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## Comparative analysis of extracts from some medicinal plants used in traditional Bulgarian medicine

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–  
(*Helichrysum arenarium* L.),  
(*Polygonum aviculare* L.),  
(*Clinopodium vulgare* L.),  
(*Viscum album* L.),  
(*Equisetum arvense* L.)  
(*Veronica officinalis* L.).

### SUMMARY

The subjects of the investigation are six medicinal plants used in folk medicine in Bulgaria – dwarf everlast (*Helichrysum arenarium* L.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.), wild basil (*Clinopodium vulgare* L.), European mistletoe (*Viscum album* L.), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense* L.) and common speedwell (*Veronica officinalis* L.). The traditional use of the listed herbs involves the preparation of decoctions or infusions from individual plants or mixtures thereof, which have a variety of physiological effects – lowering of blood pressure, diuretic and choleric effect, general strengthening of the organism, etc.

The purpose of the study is to obtain water-ethanol extracts from dried plant raw materials by analyzing the influence of ethanol concentration on the extraction yield and total phenol content of the extracts. The studies were conducted at hydromodul 1:10 and three different concentrations of ethanol - 50, 60 and

1:10

50, 60 70%.

mg GAE/ml),  
*officinalis*,  
(3,26±0,049 GAE mg/ml).

50%

*C. vulgare*,  
(4,24 ± 0,040

70%

- 70%. The amount of extracted substances
- in the samples depends on the type of raw material and the ethanol concentration. Similar dependence is observed with respect to the content of total phenols. The highest values were recorded in *C. vulgare* extracted with 50% ethanol (4,24 ±0,040 mg GAE/ml ) and in *V. officinalis* extract obtained with 70% ethanol (3,26±0,049 GAE mg/ml).

**Key words:** ethanol extracts, medicinal plants, total phenolic content, extraction yield

## INTRODUCTION

2008).

(Mishra et al.,

2006).

(Dawidowicz et al.,

( , , , )

(Liang et al., 2010).

The use of natural raw materials in ethnopharmacy is considered as an important source of biologically active compounds and has recognized potential for the discovery and development of modern drugs (Mishra et al., 2008). Many species of the plant kingdom offer a wide range of natural substances with a variety of physiological effects. Much of the herbal decoctions and infusions commonly used in traditional medicine have antioxidant and pharmacological properties associated with the presence of various phenolic compounds (Dawidowicz et al., 2006). It is known that phenolic compounds, such as flavonoids, phenolic acids, stilbenes, lignans, tannins, etc., are secondary metabolites that are synthesized in different parts of plants (leaves, flowers, stems, bark) and have a capacity to scavenge free radicals. The antioxidant activity of the phenolic compounds is mainly due to their reducing properties, which allow them to act as reducing agents, hydrogen donors, and by singlet oxygen quenchers (Liang et al., 2010).

Medicinal plants such as dwarf everlast, knotgrass, wild basil, mistletoe, field horsetail and common speedwell are used alone or in combination in folk

(*Helichrysum arenarium* L.),

(2',4',6',4-

-5-

-4'-

-5-

*Helichrysum arenarium*  
(Czinner et al., 2000).

(Mao et al, 2017).

(*Polygonum aviculare*  
L.)

3 %

(-3-

*Polygonum aviculare*

2006).

(Hsu,

(*Clinopodium vulgare* L.)

GC-MS

*C. vulgare*

40

99,4%

medicine in Bulgaria.

The inflorescences of dwarf everlast (*Helichrysum arenarium* L.), contain mainly flavanones, flavones and flavonols. The main characteristic compound is isosalipurposide (2',4,4',6'-tetrahydrochalcon-6'-O-glucoside). The flavanone derivatives are naringenin, naringenin-5-O-glucoside, salipurposide, naringenin-4'-O- glucoside and naringenin-5-O- diglucoside. Flavonols and flavones have been found to be glycosides of kaempferol, apigenin and luteolin. The plant has appetite-stimulating and diuretic action. It is used in liver diseases like hepatoprotective and stimulating bile secretion remedy. The antioxidant properties of the flavonoids, contained in *Helichrysum arenarium* are believed to be responsible for these effects (Czinner et al., 2000). New studies have shown that flavonoids in the dwarf everlast have anti-atherosclerotic activity (Mao et al., 2017).

Knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.) is an annual herbaceous plant widespread in Bulgaria. The above-ground part of the plant is used. It contains up to 3% of flavonol glycosides derived from quercetin, such as quercitrin, hyperoside and avicularin (quercetin-3-arabinoside) as well as silicates, phenolic acids, anthraquinones, vitamins, sugars, and others.

The main action is diuretic, antihemorrhagic and astringent. The diuretic action is due to the flavonoid complex. In folk medicine, it is used, in case of kidneys stones and bleeding from the stomach, intestine, uterus, etc. Ethanol extracts of *Polygonum aviculare* also show high antioxidant activity (Hsu, 2006).

