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FIRST RESULTS OF THE STUDY ON THE IRRIGATION EFFECT UPON GRAPES MECHANICAL PROPERTIES AND QUALITY OF SEEDED AND SEEDLESS TABLE GRAPEVINE VARIETIES

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SUMMARY

- Comparative study on the irrigation effect upon grapes mechanical properties and quality of seeded and seedless grapevine varieties grown in the region of Pleven was carried out.

- It was found that most of the key indicators of the mechanical and chemical analysis of grapes and berries of the studied varieties were in statistical proven direct correlation on irrigation as it was outlined direct arithmetic progression associated with the increase of irrigation rate. Under the conditions of pronounced water deficit in the soil in 2012, the size and weight of bunches and berries, as well as the average yield per vine of table seeded and seedless varieties were higher with increasing the irrigation rate, as that was mathematically proven.

- Irrigation during the phase of "berry softening" had a positive effect on grapes quality parameters and organoleptic

g)

(Behboudian and Singh, 2001).

(Lakso and Pool, 2000; Williams, 2000).

profile. On the other hand, with increasing the irrigation rate it was accounted relative reduction in the grapes transportability (tensile strength and pressure, g) in both groups of varieties.

Key words: vine, table grapevine variety, irrigation, irrigation rate, mechanical properties, grapes quality

INTRODUCTION

Grapevine develops optimally and reveals to the maximum its productive capacity, if its needs of water are satisfied throughout the vegetation season (Behboudian and Singh, 2001).

The need of irrigation in grapevine growing in Bulgaria is determined mainly by the quantity and timing mismatch between the needs of the plants and the water availability in soil.

Water shortage inhibits vine growth while grapes ripening can be delayed or stunted.

On the other hand, water abundance stimulates unnecessary vegetative growth, resulting in dense green mass, high water content of the berries, compact clusters because of the increased berry size, poor radiation of clusters due to their shading and development of diseases (Lakso and Pool, 2000; Williams, 2000).

The indicators of the mechanical analysis of a cluster

and a berry are very important elements of the total ampelographic characteristics of each grapevine cultivar as they express the ratio between the cluster and berry structural elements - rachis, skins, flesh and seeds, defined by their mass. They are specific for each variety and are greatly changing over the years and periods of development and grapes ripening. The changing of the mechanical and chemical analysis indicators of a cluster and a berry is directly dependent on the climatic conditions of the particular year and the characteristics of the terroir (Galet, 1993; Reynier, 2001; Todorov, 2005). The obtained data for yield, cluster size and mass, output and must pH, sugars and acids content reveal that the impact of the interaction location/year was much more significant than location/clone (Redl, 1991). The specificity of grapes to be used as raw material for various products is determined on the basis of its technological qualities (Calò et al., 1988; Boidron, 1995; Todorov, 1991).

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The specificity of grapes to be used as raw material for various products is determined on the basis of its technological qualities (Calò et al., 1988; Boidron, 1995; Todorov, 1991).

The objective of this study was a comparative biometric and statistical analysis of the irrigation impact on the mechanical properties and grapes quality of table seed and seedless grapevine cultivars.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study included the table grapevine seed cultivar Diana (Bikan x Ribi Mehur) and the seedless one Rusalka-3 (Mirniy x Seedless hybrid V-6). The study was carried out in the period 2011-2013. The investigated varieties were located on an area of 1.2 d in the trial field of the Experimental Base at the Institute of Viticulture and Enology (IVE) – Pleven. The vines were planted at row distance 2.20 m and 1.30 m within the row. Three rows were planted of each variety (0.6 da) with 70 plants per row. They were grown on ground training – improved Guyot.

Every year during the pruning of the experimental vines they were left with equal loading – 1 fruit cane with 12 eyes and 4 spurs of 2 winter eyes each, total 20 winter eyes per vine. The study of the cluster and berry texture and structure and determining the grapes quality of the investigated table grapevine cultivars was carried out according to the approved methodology in the Bulgarian Ampelography, vol. 1 (Katerov et al., 1990).

Three variants of water supplying were tested for each cultivar:

V1 - 0: control, without irrigation;

V2 - 60: drip irrigation with irrigation rates recovering 60% of the crop evapotranspiration ().

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3 (

V-6).

2011-2013 .

1,2 d

2.20 m 1.30 m

(0.6 da) 70

-

- 1

12 4 2
20

(. 1
., 1990).

:

V1 - 0:

;

V2 - 60:

60 %

().

V3 - 80:
80 %
15
2.0 L/h
0.1 MPa
1.0 m
ET₀
" , "
0.8.
c
FAO (Allen et al.,
1998).
(, 1999)
(=1.0 % =0.1 %). =5.0 %

V3 - 80: drip irrigation with irrigation rates 80 % of .
- The trial was arranged in accordance with the method of the long parcels as in each variant there were four replicates, each including 15 vines. At the end of each row five vines were planted for protection.
- The drip irrigation system had one irrigation lateral per ridge. The drip-formation units had a flow rate of 2.0 L/h at operating pressure 0.1 MPa as they were located at 1.0 m interval along the laterals. For calculating the irrigation regimes the reference evapotranspiration ET₀ was defined on the basis of the water surface evaporation values measured by Class A evaporator, at coefficient of the evaporator = 0.8. The crop coefficients c were used for calculating the crop evapotranspiration c in accordance with the methods of FAO (Allen et al., 1998).

- Data were mathematically processed by analysis of variance (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999) at confidence levels of the differences (Student's criteria). =5.0%, =1.0 % and =0.1%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In 2011, total 13 irrigations were made as irrigation rates were respectively for V2 – = 163.0

2011
13

V2 – = 163,0 mm, while for V3 – = 217.0 mm
V3– = 217,0 mm (1). (Table 1).

Table 1. Rainfall, evapotranspiration, irrigation rates and crop coefficient values in 2011

Date	Rainfall [mm]	E _o for the period [mm]	Crop coefficient, K _c	E for the period [mm]	Irrigation rate V2 (60 %) [mm]	Irrigation rate V3 (80 %) [mm]
30.5.2011	5.0	21.6	0.30	6.5	4	5
06.6.2011	13.0	31.2	0.30	9.4	6	7
13.6.2011	29.0	29.6	0.40	11.8	7	9
20.6.2011	0.0	30.4	0.40	12.2	7	10
27.6.2011	4.0	42.4	0.47	19.9	12	16
04.7.2011	44.1	67.3	0.47	31.6	19	25
11.7.2011	0.0	48.0	0.61	29.3	18	23
18.7.2011	10.1	40.0	0.61	24.4	15	20
27.7.2011	59.4	43.5	0.82	35.7	21	29
01.8.2011	5.4	23.5	0.82	19.3	12	15
08.8.2011	4.0	32.0	0.85	27.2	16	22
15.8.2011	44.0	25.6	0.85	21.8	13	17
22.8.2011	0.0	26.4	0.85	22.5	13	18

2011 Typical for 2011 were the frequent intense rainfalls throughout the vegetation season that periodically ensured the soil moisture and reduced the heaviness of the irrigations to compensate the evapotranspiration of the vines.

2012 In 2012, total 10 irrigations were performed as the irrigation rates were respectively for V2 – = 135 mm, while for V3 – = 179 mm (111.4 mm), that ensured the moisture in the soil and reduced the heaviness of the irrigations to compensate the evapotranspiration of the vines during the first half of vegetation.

2. 2012 .

Table 2. Rainfall, evapotranspiration, irrigation rates and crop coefficient values in 2012

Date	Rainfall [mm]	E _o for the period [mm]	Crop coefficient, K _c	E for the period [mm]	Irrigation rate V2 (60 %) [mm]	Irrigation rate V3 (80 %) [mm]
11.6.2012	18.2	31.4	0.40	12.5	8	10
18.6.2012	0.8	34.3	0.40	13.7	8	11
25.6.2012	10.2	40.2	0.47	18.9	9	12
02.7.2012	17.4	37.1	0.54	20.1	8	10
09.7.2012	0.0	40.8	0.58	23.7	14	19
16.7.2012	0.0	54.4	0.65	35.4	21	28
23.7.2012	0.0	45.6	0.75	34.2	21	28
30.7.2012	0.0	42.4	0.82	34.8	21	28
06.8.2012	0.0	37.6	0.85	31.9	19	26
13.8.2012	27.0	32.0	0.85	27.2	5	7

3. 2013 .

In 2013 only 3 irrigations were carried out. On the background of high incidence of infectious powdery mildew at the end of June and July and disruption of vines normal growth, the irrigations during the vegetation had to be suspended for overcoming the consequences of powdery mildew by reducing the atmospheric humidity in the plantation. The data for the rainfall, evapotranspiration, the values of the biophysical coefficient, as well as the irrigation rates are presented in Table 3.

3.

3. , ,
2013 .

Table 3. Rainfall, evapotranspiration, irrigation rates and crop coefficient values in 2013

Date	E o			E		
	Rainfall [mm]	E o for the period [mm]	Crop coefficient Kc	E for the period [mm]	Irrigation rate V2 (60 %) [mm]	Irrigation rate V3 (80 %) [mm]
27.05.	0	40,0	0,40	16,0	10	13
03.06.	36,6	45,3	0,40	18,1	11	14
10.06.	9,0	51,2	0,40	20,5	12	16
17.06.	76,0	33,6	0,40	13,4	-	-
24.06.	0,0	48,0	0,47	22,6	-	-
03.07.	123,4	38,7	0,55	21,3	-	-
08.07.	16,0	26,4	0,59	15,6	-	-
15.07.	9,0	34,4	0,64	22,0	-	-
22.07.	0,8	35,8	0,74	26,5	-	-
29.07.	0,0	40,1	0,81	32,4	-	-
05.08.	0,0	43,2	0,84	36,3	-	-
12.08.	0,4	48,0	0,84	40,3	-	-

From the presented data it could be concluded that in the three years of the study there were different weather conditions during the vegetation period directly affecting the vines growth, development and fruit-bearing capacity. From the weather point of view only the year 2012 was suitable for the trial being optimally carried out.

Mechanical analysis for determining the texture and structure of a cluster and a berry

For objective assessment the impact of irrigation on the mechanical properties and grapes quality of the studied table grapevine cultivars, grapes were harvested upon reaching maturity in 2011 and 2012 and mechanical

2013 .

- 149.2 mm.

()

100 %

).

2011

%

(766.0 g),

60 %

(675.0 g).

631.0 g.

870.0 g

100

3 860.0 g

2.

780.0 g.

analysis of a cluster and a berry was performed. In the summer of 2013 significant rainfall was registered, especially in July – 149.2 mm. Due to the development of high infection background of powdery mildew in late June and July the normal development cycle of the vine was disrupted (defoliation of the top portion of the shoots) as well as the grapes vintage (withering of almost 100% of the clusters). Therefore the yield, the mechanical analysis of the grapes and the annual growth rate were not reported.

For Diana cultivar in 2011 both variants of irrigation had higher average mass of the clusters than that of the control. The highest mass of the cluster had the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C (766.0 g), followed by the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C (675.0 g). The cluster mass in the variant without irrigation that year was 631.0 g. The same correlation was also observed for berries. The largest berries were obtained in the variants with irrigation, as the difference between them was insignificant. The average mass of 100 berries was 870.0 g for variant 3 and 860.0 g for variant 2. In the control the value of that indicator was 780.0 g. Minor differences were found in determining the degree of tensile strength and

pressure. Grapes from the variant without irrigation had relatively the best transportability (Table 4).

Among the studied variants there was no significant difference in the texture and structure of the cluster and the berry. The ratio of berries in a cluster ranged from 96.83% (variant 1) to 97.52% (variant 3). The contents of skins and seeds in the berries from the variants and the control of the cultivar were approximately equal, thus the ratio of their flesh part varied within narrow ranges - from 93.19% (the variant without irrigation) to 93.68% (the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate of 80% ET_C).

The yield per vine was positively correlated with the mass of the cluster and the fertility elements of the studied variants. The lowest yield per vine was obtained from the variant without irrigation – 9.15 kg, and the highest from the variant with irrigation rate 60% of ET_C – 10.73 kg. The variant of irrigation rate 80% of ET_C had an intermediate value for this indicator - 9.96 kg (Table 4).

The must analysis from the three variants of Diana cultivar showed that grapes had accumulated enough sugars while retaining good titratable acidity. The highest content of sugars was found in the grapes from variant 3 – 13.3%.

For Rusalka-3 cultivar the

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The yield per vine was positively correlated with the mass of the cluster and the fertility elements of the studied variants. The lowest yield per vine was obtained from the variant without irrigation – 9.15 kg, and the highest from the variant with irrigation rate 60% of ET_C – 10.73 kg. The variant of irrigation rate 80% of ET_C had an intermediate value for this indicator - 9.96 kg (Table 4).

The must analysis from the three variants of Diana cultivar showed that grapes had accumulated enough sugars while retaining good titratable acidity. The highest content of sugars was found in the grapes from variant 3 – 13.3%.

For Rusalka-3 cultivar the

% - 656.5 g,
 620.0 g.

80 % - 598.0 g.

3 (80 %
) 720.0 g,
 2 (60 %
) 680.0 g.
 670.0 g.

(4).

3

97.92 %

98.15 %

80 %

- 94.93 %
 () 95.31 %
 (80 %).

highest average mass of the cluster had the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C - 656.5 g, followed by the control - 620.0 g. The lowest average mass of the cluster that year had the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C - 598.0 g. Concerning the berry size significant difference between the variants was not observed. The largest berries that year were accounted for variant 3 (irrigation rate 80% of ET_C) with an average mass of 100 berries 720.0 g, followed by variant 2 (irrigation rate 60% of ET_C) with 680.0 g, and the control - 670.0 g. In determining the transportability of the grapes the best indicators had the variant without irrigation (Table 4).

Between the studied variants of Rusalka-3 cultivar there were no significant difference in the texture and structure of the cluster and the berry as the differences were in favor of the variants with irrigation. The ratio of berries in the cluster was within the range from 97.92% in the variant without irrigation to 98.15% in the variant of irrigation rate 80% of ET_C . The contents of skins in the berries from the variants and the control of the cultivar were approximately equal, thus the ratio of their flesh part varied within very narrow ranges - from 94.93% (without irrigation) to 95.31% (irrigation rate 80% of ET_C).

