit set (55.61), number of fruit per vine (9.8), length of fruit (40.48 cm), girth of fruit (24.96 cm), weight of fruit (954.30 g), yield per vine (8.99), yield (242.70 q ha⁻¹). These finding clearly indicated that vermicompost played a significant role on enhancing the growth of bottle gourd.

Table.1 Effect of organic manures and different levels of NPK on growth and yield of bottle gourd

Treatment	Days taken to appearance of first female flower	Length of main vine (m)	No. of primary branches per vine	Length of leaf (cm) 65 days after sowing	Width of leaf (cm) 65 days after sowing	Per cent fruit set	Number of fruit per vine	Length of fruit (cm)	Girth of fruit (cm)	Weight of fruit (g.)	Total yield per vine (Kg)	Yield (q/ha ⁻¹)
Control	60.85	3.66	11.38	23.58	27.69	45.70	7.45	39.04	24.29	779.69	5.95	188.22
Vermicompost	59.25	4.09	11.85	27.35	28.33	55.61	9.8	40.48	24.96	954.30	8.99	242.70
Poultry manure	58.47	3.85	11.61	26.02	28.24	52.29	9.37	39.55	24.73	915.75	8.64	225.17
FYM	59.62	4.05	11.58	27.10	28.35	52.60	9.40	40.17	24.05	942.32	8.92	223.26
S.Em±	0.58	0.15	0.13	0.18	0.28	0.27	0.20	0.17	0.24	18.25	0.15	0.27
C.D. (P=0.05)	1.68	NS	NS	0.54	NS	0.79	0.58	0.49	NS	52.72	0.46	0.78
Control	60.86	3.33	9.92	20.38	27.10	46.45	7.32	37.96	23.80	756.24	5.66	176.08
NPK(60:30:30)	59.97	3.79	11.74	24.72	28.19	48.80	8.62	39.29	24.40	880.55	7.60	211.96
NPK(80:40:40)	58.22	4.27	12.21	29.29	28.47	57.88	10.12	41.15	24.39	969.57	9.85	242.20
NPK(100:50:50)	58.81	4.25	12.55	29.65	28.85	53.08	9.92	40.85	25.44	985.70	9.39	249.10
S.Em±	0.58	0.15	0.13	0.18	0.28	0.27	0.20	0.17	0.24	18.25	0.15	0.27
C.D. (P=0.05)	1.61	0.45	0.38	0.54	0.82	0.76	0.58	0.49	0.69	52.72	0.46	0.78

Table.2 The cultivation cost of bottle gourd including cost of individual treatment (ha⁻¹)

Treatment	Fruit Yield (qha ⁻¹)	Common cost of cultivation (₹ ha ⁻¹)	Treatment cost (₹ ha ⁻¹)	Total cost (₹ ha ⁻¹)	Gross returns (₹ ha ⁻¹)	Net returns (₹ ha ⁻¹)	B:C ratio
V ₀ F ₀	134.93	49245	0	49245	107944	58699	2.19
V ₂ F ₀	182.96	49245	10500	59745	146368	86623	2.44
V ₀ F ₁	192.56	49245	2464.53	51709.53	154048	102338.47	2.97
V ₀ F ₃	231.56	49245	4107.58	53352.58	185248	131895.42	3.47
V ₁ F ₂	265.98	49245	18286.02	67531.02	212784	145252.98	3.15
V ₂ F ₁	215.77	49245	12964.53	62209.53	172616	110406.47	2.77
V ₂ F ₃	231.36	49245	14607.58	63852.58	185080	121227.42	2.89
V ₃ F ₂	238.44	49245	5786.02	55031.02	190752	135720.98	3.46
V ₁ F ₀	195.11	49245	15000	64245	156088	91843	2.42
V ₃ F ₀	191.32	49245	2500	51745	153056	101311	2.95
V ₀ F ₂	193.83	49245	3286.02	52531.02	155064	10253.98	2.99
V ₁ F ₁	211.33	49245	17464.53	66709.53	169064	102354.47	2.53
V ₁ F ₃	298.39	49245	19107.58	68352.58	238712	170359.42	3.49
V ₂ F ₂	270.57	49245	13786.02	63031.02	216456	153424.98	3.43
V ₃ F ₁	228.19	49245	4964.53	54209.53	182552	128342.47	3.36
V ₃ F ₃	235.09	49245	6607.58	55852.58	188072	132919.42	3.36