The interest towards wild basil (*Clinopodium vulgare* L.) has increased in recent years. The GC-MS analysis of *C. vulgare*'s essential oil identified 40 compounds, representing 99.4% of the oil, the main components being thymol

(38.9%), (9.1%). (29.6%)

2,2- (DPPH) -1-  
 IC<sub>50</sub>  
*C. vulgare*  
 63.0 ± 2.71 µg/ml.

*C. vulgare*  
 52.3 ± 1.19%  
 (Tepe et al., 2007).

*C. vulgare* (Stefanovic et al., 2011).  
 (*Viscum album* L.)

I, II, III

*Viscum album*

(38.9%), -terpinene (29.6%) and p-cymene (9.1%).

Tests for antioxidant activity were performed by screening with 2,2-diphenyl-1-pyridylhydrazyl (DPPH) and -carotene-linoleic acid. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of the *C. vulgare* essential oil is defined as 63.0 ± 2.71 µg/ml.

In the -carotene-linoleic acid system, *C. vulgare* essential oil exhibits 52.3 ± 1.19% inhibition of linoleic acid oxidation (Tepe et al., 2007). The physiological action of wild basil is related to the stimulation of the regenerative processes in the human organism and a positive effect on the circulatory system.

Some studies have found synergism and a significant increase in the antibacterial action of gentamicin and cephalexin when combined with *C. vulgare* extracts (Stefanovic et al., 2011).

European mistletoe (*Viscum album* L.) is an evergreen little shrub that parasites on the branches of the tree species. Young branches and leaves are usually used, while flowers and fruits more rarely. Bioactive amines (tyramine, histamine, choline, acetylcholine), flavonoids, tannins, oleanolic acid, lignans and others have been found in chemical composition tests. Phenylpropanoids are the important bioactive molecules of the European mistletoe. The leaves and stem were found to contain several phenylpropanoids including coniferin and syringin, and lignans such as eleutheroside E and syringaresinol-O-glucoside. The proteins viscotoxin I, II, III and lectins, have also been isolated from the plant material.

In traditional medicine, *V. album* is used in the form of a decoction as a hypotensive, cardiotoxic and vasodilating agent.

Animal studies have shown that ethanolic extract of *V. album* significantly

<p>(Radenkovic, et al., 2009).</p>	<p>reduces blood pressure even at low concentrations. The ether and ethyl acetate extracts of mistletoe exhibit noticeable activity only at higher doses (Radenkovic, et al., 2009). Other authors report that mistletoe extract reduces changes in red blood cells, hemoglobin, plasma protein levels, and the rate of erythrocyte sedimentation in rats fed a salt-rich diet.</p>
<p>(Ofem et al., 2009).</p>	<p>These results are an indication that the extract prevents changes in blood viscosity, which is a major determinant of high blood pressure (Ofem et al., 2009). Protein fractions from the plant have also shown antitumor activity (Ochocka and Piotrowski, 2002).</p>
<p>and Piotrowski, 2002).</p>	<p>For this reason, preparations of <i>V. album</i> have been proposed for injection into malignant tumors (Kienle et al., 2009). European mistletoe may be toxic during prolonged use.</p>
<p>(Kienle et al., 2009).</p>	<p></p>
<p>(<i>Equisetum arvense</i> L.)</p>	<p>Field horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i> L.) is a perennial spore herbaceous plant. The summer green stem, which contains triterpene saponins (equisetonin), flavones and flavonols and their glycosides (mostly kaempferol and quercetin glycosides and their malonyl esters), is used. The alkaloids nicotine, 3-methoxypyridine and paludine have also been found in small quantity. Silicates, most of which are water-soluble, are contained in a significant amount (up to 7,7%) ( MA/HMPC, 2016).</p>
<p>( ), ( )</p>	<p></p>
<p>, 3- ( MA/HMPC, 2016).</p>	<p></p>
<p>7,7 %) ( MA/HMPC, 2016).</p>	<p>In traditional medicine, field horsetail is used in the form of infusion as a diuretic, haemostatic, anti-inflammatory and remineralizing remedy. It is used in chronic kidney disease (especially in kidney sand and stones). The silicon compounds play an important role in the healing processes of damage to the epidermis, mucous membranes, connective tissue and maintain the elasticity of the blood vessels. Do Monte et al. (2004) reported a significant analgesic and anti-inflammatory effect of</p>
<p>( )</p>	<p></p>
<p>Do Monte et al. (2004)</p>	<p></p>

*Equisetum arvense.*  
*officinalis* L.) (Veronica

*Veronica officinalis*

(Valyova et al., 2008).  
*Veronica officinalis*

2-5 mm.

1:10

the water-alcoholic extract of *Equisetum arvense*.

Common speedwell (*Veronica officinalis* L.) is a perennial herbaceous plant widespread in Bulgaria and all over Europe. The above-ground part, collected at the beginning of the flowering process, is used. It contains iridoid glycosides, mainly aucubin and catalpol, as well as veronicoside and ladroside. Phenolic acids, flavonoids, mannitol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, tannins, saponins, vitamin C, carotene and others are also found. Studies of polar extracts of *Veronica officinalis* show significant antioxidant activity, with the highest values found for the ethylacetate fraction of the ethanol extract (Valyova et al., 2008).