4. M

2011-2012

Table 4. Mechanical and chemical analysis of a cluster and a berry of table grapevine varieties grown under irrigation in years 2011-2012

Year	Variant	/ Cluster			/ Berry		100 berries mass, g	Detach ment, g	Pressure, g	Texture and structure of cluster and berry					Yield per vine, kg	Sugars, %	Titr. acids, g/cm ³	
		Mass, g	Length, cm	Width, cm	Length, mm	Width, mm				Rachis, %	Berries, %	Skins, %	Seeds, %	Flesh, %				
2011	/ Diana cultivar																	
	V 1	631	19.8	16.0	24.16	22.22	780	324.5	1594	3.17	96.83	5.02	1.79	93.19	9.15	11.8	5.850	
	V 2	675	20.6	14.8	26.82	23.38	860	263.5	1558	2.90	97.10	5.12	1.63	93.25	10.73	12.5	5.925	
	V 3	766	22.8	14.2	25.02	21.52	870	237.5	1413	2.48	97.52	4.71	1.61	93.68	9.96	13.3	5.250	
	3 / Russalka-3 cultivar																	
	V 1	620	19.0	16.8	24.36	20.82	670	245.5	1349	2.08	97.92	5.07	-	94.93	8.61	16.0	5.250	
V 2	656	19.0	14.2	24.00	20.92	680	243.5	1337	2.04	97.96	5.06	-	94.94	7.95	16.8	5.475		
V 3	598	22.0	14.2	25.56	21.28	720	237.0	1299	1.85	98.15	4.69	-	95.31	7.84	16.0	5.425		
2012	/ Diana cultivar																	
	V 1	514	20.2	15.5	23.88	22.32	740	332.0	1662	3.79	96.21	3.55	1.48	94.97	6.69	17.1	3.250	
	V 2	633	25.0	14.2	25.46	23.24	820	294.0	1251	2.98	97.02	3.17	1.31	95.52	6.97	16.5	3.500	
	V 3	636	24.8	14.2	25.50	23.75	830	266.0	1189	1.82	98.18	2.95	1.20	95.85	7.63	16.0	3.500	
	3 / Russalka-3 cultivar																	
	V 1	512	19.0	11.8	20.48	18.44	460	217.0	1379	1.47	98.53	4.48	-	95.52	5.25	18.7	3.750	
V 2	625	19.7	14.2	22.78	20.24	480	175.0	1339	1.36	98.64	4.46	-	95.54	7.11	17.6	3.900		
V 3	600	20.0	14.2	24.04	20.96	490	145.5	1269	1.22	98.78	4.29	-	95.71	7.50	16.5	4.050		

-
 3,
 -
 80 %
 7.84 kg, -
 - 8.61 kg. -
 -
 3 ,
 -
 -
 2 – 16.8 %.
 2012 .
 -
 (4). -
 80 %
 (636 g),
 60 % (633 g),
 -
 , 514.5 g,
 -

Because of the smaller differences in the mass of the clusters between the variants of Rusalka-3 cultivar, the yield per vine was within narrow ranges for that year. The lowest yield per vine was obtained from the variant of irrigation rate 80% of – 7.84 kg, and the highest from the control – 8.61 kg. The higher yield from the variant without irrigation that year was the result of the higher ratio of developed and fruit shoots.

The must analysis from the three variants of Rusalka-3 cultivar revealed that grapes had accumulated enough sugars while retaining good titratable acidity. The highest content of sugars was found in the grapes from variant 2 – 16.8%.

In 2012, for Diana cultivar the average cluster mass was higher in both variants with irrigation compared to the control (Table 4). The highest average cluster mass had the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C (636 g), followed by the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C (633 g), as the difference between them was insignificant and unproven.

The cluster mass of the control, without irrigation was 514.5 g, which was due to the smaller size of the clusters and the smaller berries in size and mass. The

g 100
820 g 100
2).

740 g.

2011 .

100

(5).

(830
3

4).

The differences in the average mass of clusters and average mass of 100 berries between the variants with irrigation and the control (without irrigation) for Diana cultivar were statistically proven (Table 5).

5.

100

Table 5. Statistical analysis of the average mass per both a cluster and 100 berries of Diana cultivar

Average mass per cluster		V 1		V 2		V 3	
Variants	X~	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven
V 1	666.67	x	x	-29.167	n.s	-90.000	-
V 2	695.83	29.167	+	x	x	-60.833	n.s
V 3	756.67	90.000	++	60.833	n.s	x	x
Average mass of 100 berries		V 1		V 2		V 3	
Variants	X~	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven
V 1	740	x	x	-80	---	-90	---
V 2	820	80	+++	x	x	-10	n.s
V 3	830	90	+++	10	n.s	x	x

5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s).

96.21 % (1) 98.18 %
 (3).
 1.48 %, - 3.55 %
 - 2.95 % 1.20
 94.97 %
 95.85 %
 80 %
 60 %
 2012
 6.69 kg, -
 - 7.63 kg. 80 %

Differences in the texture and structure of the cluster and the berry were also observed between the studied variants. The berries ratio in clusters was within the range from 96.21% (variant 1) to 98.18% (variant 3). The content of the skins, seeds and flesh in the berries were directly correlated to the berry size of the individual variants. The skins and seeds were the highest in the control of the cultivar - 3.55% and 1.48%, while in variant 3 their quantity was the least - respectively 2.95% and 1.20%. Therefore the ratio of their flesh part was 94.97% in the variant without irrigation and 95.85% in the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C . According to the values of the mechanical analysis, the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C occupied an intermediate position for all indicators. The differences in the indicators of the mechanical analysis of a cluster and a berry were in favor of the variants with irrigation, however statistically unproven.

The yield per vine in 2012 was in positive correlation on the number of clusters and the mass of clusters and berries of the studied variants. The lowest yield per vine was obtained from the variant without irrigation - 6.69 kg, and the highest from the variant with irrigation rate 80% of ET_C - 7.63 kg. The variant with irrigation

60 %
 - 6.97 kg
 (4).
 ,
 -
 .
 -
 - 17.1 % 3.25 g/cm³
 ,
 -
 3 - 16.0 %
 3,50 g/cm³
 ,
 -
 ,
 ,
 .
 3 -
 60 %
 625 g,
 80 %
 600 g.
 -
 - 512 g.
 ,
 -
 .
 3 (80 %
) 100
 490 g,
 2 (60 %)
 480 g. 460 g.

rate 60% of ET_C had an intermediate value for this indicator - 6.97 kg (Table 4).

The must analysis from the three variants of Diana cultivar showed that grapes had accumulated a fair amount of sugars while retaining good titratable acidity. The highest content of sugars was found in the grapes from variant 3 - 13.3%. The highest content of sugars in the grapes had the control - 17.1% and 3.25 g/cm³ titratable acidity, and the lowest values were found for variant 3 - 16.0% sugars and 3.50 g/cm³ acids, which might be explained by the lower yield and higher dry matter content as a result of the prolonged drought in the months of June, July and August.

For Rusalka-3 cultivar the highest average cluster mass had the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C - 625 g, followed by the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C - 600 g. The control had the lowest cluster mass for that year - 512 g. Variant 3 (irrigation rate 80% of ET_C) was distinguished with the largest berries for that year with average mass per 100 berries - 490 g, followed by variant 2 (irrigation rate 60% of ET_C) with 480 g and the control - 460 g.

As far as the degree of resistance to tension and pressure it was

4).
 6.
 3

- found that the best transportability had grapes from the variant without irrigation, as the differences compared to 2011 were significantly higher but statistically unproven (Table 4).

The differences in the average mass of clusters and average mass of 100 berries between the variants with irrigation and the control (without irrigation) for Rusalka-3 cultivar were statistically proven (Table 6).

Table 6. Statistical analysis of the average mass per cluster, 100 berries, and yield per vine of Rusalka-3 cultivar

Average mass per cluster		V 1		V 2		V 3	
Variants	x~	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven
V 1	608	x	x	-64	-	18	n.s
V 2	672	64	+	x	x	82	+
V 3	590	-18	n.s	-82	-	x	x
Average mass of 100 berries		V 1		V 2		V 3	
Variants	x~	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven
V 1	670	x	x	-10	-	10	--
V 2	680	10	n.s	x	x	40	n.s
V 3	720	50	++	40	n.s	x	x
Yield per vine		V 1		V 2		V 3	
Variants	x~	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven	Difference	Proven
V 1	5.25	x	x	1.86	--	2.25	---
V 2	7.11	1.86	++	x	x	0.39	n.s
V 3	7.50	2.25	+++	0.39	n.s	x	x

5% - (+) (-); 1% - (++) (--); 0.1% - (+++) (---); <5% - (n.s).

3
 , The differences in the texture and structure of the cluster and the berry of the experimental variants of Rusalka-3 cultivar were

98.78 %
80 %
95.52 % (
)
4.
80 %
60 %
7.11 kg.
3

- insignificant, in favor of the variants with irrigation. The berries ratio in clusters was within the range from 98.53% for the variant without irrigation to 98.78% for the variant with irrigation rate 80% of ET_C . The content of the skins in the berries was approximately equal for the three variants therefore the ratio of their flesh part varied in very narrow ranges – from 95.52% (in the variant without irrigation) to 95.71% (in the variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of , (Table 4).

The differences in the indicators of the mechanical analysis of a cluster and a berry were in favor of the variants with irrigation, however statistically unproven.

The significant differences in the cluster and berry mass and fertility elements were in positive correlation with the average yield per vine for the separate variants. The lowest yield per vine was obtained from the variant without irrigation - 5.25 kg, and the highest from the variant with drip irrigation and irrigation rate 80% of ET_C - 7.50 kg. The variant of drip irrigation and irrigation rate 60% of ET_C had an intermediate position with an average yield of 7.11 kg.

3 The higher yield of variant 3 that year was the result of the higher rate of fruit shoots, more formed clusters and the higher average mass of a cluster.

The resulting differences in the

3 (6).

3

- 18.7 % 3.750 g/cm³

- 17.6 %

2 16.5 %

- 3,500 g/cm³.

- yield indicators were statistically proven (Table 6).

The most analysis from the three variants of Rusalka-3 cultivar showed that grapes had accumulated enough sugars while retaining good titratable acidity.

Because of the lower yield per vine and the dry periods during the summer months, the highest sugars content in grapes had the control variant – 18.7% and 3.750 g/cm³ titratable acidity. The two other experimental variants with different irrigation rates that year had accumulated respectively – 17.6% sugars for variant 2 and 16.5% for variant 3, with equal titratable acidity – 3,500 g/cm³.

CONCLUSIONS

The following tendencies could be pointed out from the study of the irrigation impact on the mechanical properties and grapes quality of table seed and seedless grapevine cultivars:

- A positive correlation was found between most of the main indicators of the mechanical and chemical analysis of a cluster and a berry and irrigation of the investigated cultivars. It was statistically proven that under the conditions of definite water deficit in soil in 2012 the size and mass of the clusters and berries, as well as

the average yield per vine of table seed and seedless grapevine cultivars were higher with increasing the irrigation rate.

Irrigation during the phase of berry softening had a positive impact of the quality indicators and the organoleptic profile of grapes.

With increasing the irrigation rate it was accounted some reduction in grapes transportability (tensile and pressure strength, g) in both groups of cultivars.

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CALLAPHIS JUGLANDIS FRISCH. (HEMIPTERA: APHIDIDAE)

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**SUSCEPTIBILITY OF SOME WALNUT CULTIVARS
 TO INFESTATION OF WALNUT APHID
 CALLAPHIS JUGLANDIS FRISCH. (HEMIPTERA: APHIDIDAE)**

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SUMMARY

Callaphis juglandis
 (*Juglans regia* L.)

15 - 5 , 3
 , 2 , 2 , 3
juglandis. -
 10
 - 2012
 2013 . ,
C. juglandis -

Walnut aphid *Callaphis juglandis* is a potential pest of English walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) in the region of Plovdiv. It develops on the upper side of the leaves and formed numerous colonies that suck juices around the mid-vain of the leaf. The aim of the present research was to study and compare the susceptibility of 15 walnut cultivars – 5 Bulgarian (B), 3 French (F), 2 Hungarian (H), 2 Italian (I) and 3 American (A) – to attack by the walnut aphid *Callaphis juglandis* Frisch. The study was conducted under natural environmental conditions in a 10-year-old walnut collection orchard of the Fruit Growing Institute-Plovdiv, during the period 2012-2013. The evaluation of the attack produced by *Callaphis juglandis* was carried out on leaves collected during the growing season at the peak of aphid

100

McKinney.

: *Juglans regia*,
Callaphis juglandis,

Callaphis juglandis (Goeze)
(Hemiptera: Aphididae)

juglandicola Kalt. (*hropmaphis*
Aphididae).

C. juglandis

(Barbagallo et al., 1995; Heie, 1992; Nieto Nafria and Mier Durante, 1998; Petrovi, 1998; Heie, 1982, Blackman and Eastop, 2000; Atlihan et al., 2010; Nieto Nafria, 2014; Magnussen & Hansen, 2014).

C. juglandis

- multiplication. 100 leaves of 10 trees were sampled at random per cultivar to detect the level of *C. juglandis* attack.

The studied cultivars were divided in different classes of susceptibility to *C. juglandis* depending on the infestation index, calculated by the formula of McKinney. Details of the susceptibility of the tested walnut cultivars to *C. juglandis* attack are discussed.

Key words: *Juglans regia*, cultivars, *Callaphis juglandis*, infestation index

INTRODUCTION

Dusky veined aphid *Callaphis juglandis* (Goeze) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) is an important enemy on walnut trees in Bulgaria. In our country this species is more common and more harmful than walnut green aphid *hropmaphis juglandicola* Kalt. (Hemiptera: Aphididae).

Dusky veined aphid is widely distributed species in Europe, from Spain, Italy and Greece in the South to Norway, Denmark and Sweden in the North, to the Central Asia in the East and North America in the West (Barbagallo et al., 1995; Heie, 1992; Nieto Nafria and Mier Durante, 1998; Petrovi, 1998; Heie, 1982, Blackman and Eastop, 2000; Nieto Nafria, 2014; Magnussen & Hansen, 2014).

C. juglandis colonizes the top side of walnut leaves, establishing the characteristic colonies along the mid-vein, from where they suck plant juice. The damages they cause result in

reducing the tree vigour as well as in nut size, yield, and quality.

Aphids cause blackening of the midrib of the leaves with their feed. In addition, they release honeydew, which is toxic for the green husk of some walnut cultivars.

High populations of aphids may also cause leaf drop, exposing more nuts to sunburn, and can result in blackening and drying of the kernel.

If heavy populations are allowed to develop (i.e. 15 aphids per walnut leaflet) and remain for as little as 14 days uncontrolled, current season's nut quality is reduced along with a substantial reduction in the following season's crop (Strand, 2003).

The aim of this study is to determine and compare the susceptibility of different local and introduced walnut cultivars to attack of dusky veined aphid *Callaphis juglandis* (Goeze).

- reducing the tree vigour as well as in nut size, yield, and quality.

Aphids cause blackening of the midrib of the leaves with their feed. In addition, they release honeydew, which is toxic for the green husk of some walnut cultivars.

- High populations of aphids may also cause leaf drop, exposing more nuts to sunburn, and can result in blackening and drying of the kernel.

- If heavy populations are allowed to develop (i.e. 15 aphids per walnut leaflet) and remain for as little as 14 days uncontrolled, current season's nut quality is reduced along with a substantial reduction in the following season's crop (Strand, 2003).

- The aim of this study is to determine and compare the susceptibility of different local and introduced walnut cultivars to attack of dusky veined aphid *Callaphis juglandis* (Goeze).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

15
- 5
(‘Izvor 10’ , ‘Kuklenski’, ‘Slivenski’,
‘Silistrenski’ ‘Sheinovo’), 3
(‘Fernette’, ‘Fernor’

The susceptibility of 15 walnut cultivars - 5 Bulgarian (‘Izvor 10’ , ‘Kuklenski’, ‘Slivenski’, ‘Silistrenski’ and ‘Sheinovo’), 3 French (‘Fernette’, ‘Fernor’ and

'Lara'), 2 ('Milotai'
'Tiszacsecsi'), 2
(('Alsoszentivani' 'Sorento'), 3
(('Seer', 'Hartley'
'Chandler')
Callaphis juglandis
2012-2013 .

10

juglandis

McKinney (1923).

juglandis

10

100

7

0 –

1 –

2 –

3 –

4 –

5 –

6 –

1 5 ;

6 20 ;

21 50 ;

51 100 ;

101 200 ;

200 .