Improvement in plant growth attributes with that application of vermicompost might be due to better not only provided plant nutrient but also improve the physical condition of soil in respect of granulation, friability porosity which in term provided a balance nutritional environment favorable both soil rhizosphere and in plant system Reddy *et al.*, (1998). These results are in close conformity with the finding of Senapati *et al.*, (1985), Pillai *et al.*, (1985), Sharhidhara *et al.*, (1998) and Tomar *et al.*, (1998) The beneficially effect of vermicompost on yield attributes on yield might be due to enhanced supply of micro and macro- nutrients during entire growing season, significant increased yield under the influenced of vermicompost was largely function of improve growth and the consequent increase in different yield attributes and yield as mention above. The significant improvement in yield account of vermicompost along with nutrients from soil particularly at later stage of crop growth might have incases the rate of photosynthesis with further increased vegetative growth and provided more site for translocation of photosynthesizes with ultimately increased the yield (Choudhary, 2006). The increased yield of crop could attribute to the effect that nutrient more readily available when organic and inorganic fertilizer companied (Eifediyi and Remison, 2010).

Effect of inorganic fertilizers

Application of different levels NPK significantly influenced the growth and yield of bottle gourd. The maximum number of primary branches per vine (12.55), length of leaf (29.65 cm), width of leaf (28.85 cm) 65 days after sowing, girth of fruit (25.44), weight of fruit (985.70 g), yield (249.10 q ha⁻¹), were recorded under NPK 100:50:50 fertilizer.

However the NPK levels 80:40:40 fertilizer recorded minimum days taken to appearance of first female flower (58.22 days), the maximum length of main vine (4.27 m), per cent fruits set (57.88%), number of fruit per vine (10.12), length of fruit (41.15 cm) total yield per vine

(9.85 kg), this may be due to the better nutrition environment in the root zone for growth and development of the plant.

Nitrogen is considered as one of the major nutrient required for proper growth and development of the plants. It also play an important role in plant metabolism by virtue of being an essential constituent of diverse type of metabolically active compounds like amino acids, proteins, nucleic acids, prophytins, flavins, purine and pyrimidine, nucleotide, flavin nucleotides, enzymes, co-enzymes and alkaloid Yadav (2000). Phosphorus is a constituent of nucleic acid, phytin and phospholipids. The beneficial influence of phosphorus in early stages of growth may be explained by early stimulation of root system through efficient translocation to the root of certain growth stimulation compounds formed on account of protoplasmic activity of tops in phosphorus feed plants, when enhanced absorption of nitrogen and other nutrient and their utilization. So an adequate supply of phosphorus in early stages of plant life is important in laying down the primordia for the reproductive part of the cauliflower Kumhar, (2004).

The responses of potassium fertilization in terms of overall improvement in growth characters are further supported by the fact that the leaching losses of potassium were more in light textured soil. Therefore, potassium fertilization improved overall crop growth in term of plant day taken to the appearance of first female flower, nodes at which first female flower appeared, length of main vine, number of primary branches per plant, length of leaf after sowing 65 days and width of leaf after sowing 65 days potassium helps in the protein and chlorophyll formation ultimately the NPK are used for better vegetative growth. As far case economic is calculated the combined application of (V₁F₃) recorded maximum results revealed that organic manure in form of vermicompost @ 5 tonnes ha⁻¹ recorded higher growth and yield attributes as well as gross return over rest of treatment. Further in NPK

levels higher dose *i.e.* 100:50:50 kg ha⁻¹ respectively showed better in growth and yield tones. The result of present study in the agreement his the earlier researches and returns per rupees investment

In conclusion, on the basis of the results obtained in present investigation, it may be concluded that the application of NPK either alone or in combination with organic manures enhanced the growth and yield attributes in bottle gourd. Supplementation of 5.0 tonnes vermicompost combination with NPK (100:50:50 kg ha⁻¹) enhanced growth and yield as well as returns.

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