*Veronica officinalis* has a broncholytic, anti-inflammatory, antibiotic and appetite-stimulating effect. It is used for inflammatory diseases of the respiratory system and for the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases. It is also used as a diuretic and urinary tract disinfectant.

The traditional use of the listed herbs involves the preparation of decoction from individual plants or mixtures thereof, which have a variety of physiological effects - lowering of blood pressure, hepatoprotective, diuretic and choleric effect, general strengthening of the organism, etc.

The aim of the study is to obtain hydroalcoholic extracts from dry plant raw material and analyzing the influence of ethanol concentration on the content of extracted substances and total phenols in the respective extract.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

*Plant material* - above-ground part of dwarf everlast, knotgrass, wild basil, mistletoe, field horsetail and common speedwell. The vegetable raw materials were pre-dried and cut to particle size ranging from 2 to 5 mm.

The extraction was carried out as a stationary process at a hydromodul 1:10

v/v. - 50, 60 70%  
 20 min (Model  
 7652 Ultrasonic System),  
 72 h.  
 40 µm  
 4°  
 Sartorius Thermo Control YTC 01L.  
 - EN  
 12145:2000.  
 -  
 Folin - Ciocalteu  
 (Singleton et al.,1999).  
 .  
 Microsoft Excel 2013.  
 ±  
 (SD).  
 ANOVA.  
 p< 0.001.

and three different ethanol concentrations - 50, 60 and 70% v/v. The samples were treated with ultrasound three times for 20 minutes (Model 7652 Ultrasonic System) and, then left at room temperature for 72 hours. After the raw material was removed, the extracts were filtered through a glass filter with a pore size of 40 µm and stored at 4 °C for further use.

*Determination of moisture content of plant raw material* – The moisture content of the plant raw material was measured with Sartorius Thermo Control YTC 01L balances.

*Determination of total solids content in the plant extracts* – gravimetric method by BDS EN 12145:2000.

*Determination of total phenolic contents in the plant extracts* - The total phenolic content of the extracts was determined as gallic acid equivalents in a spectrophotometric method using a Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (Singleton et al., 1999).

#### *Statistical analysis*

- All experimental measurements  
 - were carried out in triplicate. The statistical processing of data was done with Microsoft Excel 2013. Data represent mean ± standard deviation (SD) of three independent experiments. The results  
 - were analyzed by one-way ANOVA.  
 - Differences were considered statistically significant when p< 0.001.













## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

For the preparation of all extracts, plant material, air-dried at a temperature below 50°C, was used. The selected herbs, the used part and residual moisture content are listed in Table 1.

1.

1.

**Table 1. Characterization of the used plant raw materials**

Plant	Scientific name	Appearance	Used part	Moisture content %
Dwarf everlast	<i>Helichrysum arenarium L.</i>			8,13±1,03
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare L.</i>			8,74±0,30
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare L.</i>			9,00±0,20
Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album L.</i>			6,18±0,41
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense L.</i>			8,08±0,04
Common speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis L.</i>			6,76±0,17

± SD

The moisture content is presented as mean ± SD

10 %,  
9,0% (C. *vulgare*)  
6,18% (V. *album*).

-

The residual moisture content of all raw materials was below 10%, with the values ranged from 9.0% (C. *vulgare*) to 6.18% (V. *album*). The dried and milled



70% v/v).  
 (50, 60  
 2  
 H. arenarium, P.  
 aviculare, C. vulgare, V. album, E.  
 arvense  
 50%  
 V. officinalis  
 60%  
 2.

samples of the plant material were extracted with the respective hydroalcoholic solutions (50, 60 and 70% v/v).

Selected concentrations of ethanol are often used in the production of herbal extracts. The analysis of the obtained extracts showed that all variants are low-viscosity liquids with a specific flavor. The color ranges from pale yellow to green or brown depending on the used plant.

Table 2 shows the results for the dry matter content of the extracts obtained with water-ethanol solutions. For each plant raw material, a statistically significant difference in the quantity of extracted substances was observed depending on the ethanol concentration. For *H. arenarium*, *P. aviculare*, *C. vulgare*, *V. album*, and *E. arvense*, the best results were obtained with a 50% ethanol solution, whereas for *V. officinalis* the highest value was obtained by extraction with 60% ethanol.

**Table 2. Dry matter content of extracts obtained from different ethanol concentration**

Plant extract	(mg/ml)		
	Dry matter in the extract (mg/ml)		
	50% ethanol	60% ethanol	70% ethanol
Dwarf everlast	26,46±0,19	16,98±0,08	18,27±0,10
Knotgrass	18,61±0,13	17,08±0,01	16,33±0,21
Wild basil	16,81±0,13	15,79±0,07	7,25±0,08
Mistletoe	19,98±0,01	18,52±0,11	16,21±0,05
Field horsetail	19,17±0,11	17,45±0,06	15,40±0,01
Common speedwell	16,48±0,05	19,16±0,15	17,68±0,21

± SD

The results are presented as means ± SD

3). (p<0.001)  
*P. aviculare*. 50%  
*H. arenarium*,  
*P. aviculare* *C. vulgare*.  
*V. album* *E. arvense* -  
 ,  
 ,  
 .  
 3.