'Lara'), 2 Hungarian ('Milotai' and
'Tiszacsecsi'), 2 Italian
(('Alsoszentivani' and 'Sorento') and
3 American ('Seer', 'Hartley' and
'Chandler') to attack of *Callaphis*
juglandis was investigated through
2012-2013. The experiments were
carried out in a ten-year old
collections walnut plantation of
Fruit Growing Institute-Plovdiv. The
susceptibility of the cultivars to *C.*
juglandis was estimated by the
infestation index using the formula
of McKinney (1923). Readings are
conducted in the peak of
multiplication of *C. juglandis* in
mid-June. For the purpose, 100
simple leaves from 10 trees of
each cultivar were examined, and
number of aphids in the colonies
was accounted.

Depending on the availability and
number of aphids into the colonies,
the examined leaves were divided
in classes on a seven-point scale:

Class 0 – leaves without aphids;

Class 1 – leaves with 1 to 5
aphids;

Class 2 – leaves with 6 to 20
aphids;

Class 3 – leaves with 21 to 50
aphids;

Class 4 – leaves with 51 to 100
aphids;

Class 5 – leaves with 101 to 200
aphids;

Class 6 – leaves with more than
200 aphids.

According to the infestation

- index the cultivars are evaluated
 - and compared by their degree of
 - susceptibility. The data are
 - processed statistically using
 Duncan's test (Steele & Torrie, 1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research (Table 1) show that through the two years the climatic conditions foster the development of *C. juglandis*. It is evident from the data in Table 1 that there are no cultivars not infested by this species of aphids although not all of them are infested in the same degree. Through the two years of the research, the heaviest infestation was observed in the cultivar Hartley, infestation index, respectively 47,7 and 55,7. It is followed in descending order by cultivars Lara, Tiszacsecsi and Chandler, with infestation index varying between 20,8 and 25,7. The lowest degree of infestation was found in cultivars 'Kuklenski', 'Slivenski', 'Silistrenski', 'Alososzentivani', 'Seer', 'Izvor' 10 and 'Sheinovo' – average infestation index between 2,5 and 5,6. Four of the investigated cultivars, Sorento, Millotay, Fernor and Fernetta take an intermediate position between the two groups with infestation index varying from 7,2 to 14,3.

1.

*C. juglandis***Table 1. Index of *C. juglandis* infestation on different walnut cultivars in the Plovdiv region**

Cultivars	<i>C. juglandis</i>		
	McKinney (1923)		
	Infestation index by <i>C. juglandis</i> on the leaves of different walnut cultivars in the Plovdiv region, by McKinney (1923)		
	2012	2013	2012-2013
1.Kuklenski	2,2	2,7	2,5 e ⁽²⁾
2.Slivenski	2,7	3,3	3,0 e ⁽²⁾
3.Silistrenski	4,3	4,9	4,6 de ⁽²⁾
4.Izvor 10	4,5	5,1	4,8 de ⁽²⁾
5.Sheinovo	4,7	5,3	5,0 de ⁽²⁾
6.Alososzentivani	2,7	3,2	3,0 e ⁽²⁾
7.Seer	3,2	7,5	3,5 e ⁽²⁾
8.Sorento	6,7	7,7	7,2 d ⁽³⁾
9.Millotay	7,1	8,2	7,7 d ⁽³⁾
10.Fernor	11,0	13,9	12,5 c ⁽³⁾
11.Fernette	11,9	16,7	14,3 c ⁽³⁾
12.Chandler	19,2	22,4	20,8 b ⁽³⁾
13.Tiszacsecsi	22,1	25,8	24,0 b ⁽³⁾
14.Lara	24,5	26,9	25,7 b ⁽⁴⁾
15.Hartley	47,7	55,7	51,7 ⁽⁵⁾

 $(p = 0.05)$.

The means followed by the same letter do not differ significantly from one another ($p=0.05$).

(1) Highly resistant (<1 index of aphid infestation); (2) Resistant (1–5 index of aphid infestation); (3) Slightly susceptible (5–25 index of aphid infestation); (4) Susceptible (25–50 index of aphid infestation); (5) Highly susceptible (50–75 index of aphid infestation); (6) Very highly susceptible (>75 index of aphid infestation).

ultivar susceptibility: (1) Highly resistant (up to 1 index of aphid infestation); (2) Resistant (1–5 index of aphid infestation); (3) Slightly susceptible (5–25 index of aphid infestation); (4) Susceptible (25–50 index of aphid infestation); (5) Highly susceptible (50–75 index of aphid infestation), (6) Very highly susceptible (>75 index of aphid infestation).

Summarizing the results of the research, we can conclude that the cultivars of earlier development and apical type of fruiting as 'Kuklenski', 'Slivenski', 'Silistrenski' and 'Sheinovo', are attacked less by *C. juglandis*, compare to the cultivars of later

<i>juglandis</i> ,	-	development and lateral or or intermediate type of fruiting as 'Hartley', 'Lara', 'Tiszacsecsi' and 'Chandler'.
'Lara', 'Tiszacsecsi'	'Hartley', 'Chandler'. 'Izvor' 10, - 90% , (, 2013, " " , ., 2013).	The Bulgarian cultivar 'Izvor' 10, characterized by earlier development and fruiting to 90% of the lateral buds also manifests as less sensitive (Gandev, 2013, In Walnut, edited by Dzhuvinov et al., 2013).
<i>juglandis</i>	C.	Weak infestation of <i>C. juglandis</i> is observed in some introduced walnut cultivars of early development like 'Alososzentivani' and 'Seer', of which characteristic are apical and intermedial type of fruitfulness. The cultivars 'Sorento', 'Millotay', 'Fernor' and 'Fernette' demonstrate average degree of infestation of <i>C. juglandis</i> .
'Alososzentivani'	'Seer', - 'Sorento', 'Millotay', 'Fernor' 'Fernette'	
<i>C. juglandis</i> .		The high resistance of the French cultivars 'Fernor' and 'Fernette' to the most economically important agents of walnut bacterial blight (<i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>juglandis</i> (Pierce) Dye and walnut anthracnose (<i>Gnomonia leptostyla</i> (Fr.) Ces. et de Not.) (Arnaudov t al., 2014), as well as their moderate susceptibility to aphids <i>C. juglandis</i> infestation, makes them extremely suitable for growing in the conditions of South Bulgaria.
'Fernette'	'Fernor' -	
(<i>Xanthomonas arboricola</i> pv. <i>juglandis</i> (Pierce) Dye (<i>Gnomonia leptostyla</i> (Fr.) Ces. et de Not.) (Arnaudov t al., 2014), - - <i>C. juglandis</i> -		
'Izvor' 10	'Sheinovo',	These cultivars, as well as the Bulgarian cultivars 'Izvor' 10 and 'Sheinovo', characterized by high

(, 2013, „ ,
 . , 2013),
C. juglandis

fertility, low to moderate degree of infection of walnut anthracnose, walnut bacterial blight (Gandev, 2013, In Walnut, edited by Dzhuvinov et al., 2013) and the walnut aphid *C. juglandis*, qualify as one of the most perspective cultivars in the contemporary stage of development of walnut production in Bulgaria.

CONCLUSIONS

1. 'Kuklenski', 'Slivenski', 'Silistrenski', 'Izvor' 10 'Sheinovo', -
 - 'Alososzentivani' 'Seer',

Callaphis juglandis.

2. 'Chandler', 'Tiszacsecsi', Millotay, Sorento, Fernor Fernette,
 ,
 'Lara'
 'Hartley'

Callaphis juglandis.

1. The Bulgarian walnut cultivars 'Kuklenski', 'Slivenski', 'Silistrenski', 'Izvor' 10 and 'Sheinovo', as well as the introduced - 'Alososzentivani' and 'Seer', characterized by early development and apical type of fruitfulness are practically resistant to *Callaphis juglandis*.

2. The introduced cultivars 'Chandler', 'Tiszacsecsi', Millotay, Sorento, Fernor and Fernette, characterized by late development, intermedial or lateral type of fruitfulness are slightly to moderately susceptible, 'Lara' is susceptible and 'Hartley' is highly susceptible to *Callaphis juglandis*.

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PHENOLOGICAL AND REPRODUCTIVE MANIFESTATIONS OF APPLE HYBRIDS

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SUMMARY

During the period 2010-2014 five apple hybrids created in the Institute of Agriculture - Kyustendil were studied.

The flowering time, ripening and active temperature sums for the periods: beginning of vegetation - beginning of flowering; beginning of flowering - end of full flowering; end of full flowering - ripening of fruits were established. The duration of the bloom was about 13-15 days and the vegetation period was within 239-243 days.

The number of the days from the end of flowering until harvest was about 136 to 146 days, respectively for hybrids 2/30 and 1/5 and temperature sums over 10 °C from 1223,7 to 1290,6 °C, for the conditions of the Kyustendil region.

According to the fruit ripening period the studied hybrids refer to the group of winter cultivars.

The highest total yield was obtained from the trees of hybrids 1/3 and

2010-2014 .	5				
-					
:		-			
,		-			
.			13-15	,	
239-243 .					
	136	146		,	
	2/30	1/5			
	10	1223,7			
1290,6					
-					
	1/3	2/28,			

86,4 71,0 kg

2/28, respectively 86.4 and 71.0 kg/tree.

Keywords: apple hybrids, flowering, ripening, temperature sums, yield

INTRODUCTION

The blossom of each cultivar depends on its biological characteristics and climatic conditions in the area of cultivation. A number of studies have been conducted to establish the flowering time of different apple cultivars and hybrids (Blagov, 2011; Djuvinov, 1983; Blazek, 1983; Bozbu a and Pırlak, 2012).

The blossom of each cultivar depends on its biological characteristics and climatic conditions in the area of cultivation. A number of studies have been conducted to establish the flowering time of different apple cultivars and hybrids (Blagov, 2011; Djuvinov, 1983; Blazek, 1983; Bozbu a and Pırlak, 2012). This allows the selection of later flowering of them for the areas where late spring frosts often cause damage to the reproductive organs of plants.

The established the correlation between the sum of the effective air temperature and the number of days for passage of flowering under apple cultivars (Djuvinov, 2003a, b; Romanovskaja and Bakšiene, 2009).

The established the correlation between the sum of the effective air temperature and the number of days for passage of flowering under apple cultivars (Djuvinov, 2003a, b; Romanovskaja and Bakšiene, 2009).

The ripening time of the fruits also depends from the cultivar, the rootstock used and environmental conditions in the area of cultivation (Karaçalı, 2004; Baytekin, 2006).

The ripening time of the fruits also depends from the cultivar, the rootstock used and environmental conditions in the area of cultivation (Karaçalı, 2004; Baytekin, 2006).

The purpose of this study was phenological and reproductive characteristics of five apple hybrids.

The purpose of this study was phenological and reproductive characteristics of five apple hybrids.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2010-2014 .
 -
 2007 .
 5 :
 1/3 (Mollie's Delicious -
), 1/5
 (Malus robusta x Liberty), 1/26
 (Melrose x Kent), 2/28 (Prima x
 Florina) 2/30 (Prima x Sekai-
 ichi),
 .
 (5
)
 106
 4,5
 2,5 m.
 .
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 ,
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 4 t ,
 150 kg 120
 kg .
 18 kg/da
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 ,

This study was carried out in
 the period 2010-2014 in the
 collection plantation of the Institute
 of Agriculture - Kyustendil,
 established in the spring of 2007.
 The objectives of the investigations
 were five apple hybrids: 1/3
 (Mollie's Delicious -open
 pollinated), 1/5 (Malus robusta x
 Liberty), 1/26 (Melrose x Kent),
 2/28 (Prima x Florina) and
 2/30 (Prima x Sekai-ichi), selected
 at the same Institute.

The experimental trees (5
 numbers from each hybrid) were
 grafted onto rootstock MM 106 and
 planted at distances 4,5 x 2,5 m.
 They were trained in the shape of
 free-growing crowns. Each tree
 was treated as a separate
 repetition.

The soil is Chromic Luvisols,
 slightly sandy loam with a neutral
 reaction. Before planting the area
 was enriched with 4 t manure, 150
 kg double superphosphate and
 120 kg of potassium sulphate per
 decare. Fertilization with 18 kg
 nitrogen in active substance per
 decare was applied annually. The
 soil surface in the plantation was
 maintained in clean cultivation. The
 trees were irrigated by sprinkling.

The yearly recorded
 parameters included: beginning,
 end and length of the growing
 period, flowering and fruit ripening
 time, average and total yields of
 fruit per tree (kg), according to the

(kg),
 (, 1979).
 o
 (ANOVA)
 <0.05%.

Methodology for the study of plant resources in fruit plants (Nedev et al., 1979).

The results were statistically evaluated by Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and means were separated by Duncan's multiple range at $p < 0.05\%$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The phenological observations showed that the beginning, end and duration of flowering depend both on the hereditary characteristics of an individual hybrid, and also on the climatic conditions in different years.

Average for the period of the study, the earliest date of the vegetation was registered for the trees of hybrid 1/3 and 1/5 - on 27 March. The other hybrids started vegetation in an interval of 1-2 days. The duration of the growing season ranges from 239 to 243 days (Table 1).

1. 2010-2014 .
Table 1. Duration of the vegetation period, average for 2010-2014

Hybrid	Beginning of vegetation	End of vegetation	Number of days
1/3	27.03	24.11	243
1/5	27.03	24.11	243
1/26	29.03	26.11	243
2/28	28.03	21.11	239
2/30	28.03	21.11	239

- Depending on the temperature conditions at the end of winter and early spring the trees

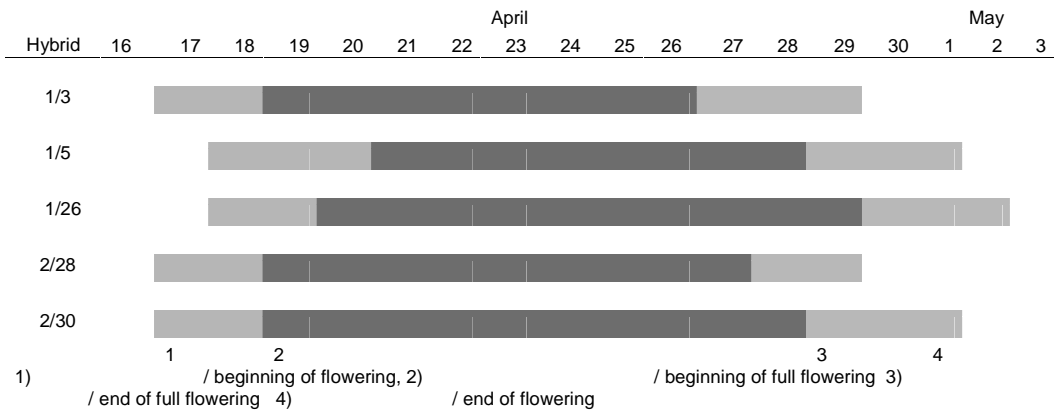
- started flowering at different time.
 During the observation period the
 earliest flowering was registered in
 2014 - between 7 and 10 April in
 which year was registered the
 earliest date of permanent
 retention of air temperature above
 5 °C (effective temperature) – on 2
 February. In 2011 the flowering
 started relatively later - between
 23 and 25 April, when were
 reported and the lowest average
 air temperatures.
 In hybrids 1/5 and
 1/26, average for the period, the
 flowering started 1 day later and
 ended 2-3 days after the rest. The
 duration of the full flowering was 8-
 10 days. End of flowering (95%
 petals fall) was registered from 29
 April to 2 May, i.e. the studied
 hybrids had the blooming period
 around 13-15 days, for the
 conditions of the Kyustendil region
 (Figure 1). No significant
 differences between the tested
 hybrids were observed in the
 duration of flowering period in
 different years.
 For each inter-phase period
 is needed a specified temperature
 sum. Since the beginning of
 vegetation until the beginning of
 flowering the effective temperature
 sum varied from 159.12 °C (hybrid
 1/5) to 163.24 °C (2/30),
 which were accumulated for about
 45-46 days. For the period of
 beginning - end of flowering this
 sum was about 78-96 °C. The

78 – 96 , - lowest requirements had hybrid
 1/3, - 1/5 | 1/3 and the highest - 1/5 (Table
 (2).