A similar trend was observed with respect to the content of phenolic substances in the extracts (Table 3). The differences are statistically significant (p<0.001) in almost all raw materials except *P. aviculare*. The highest content of phenolic substances was established in *H. arenarium*, *P. aviculare* and *C. vulgare* extracts obtained with 50% ethanol. For the *V. album* and *E. arvense* extracts the highest concentration of phenols was observed in the variants obtained with 60% ethanol, and for *V. officinalis* - with 70% ethanol.

**Table 3. Total phenols content of extracts obtained from different ethanol concentration**

Plant extract	(mg GAE /ml) Total phenols in the extract (mg GAE/ml)		
	50% ethanol 50%	60% ethanol 60%	70% ethanol 70%
Dwarf everlast	3,01±0,037	2,12±0,026	2,23±0,028
Knotgrass	1,98±0,151	1,90±0,095	1,75±0,028
Wild basil	4,24±0,040	3,95±0,085	1,56±0,046
Mistletoe	1,13±0,035	1,27±0,030	0,81±0,057
Field horsetail	1,01±0,11	1,53±0,065	1,20±0,052
Common speedwell	2,79±0,114	3,23±0,070	3,26±0,049

± SD

The results are presented as means ± SD

*C. vulgare* (4,24 mg GAE/ml)  
*V. officinalis* (3,26 mg GAE/ml)  
*H. arenarium* (3,01 mg GAE/ml).

From the test plant extracts the richest in phenolic substances is the *C. vulgare* extract (4.24 mg GAE/ml) followed by *V. officinalis* (3.26 mg GAE/ml) and *H. arenarium* (3.01 mg GAE/ml). Other authors also report a high content of phenolic substances in ethanolic extracts of these plants and associate this fact with the observed antioxidant activity in vitro (Georgieva

in vitro (Georgieva and Mihaylova, 2015; Valyova et al., 2008; Czinner et al., 2000).

and Mihaylova, 2015; Valyova et al., 2008; Czinner et al., 2000).

## CONCLUSIONS

Experiments were carried out to obtain water-ethanol extracts from six species of medicinal plants used in folk medicine in Bulgaria. Technological experiments vary the ethanol concentration without changing the other extraction parameters.

A statistically significant correlation between ethanol concentration and yield of extracted substances and total phenols per unit of raw material was established.

Highest values for the total phenol content were recorded for *C. vulgare* extracted with 50% ethanol ( $4.24 \pm 0.040$  mg GAE/ml) and for *V. officinalis* extracts obtained with 70% ethanol ( $3.26 \pm 0.040$  mg GAE/ml) and *H. arenarium* - with 50% ethanol ( $3.01 \pm 0.049$  mg GAE/ml).

*C. vulgare*, 50%  
( $4,24 \pm 0,040$  mg GAE/ml)  
*V. officinalis*,  
70% ( $3,26 \pm 0,049$  GAE mg/ml)  
*H. arenarium* – 50%  
( $3,01$  mg GAE/ml).

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## Species composition of pathogens of medicinal and aromatic plants recorded in Bulgaria

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### SUMMARY

Bulgaria is rich in medicinal plants. They have been used since antiquity to obtain valuable medicines, spices, aromatic and other substances. The modern chemical and pharmaceutical industry uses plants to produce medicinal products such as nivalin, morphine, glaucine, vincapan, rutin, esculin, xanthorin, scopolamine, etc. The emergence and spread of diseases affects the production quality and quantity. The use of plant protection products is undesirable. The good plant protection practices include being familiar with pathogens, plant damages and inventory of the information available in the country on these issues, which was the aim of the study funded by the Research Sector at the University of Forestry under Project 21-2016. All issues of five prestigious scientific journals, namely "Bulgarian Journal of Crop Science"; "Agricultural Sciences Journal"; "Gradinarstvo"; "Agricultural Science and Technology" and "Bulgarian Journal of Agriculture" of the period 1973-2017, were reviewed.

21-2016

"Agricultural Science and Technology" "Bulgarian Journal of Agriculture" 1973 2017

3800 .

1962 2017  
11 .

7

(*Rosa damascena*),  
(*Mentha* sp.), (*Lavandula vera*),  
(*Coriandrum sativum*),  
(*Salvia officinalis*),  
(*Valeriana officinalis*),  
(*Althaea officinalis*), (*Melissa officinalis*),  
(*Carum carvi* L.)  
(*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.).