2.
 2010-2014 .

Table 2. Duration of different phenophases and temperature sums, average for 2010-2014

Hybrid	Beginning of vegetation - beginning of flowering		Beginning-end of flowering		End of flowering-ripening of the fruit			
	Number of days	t >5	Number of days	Sum of temperatures	Number of days	Sum of temperatures		
				t>5	t>10	t>5	t>10	
1/3	45	159,2	13	77,8	34,1	143	1965,4	1249,4
1/5	45	159,1	14	95,9	36,0	146	2034,6	1290,6
1/26	45	163,0	15	93,4	35,5	139	1957,9	1255,9
2/28	46	162,2	13	85,3	31,3	141	1945,9	1238,9
2/30	45	163,2	15	93,5	35,8	136	1904,7	1223,7



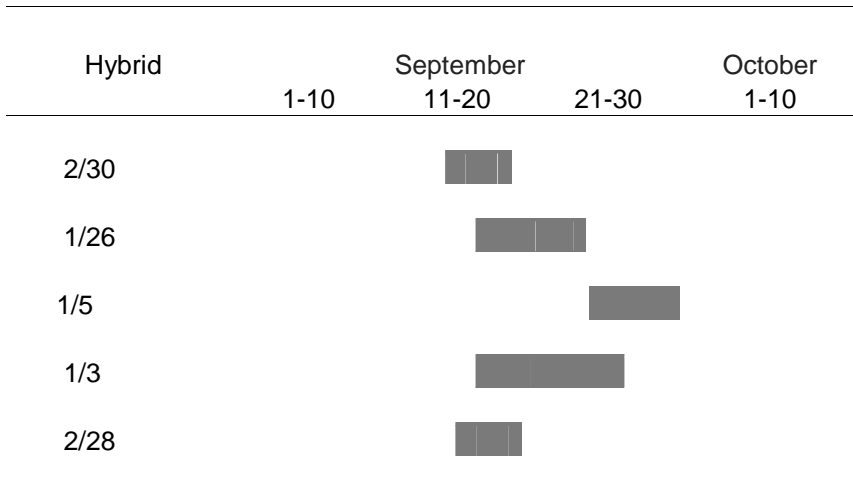
1.
 2010-2014 .
Fig. 1. Phenogram of flowering of apple hybrids, average for 2010-2014

136 2/30 146
 1/5
 10 1223,7 1290,6 .

The number of days from the end of flowering to fruit ripening was from 136 for 2/30 to 146 days for 1/5 and reaching temperature sum over 10 from 1223,7 to 1290,6 °C.

Based on the established fruit ripening period the tested hybrids refer to the group of winter cultivars. The fruit of hybrid 2/30 ripened the earliest (between 12 and 20 September) and those of hybrid 1/3 - the latest (between 16 and 25 September). The others occupied a middle position (Figure 2).

Based on the established fruit ripening period the tested hybrids refer to the group of winter cultivars. The fruit of hybrid 2/30 ripened the earliest (between 12 and 20 September) and those of hybrid 1/3 - the latest (between 16 and 25 September). The others occupied a middle position (Figure 2).



2. 2010-2014 .
Fig. 2. Phenogram of ripening of the fruit of apple hybrids average for the period 2010-2014

4 .
 (3).
 2013 .
 -
 ,
 1/3.
 -

The first commercial production was obtained in the fourth year after planting the trees. Over the years there was some variation in the average yield differences between hybrids have proven studied (Table 3).

In 2013, yields were significantly lower than in other years, except of hybrid 1/3. Reasons for this probably have been the hot weather and lack of rainfall in the

summer of last year, combined with higher yields and early autumn frosts occurred.

Already in the beginning of December the minimum air temperature was with negative values, which in the middle of the month reached to -14.0, -19.5 ° C. All these factors had a negative influence on the formation of reproductive organs and thereby on the yield.

3. 2010-2014
Table 3. Reproductive manifestations of apple hybrids for 2010-2014

Hybrid	Average yield (kg/tree)					Total	Yield efficiency (kg/cm ² of TCSA)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		
1/3	4,5	12,4	33,0	21,0	15,5	86,4	1,16
1/5	3,0 **	15,0 ***	20,0 ***	2,4 ***	23,8 *	64,2 ***	0,87
1/26	8,1 ***	10,2 **	21,4 ***	11,0 ***	17,8 **	68,5 ***	0,87
2/28	5,4	6,2 ***	27,5 **	1,2 ***	30,7 ***	71,0 *	1,40
2/30	5,8 *	10,4 **	12,4 ***	2,0 ***	15,0 ns	45,6 ***	0,60
LSD 0,05	0,97	1,25	3,19	2,04	1,61	3,47	0,21
0,01	1,34	1,73	4,39	2,82	2,22	4,79	0,28
0,001	1,84	2,38	6,04	3,88	3,06	6,59	0,39

1/3
 2/28,
 2/30.
 1/3
 2/28
 (kg/cm²)

The highest average yields and total for the period were obtained from trees of hybrids 1/3 and 2/28, and the lowest from those of 2/30. No significant difference was found between 1/5 and 1/26. Higher fruitfulness of hybrids 1/3 and 2/28 was confirmed by its coefficients of productivity

),
 - ,
 (3).
 243 .
 239
 13-15 .
 136 146
 10
 1223,7 1290,6 .
 -
 1/5.
 -
 1/3 2/28.

(kg/cm² of trunk cross-sectional area, whose values were also higher than the other hybrids (Table 3).

CONCLUSIONS

The duration of vegetation period in the studied hybrids ranges from 239 to 243 days.

The blossoming of the trees continues 13-15 days.

Since the end of flowering to fruit ripening are necessary 136 to 146 days and temperature sum over 10 °C from 1223,7 to 1290,6 °C.

The hybrids refer to the group of winter varieties. Fruit of hybrid 1/5 ripen the latest.

The productivity is the highest for hybrid 1/3 and 2/28.

Acknowledgement

The research was supported by the Bulgaria Ministry of Education and Science /Fund „Scientific Research”/ - Project: „Investigation of new grape cultivars and of perspective apple hybrids” – Contract DNTS /China 01/ 03/ 11.25.2011.

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STUDY ON LOCAL VARIETIES AND FORMS OF PEAR AND APPLE FROM THE PLANT GENE POOL IN THE REGION OF SMOLYAN

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SUMMARY

2010-2013 .

The study was conducted in the period 2010-2013 and consists in crawl of plantations, holiday courtyards and gardens in the region of Smolyan with the purpose of identifying, sampling and preservation of valuable local varieties and forms pear and apple.

- In visiting are conducted talks with farmers about the origin of varieties and forms and are made observations and
- biometrical measurements of the growth and development of plants, phytosanitary state of plants, respectively fruits. Trees height, crown diameter and the circumference of the trunk are
- determined. Biological and morphological characteristics of fruits are established: shape, flavour, colour of skin and fruit
- index. It is established their reaction to major economically important diseases and pests – scab and moth.

- The studies are carried out according to the methodology adopted for

(, 1979).

3
 („ 3“, „ 4“, „ 5“) 6
 („ 6“, „ 7“, „ 1“, „ 5“,
 „ 1“, 1).

(50), 4 13
 m,

125.60 cm 199.39 cm.

„ 5“ „ 3“, „ 4“, „
 „ 7“, „ 5“

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the study of plant resources in fruit plants (, 1979).

As a result of this survey are selected 3 forms pear („ 3“, „ 4“, „ 5“) and 6 forms apple („ 6“, „ 7“, „ 1“, „ 5“, „ 1“, 1). In most cases the trees of the selected forms are older than 50 years, high from 4 m to 13 m, with medium branching of skeletal branches and trunk circumference between 125.60 m and 199.39 m.

The forms pear „ 3“, „ 4“, „ 5“ and forms apple „ 7“, „ 5“ are characterized by an endurance to adverse climatic conditions in the spring, good growth of the trees, medium to good branching of skeletal branches, good to very good fertility and regular fruit-bearing.

Key words: local varieties and forms, pear, apple, sampling, preservation

INTRODUCTION

Pear and apple are fruit cultures of great economic importance. They are characterized by large fertility and excellent flavour of fruits which are good marketable commodity for both domestic and foreign market.

Pear occupies 2.16% and apple 18.47% from the total area of the cultivated fruit species in the region of Smolyan.

Local population grows two cultures mainly to satisfy their needs of fresh and dried fruits or processed into juices, compotes and jams. In the future, in the development of rural tourism and the transformation of some

2.16%, 18.47%.

(, 2006).

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2010-2013 .

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settlements in a sustainable market, this type of production can be source of income (, 2006).

The assortment consists of newly selected and old local varieties and forms. Some of the local varieties and forms despite their age (over 50 years) are distinguished by vital trees, good fertility and regular fruit-bearing.

To preserve the currently existing genetic diversity and to provide material for organic fruit production, and respectively to create new varieties, is necessary their preservation.

In this connection, the aim of the present investigation is to study the varieties and forms of pears and apples from the spread local genetic resources in the region of Smolyan and to select samples with good economic qualities.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted during the period 2010-2013 and consists in crawl of plantations, holiday courtyards and gardens in the region of Smolyan. In visiting were conducted talks with farmers about the origin of varieties and forms, and the used practices in their growing.

In vegetation were made observations and biometrical

measurements of the growth and development of plants, phytosanitary state of plants, respectively fruits. Trees height, crown diameter and circumference of the trunk were determined.

Biological and morphological characteristics of fruits were established: shape, flavour, colour of skin and fruit index. It was established their reaction to major economically important diseases and pests – scab and moth.

At the moment of flowering and full ripening of fruits were identified samples of varieties and forms and was collected biological material.

The observations, biometrical measurements and reporting of parameters were carried out according to the adopted methodology in fruit-growing (., 1979).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Three forms from genus *Pyrus* and six forms from genus *Malus* were selected in the conducted expeditionary study of local plant resources. In most cases they grow as single trees alone or mixed with other fruit species.

Data regarding growth, development and fruit characteristic are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Malus. *Pyrus* 6

1 2.

1.

Table 1. Vegetative development of trees

Cultivar, Form	Tree height m	Trunk height m	Trunk circumference cm	Number of skeletal branches	Degree of crown development	Average crown diameter m	
/ Pears							
. /F. "	3"	10-11	1.60	150	3	/medium	8
. /F. "	4"	13	1.39	172	2-3	/good	8-10
. /F. "	5"	12.5	1.00	174	2	/slight	2-2.5
/ Apples							
. /F. "	6"	6-7	1.25-1.91	100-113	2	/medium	4-5
. /F. "	7"	7-9	1.16	89-127	2-3	/medium	5-8
. /F. "	1"	6-7	1.31	115	2	/medium	3-4
. /F. "	1"	4-5	1.10	112	3	/medium	4
. /F. "	1"	5-6	1.48	122-131	2-3	/medium	4-5
. /F. "	5"	4-5	1.21	173	2	/medium	3-4

2.

Table 2. Characteristics of fruits

Cultivar, Form	Shape	Colouring	Taste qualities	Fruit index	Diseases and Pests
/ Pears					
. /F. "	3"	-	-	1.19	/Scab 20-25%
	pear-elongated	green with rust-brown hue	fruit flesh white to cream-coloured, very juicy, sweet, stony consistence		
. /F. "	4"	-	-	1.37	/Scab 10-15%
	pear-elongated	green to rust-brown	fruit flesh cream-coloured, juicy, sweet		
. /F. "	5"	-	-	1.31	/Scab 10-15%
	pear-elongated	yellow on brown background	fruit flesh cream-coloured to white, juicy, very sweet		
/ Apples					
. /F. "	6"	-	-	0.84	/Scab 10-15%
	round-oval	yellow-red	fruit flesh juicy, cream-coloured, balanced content sugars - acids		
. /F. "	7"	-	-	0.89	/Scab 10-15%
	oval-round	green with yellow hue	/ fruit flesh juicy, white, balanced content sugars - acids		
. /F. "	1"	-	-	0.78	/Scab 10-15%
	oval-round slightly flattened	bright red on yellow background	/ fruit flesh juicy, white, balanced content sugars - acids		
. /F. "	1"	-	-	0.71	/Scab 20-25%
	oval-round	dark red on yellow-green background	fruit flesh juicy, white, sweet-sour, firm consistence		
. /F. "	1"	-	-	0.92	/Scab 20-25%
	oval-round slightly conical	dark red to light-green with red stripes	fruit flesh juicy, whitish, sweet-sour		
. /F. "	5"	-	-	0.88	/Scab 10-15%
	oval-round slightly oblong	red on yellow background	fruit flesh juicy, sweet, slightly tart, with firm consistence		

domestica Medik./

/Pyrus

Pear species
domestica Medik./

/Pyrus



” 3”
10-11 m, -
8 m
150 cm
-
30
()
-
1.19.
,
,
” 4”
13 m,
8-10 m,
172 cm.

Form „ 3”. Trees are high about 10-11 m, crown diameter is 8 m and trunk circumference is 150 cm at medium branching of basic branches. Flowering occurs on about 30th April and the full ripening of fruits (consumptive ripeness) is observed in the first ten days of September.

Fruits are green with reddish-brown hue of the skin and index 1.19. Flesh is white to cream-coloured, juicy and sweet, with firm consistence.

Form „ 4”. Trees are high about 13 m, crown reaches in diameter up to 8-10 m, and trunk circumference is 172 cm. Crown is

50	1200 m	well developed though trees are older than 50 years.
4-5	-	At altitude 1200 m trees start flowering on about 4-5 th May and full ripeness of fruits is observed in late autumn, after 15-20 th October.
15-20	-	Fruits are large, with green to reddish-brown skin and index 1.37. Flesh is cream-coloured, juicy and sweet.
	1.37.	



m,	” 5”.	12.5 m, 2-2.5 – 174	Form „ 5”. Tree height is about 12.5 m, crown diameter is 2-2.5 m, and trunk circumference – 174 cm. Crown is well developed.
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cm.

22
 () –
 -
 1.31.
 ,
 -
 3-
 ,
 .
 -
 " 3"
 20-25%,

Trees start flowering on 22nd April and fruit-bearing (picking ripeness) – at the end of September.

Fruits have pear-elongated shape, yellow skin on brown background and index 1.31. Flesh is cream-coloured to white, juicy and very sweet.

All three forms of pears show certain resistance to unfavorable climatic conditions typical of the spring season, as a result of which flowering and fruit-setting are less affected. Leaves and fruits of form " 3" are infested by scab up to 20-25%, while the rest forms from 10 to 15%.

10 15%.

domestica Borkh./

/Malus

Apple species /Malus domestica Borkh./



6

„ 6”.
 6-7 m,
 100 113 cm.
 25-28
 .
 -
 , -
 0.84.
 ”.
 ”.
 10-15%.

Form „ 6”. Tree height is up to 6-7 m, and trunk circumference varies from 100 to 113 cm. They bloom on about 25-28th April and consumptive fruit ripeness occurs at the end of August. Fruits are characterized by round-oval shape, yellow-green to red skin and index 0.84.

Flesh is juicy with good combination of acids and sugars and its flavour approaches the variety „Golden Winter Pearmain”. The fruits and leaves are infested by scab up to 10-15%.



„ 7”.
 7 9 m,
 5-8 m
 89 127 cm.
 3-5
 ,
 15-20
 .
 - ,

Form „ 7”. Tree height is between 7 and 9 m, crown with diameter 5-8 m is very well developed and trunk circumference is between 89 and 127 cm.