21/2016

49 | The publications within this period are  
- over 3800. Only 49 issues contain  
- information related to medical and  
- aromatic plant pathogens. Eleven  
- published books were found among the  
- specialized Bulgarian literature of the  
- period from 1962 to 2017. Four of them  
- consider diseases and pests of essential  
- oil and medicinal crops, and the other 7  
- refer to the cultivation technology. Eight  
8 | manuals and two textbooks were issued,  
- which consider crop diseases and contain  
- information about a limited number of  
- crops – oil rose (*Rosa damascena*), mint  
- (*Mentha* sp.), lavender (*Lavandula vera*),  
- coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*), sage  
- (*Salvia officinalis*), valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*),  
- marsh mallow (*Althaea officinalis*), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*),  
- Cumin (*Carum carvi* L.) and  
- fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.). The  
- described diseases of essential oil and  
- medicinal crops are caused by various  
- pathogens (viruses, bacteria,  
- phytoplasmas), but the fungi are the most  
- common and frequently reported. The  
- results of the study show that the  
- pathogens of these crops are still not well  
- researched.

**Key words:** pathogens, medicinal,  
aromatic plants, source literature, Project  
21/2016 UF, Bulgaria

## INTRODUCTION

- The beneficial properties of  
- essential oil, medicinal, and aromatic  
- plants have been studied for millenia.  
- They have found more profound and  
- efficacious application, which has led to  
- their mass use. This corresponds to a  
- growing demand for them which leads to  
- an increased quantity of the herbs  
- collected annually. Even with the best  
- conservation practices and subsequent  
- storage of medicinal plants, their effect  
- attenuates with time.

Therefore for each herb it is important to  
know the period of time after its

ú

FAO,

21/2016

preparation in which it is good for use. In case of improper drying, it can completely lose its medicinal effects. Observing these requirements is a guarantee for an efficacious phytotherapy. The growing of some essential oil crops such as Damask rose, lavender, mint, etc. in Bulgaria has long traditions and global popularity, whereas other relatively newer species such as white thorn, sage, yellow horned poppy, etc. have promising perspectives and their production is growing.

At the same time according to data of FAO, extinction of many plant species is reported every year. This is why for the purpose of overcoming resource shortfall and meeting growing consumption there have been and are continuously created technologies for their cultivation.

This allows not only making use of lands of low productivity and income-generation for the population, but also an opportunity for growing plants with higher content of bioactive substances.

Growing of plants as agricultural crops is often accompanied by diseases and pests which can cause serious harm and in some cases even compromise the harvest. Yet, the use of plant protection products with crops for medicinal and cosmetic use is not allowed in their production and its derivatives, even when it comes to miniscule residual quantities.

The foundation of improvement of the methods and approaches applied for plant protection lies in the good knowledge of pathogen species and the harm caused by them on the respective essential oil crops and medicinal and aromatic plants, and a first stage in this process is an inventory of the existing information in the country on this subject matter. Project 21/2016 of NIS to the University of Agriculture and Forestry supported the present study of the

pathogens of aromatic and medical cultures in Bulgaria.

### **Purpose and tasks**

The purpose of this research was to establish the extent to which the pathogenic species affecting cultivated essential oil crops and medicinal and aromatic plants in Bulgaria have been studied and to analyze the existing information which has been published in Bulgaria.

The subject and scope of the research was the publication activity in Bulgaria regarding the pathogens affecting medicinal plants.

For fulfillment of the research purpose, there were placed specific assignments for research and analysis of the scientific publications (periodic issues), popular science publications (periodic issues), of other print sources (books, brochures, etc.), as well as research and analysis of the electronic editions and publications on the topic for the period from 1972 to 2017.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The first step in any scientific research work is a bibliographic research (literature review) on the particular subject. Scientific information is the result of a concentrated process. It is used for different purposes (theoretical and practical), and in the field of agriculture it allows us to create new and to improve the existing cultivation technologies for different plant species which are of interest for the meeting of various needs of human life. Information research can have two aspects content-wise – research of literature and research of practical experience (Gavrailov, 2014).

The purpose of our literature review was to identify the present-day state of the subject matter. Therefore it was important to clarify two key questions of our research, formed into



(Lulalski 2005, 2005b; Tasev, 2004), (Lulalski, 2005b; Gavrailov, 2014). *informatio* - (http://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/). Gavrailov (2014)

two sections: the concept of information and the different information types, and the significance of essential oil crops and medicinal plants for humans and agricultural production.

Information and information sources.

There are different approaches to the research process stages. Some authors divide it into three stages (design, technology and reflection) (Lulanski 2005 and 2005b; Tasev, 2004 et al.), and other authors into four (preliminary, essential, conclusive and representative) (Lulanski 2005b, Gavrailov, 2014).

Information (from Latin: *informatio* - clarification, exposition, awareness) is a concept related to the objective property of material objects and phenomena (processes) to create a wide range of states which can be transferred to other objects through interaction and can be imprinted in their structure (http://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/).

Gavrailov (2014) distinguishes between primary and secondary documents. In our research we have used both types. We have reviewed the published monographs, compendiums, scientific editions, popular science editions, materials from scientific conferences, official publications, statistical compendiums, journals, newspapers, journals with reference index, scientific notes, collected works, newsletters, announcements, yearbooks, reports, dissertations, graduation theses, submitted manuscripts, archive units, translations, technological documentation, justification proposals, etc., all of which belonging to the first group of documents. We have also reviewed secondary documents, such as journals with reference index, new publication announcements, express information, print cards, reviews (reference, analytical), encyclopaedias (general, universal, sectoral), guides, dictionaries, etc. (http://tuj.asenevtsi.com).

As a reference point in the search for information we used the classification

Tasev (2004),  
 (https://mkirilova.files.wordpress.com):  
 (Internet);  
 (https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/).  
 ( ) (Babenko, 2008).

of Tasev (2004), including: Database as a set of data structured in a way which enables its fast extraction, (https://mkirilova.files.wordpress.com): Libraries; Schools; Health insurance fund; General medical practitioners; Video libraries; Stores (including online); Warehouses; Civil register (https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/). Data bank as a contemporary form of organization, storage and access to information, and a set of language and software instruments, known as a data base control system (Babenko, 2008).

In the specialized bibliographic research on the topics we included techniques of interdisciplinary research toolkit. We performed a bibliographic thematic research covering the bibliographic description and systematization, data processing and structuring. We paid attention to digitalization of the results of the processed materials and the graphic presentation of the results.

Creation of an algorithm for search for information in the literature sources.

The model algorithm used was composed of several main stages such as defining the type of sources to be researched – primary and secondary, publications in periodic scientific editions, popular science literature, electronic editions (“scouting” the electronic book stores, virtual libraries and catalogues on the Internet). We determined the period in which the research had to take place, as well as its language and geographic scope – only Bulgarian scientific editions. We researched the following sources: print and electronic editions, including: Anotations as short texts presenting the contents of a book, article, film, etc. (https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/);

Bibliographies as studying and describing print editions and manuscripts

(https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/);

(<https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/>);  
 ” “ (http://e-  
 dir.unwe.acad.bg/);  
 ISBN  
 (http://iniod.com);  
 ISB, 30 ISSN 100  
 (http://iniod.com/);  
 . (http://iniod.com/)  
 ( , ),  
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(<https://bg.wikipedia.org/wiki/>);  
 Dissertations for the awarding of doctoral  
 degrees in higher education institutions  
 (http://e-dir.unwe.acad.bg/); Textbooks and  
 study aid books as editions with ISBN and  
 reviewers and recommended by university  
 department councils on the respective  
 study disciplines (http://iniod.com); Studies  
 investigating a certain question with  
 assigned ISSN or ISB, with a volume  
 between 30 and 100 pages  
 (http://iniod.com/); Reports from scientific  
 forums (http://iniod.com/) and monographs  
 (monographic works) as scientific works  
 treating exhaustively a certain question or  
 topic.

## RESULTS

The importance of essential oil  
 and medicinal plants for humans and for  
 Bulgaria.

Essential oil and medicinal plants  
 have been known for centuries. In some  
 Eastern cultures (China, India, among  
 others) untraditional medicine enjoys  
 widespread popularity, comparable to  
 that of modern medicine. Globally, out of  
 around 422,000 plant species, for  
 medicinal purposes are used only 12.5%  
 (52,885), and 8% (4,160) are  
 endangered (Bergleiter et al., 2009).  
 Medicinal, essential oil, and aromatic  
 plants are used in different forms -  
 directly for treatment (in the form of  
 infusions, teas, etc.), or as a raw material  
 for the production of medicines, food  
 ingredients (spices with medicinal  
 properties), etc. According to a report of  
 FAO with the UN, there are two sources  
 of obtaining the medicinal plants used by  
 humans - collecting them from nature  
 and cultivating them.

Bulgaria is a traditional producer of  
 essential oil plants and their derivatives,  
 and for the period 1998-2002 it ranks  
 among the top countries in the world in  
 the export of medicinal plants collected  
 from nature (rose, lavender, mint,  
 coriander, etc.), and is respectively on  
 25<sup>th</sup> position among the importers of  
 such produce in the USA and on 4<sup>th</sup>

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 . ( ,  
 .)  
 ,  
 . 422000  
 12.5% (52885), 8% (4160)  
 (Schippmann et al., 2002.).  
 ( , .)  
 , ( ,  
 ) .  
 (FAO)  
 , :  
 .  
 1998-2002 .  
 ( , , ,  
 .),

(<http://www.fao.org/docrep>).

8-10 300t  
1991-2003 . 14 355  
500 (Lange, 2004),

2014 . 44,78 ha  
55 598t (MAFF,  
Agrostaistica, 2017).

US  
(Schippmann et al., 2002).

2010) (WHO  
1999 – 2001  
22%,  
170%.  
3000

2000  
(1200-  
1300)  
(Stolton et al., 2010).