Trees start flowering on about 3-5th May and full fruit ripeness is observed on about 15-20th November. Fruits have oval-round shape, green colour with yellow hue and index 0.89.

0.89.

Flesh at consumptive ripeness is juicy with pleasant lemon flavour and balanced content of sugars - acids.

It should be noted that without conducting agrotechnical practices— fertilizing, watering, pruning and phytosanitary measures trees regularly fruit bear for many years.

10-15%

Scab disease is noticed at the end of the spring season as it covers 10-15% of leaves and fruits. Damages from moth have not been observed.



„ 1”.

6-7 m,
3-4 m,
– 115

Form „ 1”. Tree height is

up to 6-7 m, crown diameter is 3-4 m, and trunk circumference – 115 cm. Flowering starts on 10-13th

cm.

10-13

April and ripening of fruits occurs during the period 27-30th

27-30

- September. Fruits are characterized by oval-round,

0.78.
10-15%.

- slightly flattened shape, red skin on yellow-green background and index 0.78. Flesh is white, juicy, with good combination between sugars and acids. Fruits and leaves are infested by scab up to 10-15%.



5 m
24
0.71.
20-25%.

- Form "1". It is characterized by trees reaching height up to 4-5 m, their crown diameter is 4 m, and trunk circumference – 112 cm. Crown is well developed.

22- Flowering starts on 22-24th April and fruits ripen in October. They have oval-round shape, red skin on yellow-green background and index 0.71. Flesh is sweet-sour, with firm consistence. Fruits and leaves are infested by scab up to 20-25%.



" 1".
 1100 m
 5-6 m.
 4-5 m,
 122 131 cm.
 18-20
 27-30
 -
 0.92.
 25%.
 " 5".
 900 m
 4-5 m
 3-4 m,
 - 173 cm.

Form " 1". Trees develop at altitude about 1100 m and reach height 5-6 m. Crown diameter is 4-5 m, and trunk circumference is between 122 and 131 cm. Trees start flowering on 18-20th April and ripening of fruits starts during the period 27-30th September. They have oval-round shape with tendency to conical shape, light green to red skin and index 0.92. Flesh is juicy, white, sweet-sour. Fruits and leaves are infested by scab up to 20-25%.

Form „ 5". It develops at altitude about 900 m. Trees reach height 4-5 m, crown diameter is about 3-4 m, and trunk circumference – 173 cm. Crown development is medium. Trees start flowering on 20-22nd

20-22 , April and fruits ripen at the end of August – the beginning of September. They are characterized by oval-round, slightly oblong shape with attractive red skin on yellow background and index 0.88. Flesh is cream-coloured white, sweet with slightly tart flavour and firm consistence. Fruits and leaves are infested by scab up to 10-15%.



4" • 5" „ 3", „

CONCLUSIONS

• Forms pear „ 3", „ 4" and „ 5" are vital, well developed and with regular fruit-

60-70
 10-13 m
 150
 174 cm;
 •
 „ 7” „ 5”
 150 170 kg.
 –
 – 10-15%;
 •
 4”, „ 5” „ 3”, „ 7”,
 „ 5” „ 6”, „ 7”,
 „ 5”

bearing. At the age of 60-70 years, trees are high up to 10-13 m, with well developed crown and trunk circumference between 150 and 174 cm;
 • Forms apple „ 6”, „ 7” and „ 5” are with abundant and regular fruit-bearing. Production from one tree varies from 150 to 170 kg. They are resistant to spring unfavourable climatic conditions – low and critical temperatures. They are slightly susceptible to disease scab – 10-15%;
 • Forms pear „ 3”, „ 4”, „ 5” and apple „ 6”, „ 7”, „ 5” are valuable biological material for grafting and selection of new varieties.

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CURRENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF FRUIT GROWING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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SUMMARY

- Fruit growing is a highly profitable
- and important development branch of
- agriculture. In the Republic of Serbia, it is
- characterised by fluctuations in the
- volume of overall output, yield, quality and
- prices of fruit products. The results of the
- 'Census of Agriculture 2012' reveal that
- orchards occupy 4.8% of the total area of
- agricultural land in the country. In the
- structure of the commonly grown fruit
- species, stone fruits occupy the dominant
- position, followed by pome and small
- fruits, with nuts occupying the smallest
- share.

- Considering the extremely favourable
- climatic and soil conditions, it is necessary
- to progress towards setting up new
- intensive plantations with contemporary
- assortment and growing technologies
- developed to suit specific fruit
- species/cultivars.

- The paper presents the results of the
- analysis of the current production and
- perspectives of developing the most
- economically significant pome fruits

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(,)
(,)

(apples and pears), as well as stone fruits (plum, sweet and sour cherry) and small fruits (strawberry, raspberry, blackberry and blueberry) in the Republic of Serbia.

Keywords: fruit growing, temperate fruit species, cultivars, rootstocks, growing technologies

INTRODUCTION

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- Over the past decades, the fruit growing in the Republic of Serbia has undergone a number of different tendencies – both from the aspect of research work and the fruit-growing practices, depending on the economic circumstances and the cultivated fruit species and cultivars. The Census of Agriculture conducted in 2012 made it possible for the first time in the past 50 years to obtain precise data on the total areas occupied by orchards, as well as areas occupied by the respective fruit species.

2012

50

163.310 h (

4.8%

- The Census has shown that the total area occupied by orchards amounts to 163.310 h (excluding strawberry, which is 4.8% of the total agricultural land area), whereas the favourable agro-ecological conditions are suitable for growing of all temperate fruit species and can support attainment of excellent results in yield, quality and profitability of production.

The long local tradition in the production of plum, raspberry,

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11%
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2014-2024).
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apple and sour cherry is one of the
key reasons why these fruit
species are the most important
ones for the fruit production of the
Republic of Serbia. However, there
are also other temperate fruit
species (such as peach, pear,
sweet cherry, apricot, strawberry,
blackberry) that are traditionally
grown in certain parts of the
country. Fruit production
represents around 11% of the total
value of Serbia's agricultural
production (Development Strategy
of Agriculture and Rural
Development of the Republic of
Serbia for the period 2014 2024).
In accordance with the
aforementioned facts, fruit growing
has played an important role in the
economy of our country; however,
this role has not been as prominent
as it could have been based on the
available potentials – both the
natural ones and the ones present
in practice and scientific support in
this field.

There are numerous factors
making an impact on the yield and
quality of the temperate fruit
species; however, there can be not
doubt whatsoever that the risks
involved are reduced to a minimum
level by intensifying the production
based on an adequate choice of
the assortment, rootstock, growing
systems, implementation of
modern agro-technical and pomo-
technical measures and irrigation
systems, as well as anti-hail nets,
anti-frost systems and other

available measures.

Owing to an earlier ripening time and the customs-free export regime, a large part of table cultivars production of temperate fruit species is sold at the markets of the Russian Federation and CEFTA members. At the same time, frozen processed fruits are mainly exported to countries of the European Union. Fruit and fruit products have a 17% share in the structure of total export of agricultural produce. In the forthcoming period, it is important to focus the attention to achieving profitable production and further possibilities of exporting different fruit species, either for fresh consumption or as a semi-finished or finished product.

The paper analyses the condition of the current production of pome, stone and small fruits, from the aspect of introducing further measures aimed at advancing the production and processing of fruits, with an ultimate goal of making a contribution to the development of fruit growing as a highly profitable agricultural branch in the Republic of Serbia.

Pome Fruit Species

Apple. With the total production of 255,395 tonnes per year (2005–2014 average), apple

(255,395
2005-2014),

, 2015).
 15.2 t
 ha⁻¹ (2005-2014;
 3, , 2015)
 (70 t ha⁻¹)
 (40 t
 ha⁻¹).
 (3.2–3.6 × 0.75–0.8 m
 / 0.6–0.65
 " " (.); 3,900 5,000)
 ,
 ,
 (Nikoli et al. (2012).
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 " "
 - ,
 40–50%
 (Luki 2006; Milatovi
 et al. (2009). Nikoli et al.
 (2012),
 " "
 " (20%) " "
 (10%),
 " " (10%) "
 " (5%),
 ,
 (" " " 69", "

Serbia, 2015). Despite this, the
 average yield of 15.2 t ha⁻¹ (period
 2005–2014; Table 3, Statistical
 Office of the Republic of Serbia,
 2015) is still significantly lower
 compared to the average yield in
 the Republic of Austria (over 70 t
 ha⁻¹) and Republic of Slovenia
 (over 40 t ha⁻¹).

Setting up high-density apple
 orchards (3.2–3.6 × 0.75–0.8 m for
 standard cultivars / 0.6–0.65 for
 spur types; 3,900 to 5,000 trees
 per hectare) with anti-hail net and
 irrigation system, accompanied by
 introduction of quality standards,
 will lead to a higher volume of
 production per unit of area in the
 Republic of Serbia (Nikoli et al.
 2012).

The most significant fruit-
 growing regions of our country are
 dominated by standard cultivars of
 a medium fruit quality, among
 which 'Idared' still occupies the
 largest share, accounting for 40–
 50% of the total apple production
 (Luki 2006; Milatovi et al. 2009).
 According to Nikoli et al. (2012),
 an important part of the assortment
 is taken up by 'Golden Delicious'
 (20%) and 'Granny Smith' (10%),
 as well as cultivars belonging to
 'Jonagold' (10%) and 'Red
 Delicious' (5%) group, whereas the
 remaining part belongs to the
 cultivars that are gradually being
 withdrawn from the production
 ('Mucu', 'Gloster 69', 'Melrose' and
 others), as well as to newly-

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" " " " " " " "
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Milatovi et al. 2009; Luki et al.
2011; Luki and Mari , 2012).

(" " " " " "
" " " " " "
") 2%
(Mari et al.
(2013).

106 (44.5%), 9
(40.8%) 26 (12.2%),
111, 2
,
(Keserovi et al. (2004).

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(Luki et al. (2012).

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Venturia inaequalis (Cooke) Wint,

introduced cultivars, which have shown good biological and agronomic traits during the trials conducted in experimental and commercial plantations ('Gala' and 'Fuji' groups, 'Braeburn', 'Pink Lady', 'Topaz' and others; Milatovi et al. 2009; Luki et al. 2011; Luki and Mari , 2012). The indigenous apple cultivars ('Budimka', 'Kožara', 'Pozna Kola ara', 'Petrova a', 'Šumatovka' and others) account for under 2% of the total apple production in the Republic of Serbia (Mari et al. 2013). In the structure of the apple rootstocks, the most frequently used are the vegetative rootstocks MM 106 (44.5%), M9 (40.8%) and M26 (12.2%), with the rootstocks MM 111, A 2 and wild apple seedling being used to a lesser degree (Keserovi et al. 2004).

The work on breeding new apple cultivars at Fruit Research Institute in a ak has resulted in the release of two cultivars – ' a anska Pozna' ('Starking' x 'Jonathan') and ' adel' ('Golden Delicious' x 'Jonathan'), as well as a number of promising selections which have been singled out (Luki et al. 2012).

Development of new apple cultivars of high quality fruit with long storage life, resistant to causal agents of diseases and pests, primarily to *Venturia inaequalis* (Cooke) Wint are the current objectives of the breeding

(Mari and Luki 2013a).
 S- , ACS1 ,
Venturia inaequalis
 ,
 ,
 (Mari et al. 2010; Mari and Luki , 2013b).

programme conducted at the Fruit Research Institute in a ak (Mari and Luki 2013a).

The basic criteria applied in choosing the parental cultivars for planned hybridisation are: S- g n type, ACS1 g n type, g ne for resistance to *Venturia inaequalis* and the fruit quality. Recently, within the apple breeding programme, we have started with application of functional markers with the aim of improving the efficiency by enabling early selection for adult traits and simultaneous selection for multiple traits (Mari et al. 2010; Mari and Luki , 2013b).

1. (000)
 , 2005-2014

Table 1. Number of productive trees (000) of pome and stone fruit species, 2005-2014

Year	Apple	Pear	Plum	Sweet cherry	Sour cherry
2005	14,805	4,958	42,582	1,832	8,938
2006	14,658	4,788	41,796	1,804	8,562
2007	15,037	4,723	41,885	1,823	8,651
2008	15,224	4,404	41,885	1,842	8,637
2009	15,600	4,471	41,601	1,849	8,683
2010	15,880	4,414	41,171	1,856	8,377
2011	16,042	4,528	40,822	1,864	8,377
2012	16,904	4,296	40,429	1,860	8,068
2013	18,296	4,355	39,530	1,836	8,076
2014	23,737	7,343	77,949	3,705	13,990
/Mean	16,618	4,828	44,965	2,027	9,036

2.
2005-2014

(),

Table 2. Production of pome and stone fruit species (tonnes), 2005-2014

Year	Apple	Pear	Plum	Sweet cherry	Sour cherry
2005	198,030	46,739	304,351	19,767	63,870
2006	240,320	57,717	556,227	23,302	80,510
2007	245,228	60,523	680,566	28,546	99,893
2008	235,601	61,886	606,767	29,551	89,746
2009	281,868	67,771	662,631	29,228	105,353
2010	239,945	47,501	426,846	22,201	66,224
2011	265,676	65,289	581,874	28,557	90,596
2012	178,713	39,112	391,485	22,213	74,656
2013	332,255	68,121	738,278	28,146	98,271
2014	336,313	63,744	401,452	20,008	93,905
/Mean	255,395	57,840	535,048	25,152	86,302

3.
, 2005-2014

(t ha⁻¹)

Table 3. Yield per unit of area (t ha⁻¹) of pome and stone fruit species, 2005-2014

Year	Apple	Pear	Plum	Sweet cherry	Sour cherry
2005	13.0	6.8	2.8	4.4	5.6
2006	15.9	8.7	5.2	5.3	7.4
2007	15.9	9.3	6.4	6.4	9.1
2008	15.1	10.2	5.7	6.6	8.2
2009	17.6	11.0	6.3	6.5	9.5
2010	14.7	7.8	4.1	4.9	6.2
2011	16.1	10.4	5.6	6.3	8.5
2012	10.3	6.6	3.8	4.9	7.3
2013	19.3	11.2	7.3	6.1	10.1
2014	14.2	8.7	5.2	5.4	6.7
/Mean	15.2	9.1	5.2	5.7	7.9

57,840
(2005-2014),

Pear. With a total production reaching 57,840 tonnes per year (2005–2014 average), pear ranks high among the most important tree-fruits in the Republic of Serbia, preceded only by plum, apple and sour cherry.

Pear production is mostly located in Jablani ki region (the city of

(- 362 ha),
 (-
 287 ha),
 (- 215 ha)
 (- 202 ha),
 (- 196 ha).
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 9.1 t ha⁻¹ (3,
 2005–2014;
 , 2015),
 -
 (20 t ha⁻¹).
 al. (2012),
 Nikoli et

Leskovac – 362 ha), Moravi ki region (the city of a ak – 287 ha), Sremski region (municipality of Šid – 215 ha) and Raški region (city of Kraljevo – 202 ha), as well as on the territory of the city of Belgrade (municipality of Grocka – 196 ha). Over the past decade, the number of productive trees and the overall production of pear have been on a constant increase (Tables 1 and 2; Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015), although the production has not yet reached the level from 1980s (80,000 t nnes). Unlike the new apple plantations, the new pear orchards that have been set up over the past several years are characterised by non-intensive growing technology.

The new plantations are mostly based on the so-called stick plantings, with no anti-hail netting and a rarely applied irrigation system. Because of this, the average yield per unit of area is 9.1 t ha⁻¹ (period 2005–2014; Table 3, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015), which is still significantly lower compared to the average yields recorded in the Italian Republic and Kingdom of Spain (over 20 t ha⁻¹).

According to Nikoli et al. (2012), the limiting factors in the prospective intensification of pear production are the choice of rootstock for the production of nursery trees, as well as

released (Karaklaji -Staji et al. 2014), as well as the dark-red skin cultivar, An elija (Starkrimson x Coloree de Juillet). Both these cultivars are recommended for commercial growing in the Republic of Serbia and represent valuable initial material for further breeding work.

Stone Fruit Species

Plum. It is the most important fruit species in the Republic of Serbia. The average annual production of plum amounts to 535,048 tonnes (average for 2005–2014), making it the fruit with the highest volume of production in the country (Table 2; Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015). At the global level, our country is the world's second largest producer of plum, with People's Republic of China in the first place and Romania and United States of America in the third and fourth (Faostat, 2015).

However, the average yields per unit of area is quite low (5.2 t ha⁻¹) (Table 3; Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015). Plum growing in the Republic of Serbia has a specific tradition and plum trees are found throughout the country, in commercial plantations, as well as in gardens and small orchards.

Serbia's most significant

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Serbia's most significant

(4,006 ha),
 (2,351 ha), (2,330 ha),
 (2.265 ha)
 (2,049 ha).

plum-growing regions are situated in Western Serbia, Šumadija and South Serbia, in the area of Prokuplje and Blace. The largest areas under plum plantations are present in the municipalities of Valjevo (4,006 ha), Kraljevo (2,351 ha), Kragujevac (2,330 ha), Oseina (2,265 ha) and Prokuplje (2,049 ha).

The number of productive plum trees has increased significantly over the past few years, reflecting the establishment of new, intensive plantations of this fruit species (Table 1; Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015).

Despite these recent tendencies, the plum production in the Republic of Serbia is mostly characterised by extensive growing technology, low and instable yield, poor fruit quality, problems caused by the Plum Pox Virus and a highly diverse assortment (Milošević et al. 2010).

(Milošević et al. 2010).

(40%),
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 "
 "
 (30%)

The plum assortment is dominated by autochthonous (brandy) cultivars (around 40%), among which the most important and the most typical are 'Požega a', 'Crvena Ranka', 'Draga evka', 'Crnošljiva', 'Trnova a' and others, followed by 'Stanley' (around 30%) and cultivars bred at the Fruit Research Institute, aak (around 20%), among which the most important are 'anska Lepotica'

al. 2015),

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" (Milatovi et al., 2011;
Radi evi et al., 2011; Radi evi
and Cerovi , 2014).

demonstrated during the trials in experimental and commercial orchards ('Early Lori', 'Celeste', 'Kristalina', 'Sunburst', 'Summit', 'Kordia', 'Lapins', 'Regina' (Milatovi et al., 2011; Radi evi et al., 2011; Radi evi and Cerovi , 2014).

Positive trends in improving the assortment of sweet cherry ought to be followed by positive advancements in the growing technology (choice of growing system, implementation of adequate agro- technical and pomo-technical measures).

Having this in mind, it is possible to say that the current production of sweet cherry in the Republic of Serbia tends to be characterised by a sudden transition from extensive to very intensive growing systems, with some highly encouraging initial results, despite the number or persisting unresolved issues regarding the possibility of implementation in the general production practice.

The work on breeding new sweet cherry cultivars at Fruit Research Institute in a ak has resulted in the recognition of cultivars 'Asenova Rana' ('Drogan's Yellow' x 'Majova') and ' arna' ('Majova' x 'Schrecken Bigarreau') (Milenkovi et al. 2006), both of which are

"Schrecken Bigarreau") (Milenkovi et al. 2006),

(Milatovi et al., 2015).

70%

(USAID

, 2010).

90,000

(2;

2015),

60%

recommended for commercial growing in the Republic of Serbia (Milatovi et al., 2015).

Sour cherry. More than 70% of the total sour cherry production is located in the region of Central Serbia, primarily in the area of Belgrade, as well as in the Nišavski and Jablani ki regions, followed by the Šumadijski and Zapadnoba ki regions (USAID Serbia, 2010). With the total production exceeding 90,000 tonnes (Table 2; Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2015), sour cherry is the third most important fruit species in the structure of fruit growing of the Republic of Serbia, whereas taken together with raspberry it represents the country's most important exporting fruit, considering the fact that up to 60% of the totally produced sour cherry is exported in the frozen condition, with a constantly positive balance in the foreign exchange.

The small size of orchards, inadequate assortment structure and old plantations, predominant extensive growing technology, insufficient level of know-how and knowledge transfer, small scale of investment and mostly unfavourable loans, non-existence of crops insurance, accompanied by insufficient association of producers, uncertain sale and slow implementation of standards all of these factors are reflected as the key problems in the production,

processing and export of sour cherry and its products.

Despite the uncertain prospects of sales, there is an apparent trend of setting up new plantations of 'Obla inska' in the region of south-eastern Serbia, where almost 90% of families possess their own sour cherry orchards (Sredojevi, 2011).

Clones of 'Obla inska' and 'Cigan ica' account for almost 85% of the total sour cherry production in the Republic of Serbia, whereas the remaining share is taken up by cultivars with large fruits (Cerovi and Radi evi, 2008), among which the most popular ones include 'Rexelle', 'Heimanns Konservenweichsel', 'Kelleriis 14' and 'Šumadinka' (Milatovi et al., 2015). The same authors reported that the group of cultivars recommended for commercial growing in the Republic of Serbia ought to include cultivars 'Érdi Bötermö', 'Lara', 'Újfehértói Fürtös'. By improving the assortment structure, growing technology and processing of sour cherry (with mandatory introduction of standards), supported by creation of a stimulating environment (investment support, better position of Serbian cherries in the market, transfer of knowledge and promotion of small producers' associations), it will be possible to

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- lead the sour cherry growing in Serbia to significantly improved financial effect in the production, processing and export.

The goals of sour cherry breeding programme at Fruit Research Institute, a ak, are to create self-fertile cultivars, with different time of ripening, large and good quality fruits, distinct aroma suitable for fresh consumption, favourable flesh/stone ratio, dark red or colourless juice that does not bleed at separation from the stalk, i. e. fruits suited to mechanized harvesting.

- Also, new cultivars should be suited to freezing and industrial processing.

- A special attention has been paid to obtaining genotypes tolerant/resistant to cherry leaf spot (*Blumeriella jaapii* (Rehm.) v. Arx.), brown rot (*Monilinia laxa* /Ader et Ruhl./ Honey ex Whetz.) and shot-hole (*Clasterosporium carpophilum* (Lév.) Aderh.).

(Blumeriella jaapii (Rehm.) v. Arx.),
(Monilinia laxa /Ader et Ruhl./ Honey ex Whetz)
(Clasterosporium carpophilum (Lév.) Aderh.).

In the previous period, two promising genotypes have been registered as cultivars: ‘ a anski Rubin’ (‘Shasse Morello’ × ‘Koroser Weichsel’) and ‘Šumadinka’ (‘Koroser Weichsel’ × ‘Heimanns Konserven Weichsel’) (Cerovi and Radi evi 2008). Recently, three new sour cherry

: " " " " " " " "
 (‘Shasse Morello’ ‘Koroser Weichsel’) " " "

The most typically grown are the Italian cultivars with early and moderately early ripening time, such as 'Alba' and 'Clery', with 'Joly' and 'Dely' being introduced.

By introducing newly developed cultivars into production, yield per unit of area is considerably increased (up to 35 t ha⁻¹), which is comparable to the level of production in the most developed countries (Cerovi and Leposavi, 2011).

The old German cultivar 'Senga Sengana' is increasingly produced in our country for the needs of the processing industry.

There are three strawberry cultivars that have been bred in the Fruit Research Institute, as so far: '45/7' ('Talisman' × 'Macherauchs'), 'a anska Rana' and 'a anska Krupna', raised from the parental combination 'Surprise des Halles' × '45/7' (Miši et al., 1967; Milenkovi et al., 2006).

Raspberry. In the Republic of Serbia, raspberry plantations occupy around 13,500 ha, whereas the annual production in 2014 reached 60,000 tonnes. Over 90% of the total raspberry production is concentrated in the western part of the country in two production regions: Zapadnomoravski and Podrinjsko-Kolubarski (Leposavi, 2009). According to Petrovi and

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Based on the first positive experiences, it can be concluded that this type of growing – especially growing raspberry in plastic tunnels – can be an important factor in advancing the raspberry production and increasing the volume of this production.

In raspberry plantations in the Republic of Serbia, 'Willamette' has been the leading cultivar for a number of years, with more than 90% share in the assortment structure. Cultivar 'Meeker', which accounts for around 5% of the plantations, has recorded an increase in recent years (Leposavi et al. 2013). The summer cultivars that are present in a relatively significant share include 'Tulameen' and 'Glen Ample', whereas the autumn cultivars include 'Polka' and 'Polana'.

In recent years, three raspberry cultivars have been developed at the Fruit Research Institute, a.k.a: 'Krupna Dvorodna' and 'Gradina', which were raised from the same parental combination ('Malling Exploit' x 'Rubin'), as well as 'Podgorina' ('Rote Wädenswiler' x 'Latham').

Blackberry. Until the end of 1980s, the production of blackberry in the Republic of Serbia was in the range of approximately 5,000 tonnes,

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Blackberry. Until the end of 1980s, the production of blackberry in the Republic of Serbia was in the range of approximately 5,000 tonnes,

reaching an annual production of around 10,000 tonnes by the end of 1990s (Ševarli et al., 1998). Within a relatively short period of time, our country became Europe's largest producer of this fruit species, and also the fourth biggest blackberry producer in the world (Strik et al., 2006). In 2014, the overall production of blackberry on 2,800 ha reached 22,000 tonnes. The production is mostly concentrated in the region of the Zapadna Morava, as well as the Podrinjsko-Kolubarski and Zaje arski regions (with the irrigation systems deployed), whereas smaller quantities are produced in other parts of the country. The blackberry is particularly important for the local economy of the region around the lower course of the Zapadna Morava river (Trstenik, Varvarin, Aleksandrovac), as well as for the regions of Ma va and Podrinje. The basic characteristic of the production and export of blackberry in the Republic of Serbia is the large fluctuation in quantities that occur between different years (Petrovi et al., 2007). More than 90% of the produced blackberry is exported frozen. Similarly to raspberry, blackberry producers in our country tend to use the espalier growing system.

The advantages of the espalier include easier and more efficient

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(Petrovi et al. (2007)).
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1997.
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application of agro-technical
- measures; undeterred use of
- machinery for treatment of soil in
- between the rows, protection of
- plantations against diseases, pests
and weeds, fertilisation; more
, evenly distributed ripening and
better fruit quality; better
, hardening of canes for the next
- vegetation, enabling improved
- resistance to low temperatures
;
(Petrovi et al. 2007).

The most commonly grown
- cultivar in our plantations is
- 'a anaska Bestrna' ('Dirksen
Thornless' x 'Black Satin'), a
cultivar that was bred in the Fruit
Research Institute, a ak, and
, has been grown in general
- production since 1997. In addition
, to the formerly dominant
'Thornfree', there are new cultivars
that are gradually introduced into
production, such as 'Loch Ness',
, 'Chester Thornless' and 'Triple
Crown'.

Highbush blueberry. Over
the past few years, there has been
an increase among the producers
. and entrepreneurs in certain
- regions of the Republic of Serbia,
directed towards establishing new
- intensive plantations of highbush
blueberry. The interest of the
growers in the prospective
production of blueberry in our
country and other countries in the
. region of Former Yugoslavia has
been additionally reinforced by the

popularisation and consistent implementation of the growing technology presented within the project titled 'Introduction of plantation growing of blueberry in Arilje municipality within small and middle enterprises and entrepreneurs' (2006), implemented by the Fruit Research Institute in a ak (Leposavi et al., 2010). From the initially planted 12 ha in the area of Arilje, the total area under blueberry plantations in our country has grown to around 220 ha, with the annual production of around 280 tonnes of highest quality fruits, recorded in 2014.

In setting up the highbush blueberry plantations, the most commonly used system is the bush system. The distance between the rows is in the range 2.5–3 m, with the distance within the rows set at 1 m (for less vigorous cultivars) or 1.5 m (for vigorous cultivars).

Most of the highbush blueberry cultivars are self-fertile; however, in order to sustain more efficient fertilization, the producers are recommended to grow multiple cultivars, which can support cross-pollination as well (Leposavi, 2014). In our country, the most commonly grown cultivars in blueberry plantations include 'Duke' and 'Bluecrop', followed by 'Reka', 'Ozark Blue', 'Nui', 'Huron' (Leposavi, 2014).

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and 'Draper'.

Black, red and white currant. Despite the favourable agro-ecological conditions and the relatively simple growing technology, the black, red and white currant are rarely grown in our country, so that the official statistics contain no data of production of these fruit species.

A top quality black currant cultivar ' a anska Crna' (raised through self-fertilization of 'Malling Jet') was bred at the Fruit Research Institute, a ak, and has been present in the production since 1997.

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CONCLUSIONS

The potential of the Republic of Serbia, viewed from the aspect of climatic, soil, orthographic, hydrological and human resources, supported with the adequate and comprehensive implementation of scientific knowledge, will enable the most expedient and most efficient path for the advancement of the fruit-growing sector, making it one of the pillars of our agriculture and national development.

Acknowledgements

This research was conducted under the support of Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, project No. 31064.

31064.

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MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF PLUM FRUITS IN THE PHASE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RIPENESS

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SUMMARY

Depending on the cultivar, plum fruits are primarily intended for table consumption; alternatively, their combined traits make them conducive to processing and making of different products. Plum fruits intended for processing (prunes, brandy, juice, jam, marmalade) are harvested at the time of technological ripeness. It is in this phase that the fruits' contents soluble solids, sugars and other nutrients are the highest. The fruits are very juicy, typically aromatic and tasty, (Mišić, 1996).

Among the cultivars that are most typically grown in Serbia and in the wider region of Europe are 'a anska lepotica' and 'Stanley', both being cultivars highly suitable for drying and production of brandy. Also popular among growers is 'Mildora', as a more recently introduced cultivar; however, in addition to its suitability for drying, it is also readily used for fresh consumption (Mitrović et al., 2006; Mitrović, 2012). Modern

(Mitrovi et al., 2006; Mitrovi, 2012).

(Mitrovi et al., 2000).

(Popovi et al., 2006).

Mi i et al. (2006), melik et al. (2006), Peppelman et al. (2007), Mileti et al. (2011).

technologies for drying plums require that the fruits be of high quality and uniform in size and mass (Mitrovi et al., 2000). Similar requirements are posed for fruits used in production of brandy or similar food-industry or household products (Popovi et al., 2006).

Modern, highly-intensive fruit-growing is increasingly dependent on densely-planted orchards, owing to advantages that are manifested in a big impact made on the start of fruit-bearing, yield per tree and unit of area, as well as the fruit quality Mi i et al. (2006), melik et al. (2006), Peppelman et al. (2007), Mileti et al. (2011).

It is for these reasons that a study has been conducted of the impact made by the density of planting on the quality and characteristics of the fruit of the examined cultivars in the phase of technological ripeness.

Key words: plum, cultivar, planting distance, fruit, yield, soluble dry matter

INTRODUCTION

Depending on the cultivar, plum fruits are primarily intended for table consumption; alternatively, their combined traits make them conducive to processing and making of different products.

Plum fruits intended for processing (prunes, brandy, juice, jam, marmalade) are harvested at the time of technological ripeness.