(WWF, 2000).

position in the EU. Rose production is a trademark for Bulgaria and the quality of the obtained rose oil is unrivalled in the global industry, without decline in its demand over the years. (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/af285e/af285e00.HTM>). Regarding the export of medicinal plants, Bulgaria ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the world, with an average of 10,300 tonnes for the period 1991-2003, worth USD 14,355,500 (Lange, 2004), with areas covered with such crops in Bulgaria in 2014 of 44.78 ha and a total produce of 55,598 tonnes (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Agrostatistics, 2017).

The interest in these plants due to their sales volumes has been constantly growing in the past decades on a global scale. The worth of medicinal plants on the international market exceeds 50 billion US dollars annually (Schippmann et al., 2002). According to data of the World Health Organization (WHO 2010) the European market in medicinal and aromatic plants for the period 1999 – 2001 has grown significantly, for example by 22% in the Czech Republic, and by 170% in Bulgaria.

Around 3,000 medicinal and aromatic plant species are traded on international markets and most of them are wild plants. In Europe, at least 2,000 medicinal and aromatic plants are used as commercial products, and around two thirds (1,200-1,300) species are indigenous to Europe (Stolton et al., 2010).

This information shows that there is a growing market and its impact on the industry can be substantial. The increased demand for raw produce and its derivatives is related not only to the interest in their effects on human health but also to the increased human population on earth. All these factors and these plants' still limited cultivation are premises for increased anthropogenic pressure on natural habitats. This endangers their existence (WWF 2000). There is such risk for Bulgaria as well, which ranks third in Europe in terms of

447 775h  
 5 282t/year (Bergleiter et al., 2009).  
 9000  
 (Hawkins, 2008).  
 (MAP) (EUROPAM GACP MAP-2010).  
 WHO, WWW, FAO  
 (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute - IPGRI) 2002  
 Varbanova (2004)  
 3567  
 , 750 (85%  
 , 15%  
 )  
 318  
 ( )  
 GACP MAP

registered areas (447,775 h ) and collected produce (5,282 t/year) (Censkowsky et al. 2007). On a global scale, in the recent years around 9,000 medicinal plants are reported to have been assigned a certain endangered status (Hawkins, 2008).

In connection with the preservation of nature and human health in Europe and in the world at large, there have been created sectoral organizations with work groups and new rules have been elaborated for the collection and cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants (EUROPAM GACP MAP-2010). They are subject of research and constant monitoring by numerous global organizations such as WHO, WWW, FAO, etc. The International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) since 2002 has had a specialized group working the problems related to medicinal and aromatic plants.

According to Varbanova (2004), out of the 3,567 higher plant species which can be found in Bulgaria, 750 are medicinal and aromatic plants (85% are from wildlife, and only 15% are introduced or local species). The group of cultivated such counts 318 representatives (species and populations) of local or foreign origins. The increased interest in medicinal plants shows that the efforts in the European Union and the world are aimed at sustainable use of the resources of both wild and cultivated plants. In their cultivation, attention is paid to the application of the good practices stipulated in GACP MAP and their safe application for human health.

The European Union countries have developed legislation regulating such activities. Because of the specificities of medicinal and aromatic plants, the activities related to their production and processing are assigned to a special subsection of agricultural production – biological agriculture, and

- are directly related to the environmental  
 - legislation and regulatory framework for  
 such production. In Regulation No. 11  
 dated 6 April 2009 on the rules and  
 procedure for application of measure 214  
 "Agri-environment payments" of the  
 Rural Development Programme for the  
 period 2007-2013, there was stipulated  
 support for the production of aromatic  
 and medicinal plants: in transition – 340  
 euro/h , after transition – 267 euro/h .

The global trend, which is not so  
 present in Bulgaria, is that the  
 processing industry prefers to buy  
 cultivated plants because of their higher  
 quality and the possibility for  
 standardization of the raw material, high  
 level of mechanization and automation of  
 the processes, good hygiene and  
 sanitary regimes and reduced cost of  
 production (Dzhurmanski, et at. 2009).

The research of medicinal and  
 essential oil plants in Bulgaria so far has  
 not covered the whole spectrum of  
 problems faced in the production of  
 these crops. In the country, there have  
 been relatively few studies of traditional  
 crops and the more frequently used  
 species. There is no data on the  
 influence of different non-infectious  
 factors on the manifestation of disease in  
 these crops. There is little research on  
 plant protection threats and especially  
 in the field of phytopathology. In this line  
 of research in the recent years there has  
 been work by a relatively small number  
 of researchers, namely Margina, (1991;  
 1999; 2003), Dikova (1989, 2009, 2011,  
 2014), Dacheva (2008), Vasileva (2015)  
 and Nakova (2010, 2017), but even their  
 works have not investigated all the  
 phytopathological problems faced by  
 medicinal, essential oil and aromatic  
 plants in Bulgaria. Eliminating the gaps in  
 information concerning the spread of  
 diseases among medicinal plants will  
 bring benefits both to science and  
 practice. This will provide an answer to  
 the question whether a development of