It is in this phase that the fruits' contents soluble solids, sugars and other nutrients are the highest.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

2007

(*Prunus cerasifera* Ehrh.)

(I)
(II).

– 5 2 m
5 x 4 m

I,

II,

The experimental plum plantation was set up in 2007 in the vicinity of a park, using the seedling of the plum cherry (*Prunus cerasifera* Ehrh.) as the rootstock. Two different treatments regarding the planting distance were applied, 5 × 2 m (treatment I) and 5 × 4 m (treatment II).

In treatment I, the implementation of corresponding pomological measures enabled formation of the modified cultivation form – the spindle bush, with changes to the arrangement, position and number of skeletal branches, starting from the base and leading towards the crown top. In this way, it was possible to regulate the development of the vegetative mass in the higher sections of the crown, in the form of fruit-bearing branches and thorny shoots. In treatment II, classical improved pyramidal crown was formed. In addition to specific pomological measures applied in shaping the desired cultivation form, measures of winter and summer pruning were also applied, together with cultivation of land, fertilisation and

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 300 mm,
 0.01 mm,
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 0.01 g.
 "KRUSS".
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 (kg/ , t/ha kg/m²).

protection from disease-causing agents and pests.

Measuring was applied to in order to determine the parameters of fruit and stone dimensions and mass, mass and length of stalk, content of mesocarp and content of soluble solids. Dimensions of the fruit, stone and stalk were measured using the digital calliper within 300 mm, with the 0.01 mm resolution, whereas the fruit mass was established using the 'Me ler' technical scales, at 0.01 g precision.

- The content of soluble solids was
- determined using the 'KRUSS' –
- Germany digital refractometer.

For the purposes of the planned analyses, the fruits of ' a anska leptica' were sampled in the first decade of August, whereas the fruits of 'Stanley' were sampled at the end of August and beginning of September; finally, 'Mildora' fruits were sampled at the end of the first decade of September, i.e. in the phase of technological ripeness.

The yield was determined by harvesting all fruits (from five trees) of each cultivar, per planting treatment. The paper presents average and cumulative yields over the three-year period (kg/tree, t/ha and kg/m²).

- The study presents average results over the period of five years

(2010-2014),

ANOVA.

$p \leq 0,05$.

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II

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(36.2 g; 35.8 g),

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" (24.4 g; 25.9 g)

g) " (33,4 g; 35,9 g)

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II,

I.

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- (2010-2014), statistically processed using the Fisher Variance Model – ANOVA. The degree of significance of differences established in relation to the presence of identical parameters in the respective planting treatments was established using the Duncan test for significance threshold of $p \leq 0,05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- As regards the size of fruit and stone, the cultivars under consideration demonstrated their cultivar characteristics. Although no statistical differences were established, it was observed that fruits from treatment II had a larger size.

- The fruit mass was within optimum values of each of the cultivars. Depending on the treatment of cultivation, the fruits of the 'anska lepotica' cultivar had an approximately identical mass (36.2 g; 35.8 g), recording no statistically significant differences. As opposed to this, the fruits of the 'Mildora' (24.4 g; 25.9 g) and 'Stanley' (33,4 g; 35,9 g) cultivars had a larger mass in treatment II, showing highly significant statistical differences in comparison to fruits from treatment I. The stone mass did not show significant dependence on the cultivation treatment, and this was also reflected on the content of mesocarp. As regards the stone mass and the content of mesocarp, no significant differences have

(1). | been established in relation to the cultivation treatment (Table 1).

1.

Table 1. Major characteristics of fruits and yields of examined cultivars

Parameters		/ Cultivar/Treatments					
		<i>a anska leptica'</i>		<i>Mildora'</i>		<i>Stanley'</i>	
		I	II	I	II	I	II
Fruit (mm)	length	40,6 a	41,9 a	37,2 a	36,5 a	46,3 a	47,7 a
	width	35,5 a	37,0 a	33,4 a	31,4 a	35,1 a	36,0 a
	thickness	33,9 a	35,5 a	31,4 a	30,3 a	34,6 a	35,4 a
Stone (mm)	length	21,6 a	22,0 a	22,4 a	23,3 a	26,6 a	28,3 a
	width	13,3 a	13,3 a	12,5 a	12,9 a	14,1 a	14,4 a
	thickness	8,0 a	7,9 a	7,7 a	7,9 a	8,4 a	8,9 a
Fruit mass (g)		36,2 a	35,8 a	24,6 b	25,9 a	33,4 b	35,9 a
Stone mass (g)		1,3 a	1,4 a	1,1 a	1,1 a	1,6 a	1,8 a
Content of flesh (%)		95,8 a	96,1 a	95,6 a	95,8 a	95,3 a	94,7 a
Fruit stalk	/mass 100 g	8,6 a	9,2 a	5,6 a	5,9 a	9,9 a	10,2 a
	length (mm)	15,0 a	15,3 a	10,9 a	12,2 a	21,2 a	20,5 a
Average yield	kg/tree kg/ t/ha	7,28 b	9,48 a	4,51 b	5,79 a	9,26 b	12,1 a
		9,02 a	4,42 b	5,56 a	2,89 b	11,24 a	6,03 b
Cumulative yield	kg/tree kg/ t/ha	36,4 b	47,4 a	22,6 b	32,95 a	60,8 a	46,32 b
		36,4 a	23,6 b	22,6 a	16,47 b	60,08 a	23,16 b

*

$P < 0,05$.

* Mean values stated in each row, for each cultivar and followed by identical letters are not statistically significantly different, according to Duncan's test of multiple intervals for $P < 0,05$.

100

Although the mass of 100 petals was larger in treatment II, no statistical differences have been established.

The same is applied to the length of petal in each cultivar, in relation to the cultivation treatment applied. The shortest petal was found in 'Mildora', whereas the longest belonged to 'Stanley', which also corresponds to their cultivar characteristics.

Fruits of 'Stanley' and ' a anaska leptica' are more conducive to manual harvesting, owing to their longer petal.

At the same time, fruits with shorter petals are more suitable for mechanical harvesting, due to the fact that the longer petal tends to absorb the impact of the shaker, resulting in a lower efficiency of harvesting.

The average yields per tree in cultivars under consideration were higher in treatment II, showing significant statistical differences compared to fruits in treatment I. As opposed to this, due to a larger number of trees, yields per unit of area were higher in treatment I, accompanied by highly significant differences. Yields of ' a anaska leptica' were higher by 49.0% compared to treatment II, whereas the yields of 'Mildora' and 'Stanely' were also higher in treatment I by 52.0% and 53.6%, respectively. Identical

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53.6%.

35.2%,
27.1%
61.8%
21.7% (18.6-23.7%)
I, 20.1% (18,4-22.3%)
II.
27.7% (24.1-32.3%) 26,1%
(25.9-27.9%)
19.0% (16.3-25.2%)
18.5% (16.0-23.1%)

tendencies were recorded in cumulative yield per tree and unit of area over the trial period, i.e. over the period of the initial and ascending yield. The cumulative yields of ' a anaska leptica' were higher by 35.2%, compared to 27.1% in 'Mildora' and 61.8% in 'Stanley'.

The generated yields were the highest in 'Stanely', followed by lower yields in ' a anaska leptica' and the lowest in 'Mildora', which corresponds to their cultivar characteristics.

As it has been mentioned earlier, plum fruits for processing are harvested in the phase of technological ripeness. In addition to the organoleptic assessment and in order to determine the right moment for harvesting, evaluation of the soluble solids content in the fruits is also performed, as the most important indicator of the fruits' suitability for use in processing technologies.

The fruits of ' a anaska leptica' recorded the soluble solids content of 21.7% (18.6-23.7%) in treatment I, compared to 20.1% (18,4-22.3%) in treatment II. The same parameter reached the values of 27.7% (24.1-32.3%) and 26,1% (25.9-27.9%) in 'Mildora', compared to 19.0% (16.3-25.2%) and 18.5% (16.0-23.1%) in the 'Stanley' cultivar. It is evident that the 'Mildora' cultivar is characterised by a high content of

soluble solids, which is a highly important and substantial characteristic of this cultivar. Considering its ripening time, the 'a anska lepotica' and 'Stanley' cultivars are both characterised by high contents of soluble solids in the phase of technological ripeness and especially during the ripening phase in the month of August, which is further dependent on the weather conditions during the vegetation.

It is indicative that the soluble solids contents did not significantly vary between the treatments, so that no statistically significant difference has been established. In other words, the density of planting did not have a significant impact on the content of soluble solids (Table 2).

As regards the size and mass per cultivation treatment, the fruits of the examined cultivars demonstrated their standard cultivar characteristics. This is also in accordance with the data reported by Mileti et al. (2014a and 2014b), pertaining to the characteristics of these cultivars in the period of initial and ascending productivity. The existing differences occurred as a result of agro-ecological conditions and the implemented cultivation technology measures.

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2.

Table 2. Content of soluble solids in fruits of examined plum cultivars

Year	/ Cultivar/Treatments					
	'anska lepotica'		'Mildora'		'Stanley'	
	I	II	I	II	I	II
2010	18,6	18,6	24,1	23,2	18,4	17,4
2011	21,6	20,9	32,3	27,9	25,2	23,1
2012	23,2	22,3	28,1	27,3	18,0	16,6
2013	23,7	18,4	25,7	25,9	17,3	19,3
2014	21,2	20,3	28,1	26,3	16,3	16,0
Mx	21,7 a	20,1 a	27,7 a	26,1 a	19,0 a	18,5a

*

P 0,05.

* Mean values stated in each row, for each cultivar and followed by identical letters are not statistically significantly different, according to Duncan's test of multiple intervals for *P* 0,05.

- The generated yields correspond to the principles of densely-planted plum orchards.

- The results of the planting thus far indicate a regular pattern whereby an increase in the number of trees per unit of area also increases the yields, as reported by Meland (2001), Mi i et al. (2006); melik et al. (2006); Peppelman et al. (2007), Mileti et al. (2011a and 2011b), based on their studies of parameters of yield and fruit properties of the leading and new plum cultivars in various cultivation conditions.

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- The results of the research in the domain of the amount of yield per unit of area indicate that the pomotechnical measures (bending and spreading of branches and shoots, notching) implemented in shaping

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 18% (Mitrovi 2012),
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the cultivation form (as reported by Mi i et al., 2006), made an impact on the earlier onset and larger productivity in the dense-planting treatments.

- In the control treatment, where the classical pyramidal crown was shaped, the first crop and yields were minimal, which is in accordance with the characteristics of the cultivation form (improved pyramidal crown) and the classical method of plum cultivation (Miši 2006).

- The cumulative yield for the period of initial and ascending productivity is typical of each cultivar. The highest yields were those of the 'Stanley' cultivar, surpassing those of ' a anaska leptica'. At the same time, although characterised by lower productivity, its high-quality fruits, rich in soluble solids and total sugars effectively contribute to the overall value of the prune.

- Starting from the premise that in order to be used for prunes production, plum fruits ought to have a soluble solids content in excess of 18% (Mitrovi 2012), it can be inferred that the examined cultivars can be successfully used to these purposes, when harvested in the phase of technological ripeness.

The fluctuations in the soluble solids contents that have been observed in relation to the year of growth, occurred as a result of both the cultivation technology measures and the prevailing weather conditions in the given year, especially in the period of the intensive growth of the fruits in June and July, as well as the temperature conditions in August, during the fruit ripening phase.

It is evident that the harvesting time determines the soluble solids content in the mesocarp, as reported by Mileti et al. (2010).

Mileti et al. (2010).

Harvesting of plum fruits for brandy production is not strictly linked to the content of soluble solids. The brandy crop is primarily dependent on the content of total sugars in the mesocarp. In everyday practice, fruits of a same cultivar intended for brandy production are harvested with some delay, after picking the quantities intended for drying and processing into other food products.

Judged from the aspect of the total soluble solids content, all of the examined cultivars in the phase of technological ripeness are suitable for drying. This is also in accordance with the criteria reported by Janda and Gavrilovi

Janda Gavrilovi (1984),	(1984), stating that plum fruits with the solid soluble content in excess of 18.0% are used for drying.
18.0%	
"	At the same time, the ' a anska leptotica' and 'Stanley' cultivars are suitable for brandy production, harvested in the phase of technological ripeness, in the final harvesting intervals.
Popovi et al. (2008.),	According to Popovi et al. (2008.), in order to suit this purpose, the fruits must have high sugar contents and a smaller share of the stone in the fruit, which is further confirmed by our results. The same authors report that fruits of the 'Stanley' cultivar yield high-quality brandy, which is also related to the harvesting period and quality of the fruit of each cultivar, in accordance with the findings presented in this paper.
"	According to the same authors, it is possible to obtain good-quality brandy from ' a anska leptotica' fruits, provided the production is performed paying due respect to all the technological procedures involving fermentation of the crushed fruit and distillation; however, the brandy yield is still considerably lower than that of 'Stanely'.

CONCLUSIONS

Regarding the size of fruit and stone, the studied cultivars demonstrated their cultivar traits.

: " " (36,2 g; 35,8 g), " " (24,4 g; 25,9 g) " " (33,4 g; 35,9 g).

49.0%
 II,

Although fruits from planting treatment II had a larger size, no statistical differences were determined.

The fruit mass was within the optimum typical characteristics for each cultivar. The average fruit mass varied among and within the cultivars, depending on the planting treatment and was determined as follows: *a anska leptica* (36,2 g; 35,8 g), *Mildora* (24,4 g; 25,9 g) and *Stanley* (33,4 g; 35,9 g).

The stone mass did not show a significant influence of the planting treatment, which was also reflected in the mesocarp content. No significant differences were established among the different treatments and their impact on the fruit mass and mesocarp content in the respective cultivars.

The average yields per tree in the studied cultivars were higher in the second treatment, demonstrating significant differences depending on the fruits and treatment.

Higher values of yield per unit of measure were present in planting treatment I, where the determined differences were classified as highly significant. In *a anska leptica*, the yields in treatment I were higher by 49.0% compared to treatment II, and the same difference reached 52.0% and 53.6% for the *Mildora* and

52.0% 53.6%.

35.2% " -
" " " -
27.1%
61.8% "
" "
21.7% (18.6-23.7%) -
I, 20.1%
(18,4-22.3%) II.
27.7% (24.1-
32.3%) 26,1% (25.9-27.9%)
" " 19.0%
(16.3-25.2%) 18.5%
(16.0-23.1%) " "

TR – 31093,

Stanley cultivars, respectively.

The cumulative yield per tree and unit of demonstrated the same tendency within the period covered by the study, i.e. for the period of initial and rising fruit bearing. The cumulative yield was higher by 35.2% in *a anska rodna*, whereas *Mildora* and *Stanley* recorded higher cumulative yields of 27.1% and 61.8%, respectively.

The fruits of *a anska leptica* recorded the soluble solids content of 21.7% (18.6-23.7%) in treatment I, compared to 20.1% (18,4-22.3%) in treatment II. The same parameter reached the values of 27.7% (24.1-32.3%) and 26,1% (25.9-27.9%) in *Mildora*, compared to 19.0% (16.3-25.2%) and 18.5% (16.0-23.1%) in the *Stanley* cultivar.

In the phase of technological ripeness, fruits of the studied cultivars are suitable for drying and production of brandy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The research presented in this paper was conducted as part of the TR – 31093 project financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

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CUSO₄ 5H₂O

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INFLUENCE OF CUSO₄·5H₂O TO SOIL GERMINATION OF THE SEA BUCKTHORN (*HIPPOPHAE RHAMNOIDES L.*) SEEDS

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SUMMARY

The soil germination of Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides L.*) seeds is investigated in experimental conditions in Institute of Agriculture, Skopje. The Sea Buckthorn seeds are characterized with high sensitivity for so-called "damping off" phenomenon caused by some soil fungi (*Pythium sp.*, *Rhizoctonia solani* etc.).

It is used compound of CuSO₄·5H₂O (which has a proven as organic fungicide influence on plants) in the treatment of the seed in three concentrations (0.5%, 0.12% and 0.06%).

The highest rate of seedling surviving is obtained at the highest CuSO₄·5H₂O concentration (0.5%). The highest percent of germination is registered at the treatment with 0.12% CuSO₄·5H₂O. The highest growth of the seedlings is found in the treatment with 0.06% CuSO₄·5H₂O concentration. At investigated concentration of the compound a little negative treatment

(damping off),
 , CuSO₄ 5H₂O

- influence is registered on the seedling growth.

- **Key words:** soil germination, seed, seedling, damping off, Sea Buckthorn, CuSO₄·5H₂O

INTRODUCTION

- The Sea Buckthorn is new fruit kind in Macedonia. It is a deciduous spiny bush with long and narrow leaves, and orange-yellow berries. It is cold resistant, and native to Europe and Asia. All parts of *Hippophae* e.g. berries, leaves, and seed or pulp oils contain many bioactive compounds (Efterpi, 2012). Its fruits abound in vitamins (A, B₁, B₁₂, C, E, K, and P); flavonoids, lycopene, carotenoids, phytosterols and therapeutically important since they are rich with potent antioxidants. Scientifically evaluated pharmacological actions of this fruit kind are like inflammation inhibited by reduced permeability, loss of follicular aggregation of lymphocytes from the inflamed synovium and suppress lymphocyte proliferation.

Hippophae,
 (Efterpi, 2012).
 (A, B₁, B₁₂, C, E, K,
 P);
 (Patel et al., 2012).

- The Sea Buckthorn reduced recurrence of angina, ischemic electrocardiogram which might be due to decreased myocardial oxygen consumption and inhibition of platelet aggregation induced by collagen (Patel et al., 2012).

- The market for functional foods, to

15% 20% (Siro et al., 2008). which the fruits of the Sea Buckthorn belong, is increasing annually at a rate of 15% to 20% (Siro et al., 2008). The Sea Buckthorn botanically belongs to Elaeagnaceae family. Some of its members are characterized with forming of nitrogen-fixing root nodules with the actinomycete Frankia (Montpetit, Lalonde, 1988). For faster spreading of any new fruit kind, the most important thing is its efficient propagation. As the techniques for the fruit kind propagation are more developed, the more preconditions for its spreading exist.

(Dhyani et al., 2012). It has been proven the vegetative propagation of Sea Buckthorn, with great success from hardwood cuttings (Dhyani et al., 2012). Propagation of the species by seed is time consuming technique which also cannot maintain the fine biological characteristics and economic properties that are genetically identical to the selected mother plants (Dhyani, 2007).

(Dhyani, 2007). However, for the purpose of the selection work, through the fruit kind resistance building to the abiotic and biotic factors and for diversity expansion, the overcome of the generative propagation, with seed germination is needed.

The most serious diseases in Sea Buckthorn are verticillium wilt, scab, damping-off and fusarium wilt (Rajchal, 2009). Root rot is

(Rajchal, 2009).	-	major problem in this species at nursery stage.
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> ,	-	Root rot of Sea Buckthorn caused by <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , is a major problem at nursery stage, which is a bottleneck in mass multiplication and broad cultivation of this species (Singh et al., 2007).
(Singh et al., 2007).	-	The horticultural disease called "damping off" is caused by soilborne fungi and it can occur before or after the seedlings sprout from the soil.
("damping off")	-	Suppression of seedling damping-off disease caused by <i>Pythium</i> spp. and <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> is a potential benefit of formulating soilless container media with compost (Scheuerell et al., 2005).
<i>Pythium</i> spp. <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	-	
(Scheuerell et al., 2005).	-	Some fruit kinds are more susceptible for damping off occurrence, which is the case with Sea Buckthorn. The experiences show that suppression of the damping off is very difficult, because of the continuous adaptation of the pathogens. In our investigations we return again to the fungicide effect of some inorganic compounds, as Copper (II) Sulfate Pentahydrate ($\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$), with aim to check its positive or negative influence on seed germination and the initial growth of the Sea Buckthorn seedlings.
($\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$),	-	

MATERIAL AND METHODS

(0.06%, 0.12% 0.50%) CuSO₄
5H₂O

"",
(2013-2014)

60%

(25°C 85%

22°C

The influence of the different concentration (0.06%, 0.12% and 0.50%) of CuSO₄·5H₂O on the soil germination of the Sea Buckthorn variety *Frugana* seeds, in two years (2013-2014) green house conditions, is investigated. As a control, a part of the seeds is watered only with distilled water and another part is germinated in laboratory conditions. In investigation of the soil germination, the alluvium soil is sterilized and the seeds are not treated directly, but bottom watered with copper solutions is used. The seeds are cleansed from the mesocarp remains and prepare for investigation. Thirty seeds in three repetitions from each treatment is investigated. As is mentioned, the laboratory seed germination is investigated without treatment of the seed, in thermostat conditions (25°C temperature and 85% humidity of the air). The soil germination is study in conditions of plant pots at 22°C temperature and 60% humidity of the air. The surviving rate of the seedlings and their growth are also investigated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

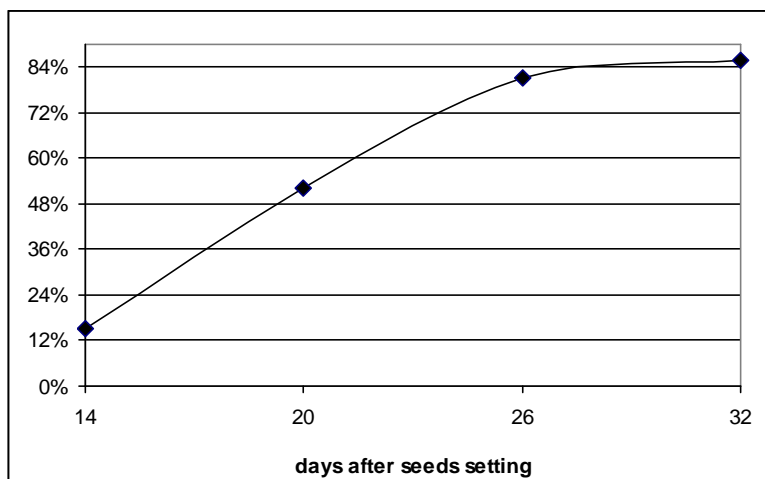
- Each berry of the Sea
- Buckthorn contains one bony,
- ovoid seed. The berries are
- harvested from the mother trees,
- which are in excellent condition.
- Before the investigation of the

(Rattan, Tommar, 2013).

(89%)
Tommar, 2013),

(Rattan,

- treatments influence, the laboratory germination of the seeds is performed with aim to determine the seed germination ability and to eliminate the possible influence of the genotype into the trial results. The best germination and growth of species are achieved, where environmental factors are balanced (Rattan, Tommar, 2013). In our laboratory trial conditions after about dozen days the Sea Buckthorn seeds started to germinate. After 12 days, about 80% germination is reached. The maximum germination is cemented at 86% (Fig.1.). The results of some studies revealed that maximum germination percentage in laboratory conditions is found under red (89%) and yellow lights (Rattan, Tommar, 2013), which in our case (without light condition) it is not so relevant.



1
rhamnoides

Hippopha

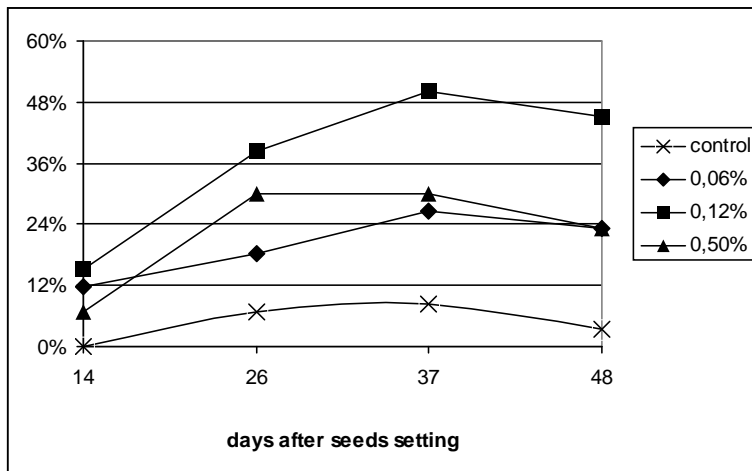
Fig. 1. Laboratory germination of the seed of *Hippopha rhamnoides*

5H₂O

0,12% CuSO₄

14
(. 2).

- In the same time with the laboratory trial, is set the trial from seeds for the soil germination for determination. The copper solutions are prepared just before the watering. The seeds in soil condition started to germinate with delay of only a few days compared with the laboratory germination. At the very beginning the great differences are evidenced in terms of the treatments. The treatment with 0,12% CuSO₄·5H₂O has the most positive influence over seed germination. In this treatment the percentage of the germination is slightly better than laboratory germination (Fig.2.). Otherwise all three treatments show the positive influence on the seed germination beginning, compared to the control in which case, neither after 14 days the seed germination is not registered (Fig.2.).



. 2

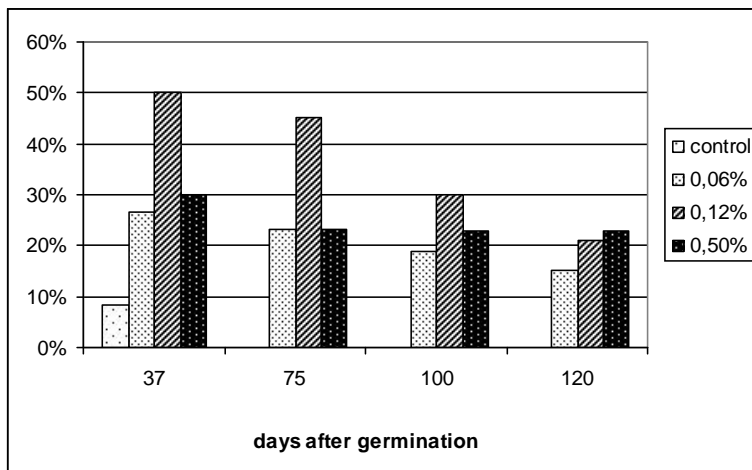
Hippopha rhamnoides

CuSO₄·5H₂O

Fig. 2. Soil germination of the seed of *Hippopha rhamnoides* treated with different concentration of CuSO₄·5H₂O

-
 CuSO₄
 5H₂O (0,12% 0,5%)
 -
 (23%),
 CuSO₄ 5H₂O (0,06%
 7%), 26
 -
 ,
 ,
 ,
 CuSO₄ 5H₂O.
 26
 -
 0,06% CuSO₄
 5H₂O, (14
)
 -
 30
 ,
 (. 2).
 ,
 37
 ,
 -
 ,
 -
 0,06% CuSO₄ 5H₂O
 (. 2.),
 -
 (. 3).

The two treatments with higher concentration of CuSO₄·5H₂O (0,12% and 0,5%) have an equally higher influence over the rise of the germination percentage (23% increasing), unlike the control and the treatment with weak copper solution CuSO₄·5H₂O (0,06%) (increasing only 7%), 26 days after sowing the seeds. It can be noticed that the treatments have the bigger influence over beginning of the germination, because the differences among them remain, almost to the germination end, except for the treatment with 0,5% CuSO₄·5H₂O. In this treatment, after 26 days comes to substantially the bigger increase of the germination percent compared with the treatment with 0,06% CuSO₄·5H₂O, which in the beginning (14 days after seeds setting) had the bigger influence over germination. Then, about 30 days after the seed sowing, these two treatments become almost equal (Fig.2.). From the figure, it can be seen that after 37 days some of the seedlings start dying, because the appearance of the damping off. In the beginning, the seedlings dying is the lowest at the treatment with 0,06% CuSO₄·5H₂O (Fig.2.), but in the further period it is intensified (Fig.3.).



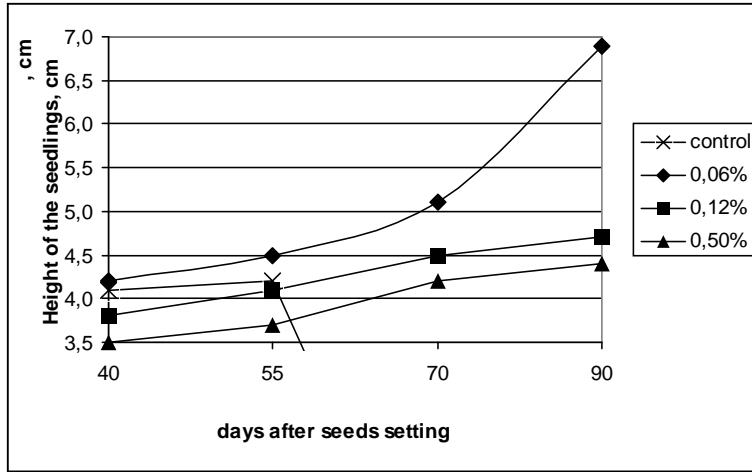
. 3 (% $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$)

Fig. 3. Surviving of the seedlings (% of live seedlings from setted seeds) treated with different concentrations of $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

It is interesting to mention that all measures to prevent damping off have been taken, as the substrate and pots sterilization, even usage of distilled water in the treatments solution preparation, with only exception-is not perform the disinfection of the seed.

Still, after about two months all seedlings from the control have died, while the number of the treated seedling has decreased. Only in the with 0,5% copper solution treatment in the period after 75 days, the further seedlings dying is not noticed, and the seedlings are healthy and normally developed. In the other two treatments (0,06% and 0.12%) with forming of four to six true leaves on the seedlings, the damping off appearance is decreased, but is still present.

75 0.5%
(0,06% 0.12%)



4
Fig. 4. Growth of the survived Sea Buckthorn seedlings

(.4). , -
 (0.06%) , -
 0.5%
 -
 , -
 (0,12% 0,5%),
 ,
 (.4).

- The measuring of the height
 - of the survived seedlings indicates
 - the weak negative influence of the
 - copper solutions over seedlings
 - growth (Fig.4.). So, the strongest
 - seedlings growth is registered at
 - the weakest (0,06%) copper
 - solution treatment, and the
 - seedlings treated with 0,5%
 - copper solution are characterized
 - with the weakest growth. In the
 - beginning, the control seedlings
 - are good developed, they are
 - better than seedlings treated with
 - a strong copper solution (0,12%
 - and 0,5%), but affected by the soil
 - pathogens, they stagnated and
 - died (Fig.4.).

CONCLUSIONS

- The investigation shows that
 - the Sea Buckthorn seedlings are
 - very sensitive to negative influence

5H₂O

CuSO₄

CuSO₄ 5H₂O (0.5%)

CuSO₄ 5H₂O

CuSO₄ 5H₂O

of the soil pathogens in the early stages of development, which leads to the mass losses. It is determined that the usage of CuSO₄·5H₂O solutions contributed to the decreasing of the seedling damages from damping off. The usage of the strong CuSO₄·5H₂O solutions (0,5%) gives the higher percent of the survived seedlings. However, the strong CuSO₄·5H₂O solutions can affect in decreasing of the seedlings growth. We recommend using CuSO₄·5H₂O as auxiliary method in combination with the other measures and means against damping off appearance, in the period of the germination and in beginning of the seedling growth.

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