; (Hristova, 1973; Tanev, 1981; Mirkova & Margina, 2003);  
 (*Mentha* sp.) – 2 –  
 ,  
 ,  
*menthae* Pers. *Puccinia* (Yankulov, 1980; Margina, 1997);  
 (*Lavandula vera*) – 4 –  
 ,  
 , 2 ;  
 (Mirkova and Margina, 2003; Mirkova et al., 1999; Nakova, 2010; 2017; Vasileva, 2015);  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) – 2  
 (Pecarski et al., 2017; Dikova, Lambev, 2015); /  
 (*Valeriana officinalis*) – 2  
 ; –  
 (Mirkova and Margina, 2003; Dikova et al., 2016);  
 (*Althaea officinalis*), (*Salvia officinalis*)  
 (*Melissa officinalis*) –  
 (Dikova et al., 2016).

Mint (*Mentha* sp.) – 2 articles were published – focused on agritechniques in two-year growing of peppermint, which partially treat the problem of diseases, as well as the resistance of species and sorts of mint to *Puccinia menthae* Pers. and *Verticillium* spp. (Yankulov, 1980; Margina, 1997); Lavender (*Lavandula vera*) – there are 4 published articles, one of which studies the influence of soil pathogens of lavender and 2 more crops; they treat also phytosanitary monitoring of diseases and a performed monitoring of fungal diseases in Bulgaria (Mirkova ., Margina ., 2003; Mirkova E. et al., 1999; Nakova, 2010; Vasileva, 2015); Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) – 2 articles were published with description of some viral diseases affecting this plant (Pecarski et al., 2017; Dikova, Lambev, 2015); Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) – 2 articles were published, one of which is focused completely on the technology of garden growing of Valerian, and the other treats the question of the cultivation limiting factors, which includes some soil fungi (Mirkova, Margina, 2003; Dikova et al., 2016); Marsh Mallow (*Althaea officinalis*), Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) and Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) – there is report of the presence of a viral infection of these crops (Dikova et al., 2016). Based on the conducted comparative analysis of the collected information we can conclude that some of the most popular and authoritative magazines in Bulgaria publishing articles, reviews, etc. in all fields of plant growing, show unsatisfactory results regarding the coverage of phytopathogenic environment and the problems of this kind in Bulgaria for the past over four decades in the field of medicinal and essential oil plants. We have established that there are enormous gaps in our knowledge of diseases and their causes among these crops, and that such information is important to Bulgarian producers.



50  
 170  
 2120  
 19  
 (1,41%),  
 (Rosa damascene Mill) – 1985  
 (Dodov, 1953; Tanev, 1983).  
 1992  
 7  
 (Margina,  
 1991);  
 (Mirkova and Karadzhova, 2003);  
 (Mirkova, 2005);  
 (Mirkova, 2006)  
 (NPPS, 2007);  
 (Nakova, 2008; Mirkova, 2016);  
 (Mentha sp.) – 1985  
 5  
 (Dodov,  
 1953b); (Dodov, 1953 ; 1953c);  
 (Tanev, 1983).  
 1992  
 2  
 (Neshev, 1998);

The results from the review of a reputable popular science journal in Bulgaria – Plant Protection, for a period of over 50 years, show a similar trend. The total number of issues is more than 170, containing over 2,120 popular science articles and other information materials. Some of them presented data from scientific research of individual authors. The review of all the issues of the journal showed that the problem related to diseases of medicinal and essential oil plants is covered in 30 articles published in the course of 19 years. The trend and results are similar to those with scientific publications – again the percentage is around 1 (1.41%) compared to the total number of publications, regardless of the fact that the plant is specialized in plant protection.

The published materials cover diseases and pathogens affecting the following crops: Damask rose (*Rosa damascene* Mill) – in the period until 1985 there were published 2 articles – fighting rust; taking care of roses (Dodov, 1953; Tanev, 1983). After 1992 there were published 7 articles covering topics related to description of diseases and their causes such as rust and black leaf spots (Margina, 1991); complete plant protection of roses (Mirkova and Karadzhova, 2003); soil pathogens (Mirkova, 2005); verticillium wilt (Mirkova, 2006) phytosanitary review (National Plant Protection Office, 2007); fighting antracnosis and other diseases (Nakova, 2008; Mirkova, 2016); Mint (*Mentha* sp.) – until 1985 there were published 5 articles with information about viral diseases (Dodov, 1953); rust (Dodov, 1953 ; Dodov, 1953c); verticillium wilt (Tanev, 1983). After 1992 we found information about 2 articles with description of verticillium wilt (Neshev, 1998); rust; powdery mildew; antracnosis; yellows (Margina, 1998). For lavender

(Margina, 1998).  
*vera*) 5  
 1992 ,, (Margina, 2000);  
 ; (Mirkova,  
 2000); (Nakova,  
 2010); (Vasileva, 2015a;  
 Nakova et al., 2017);  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) 2  
 1992 . (Atanasova  
 et al., 2013) , -  
 , /  
 (Chavdarov, 2013);  
 (*Valeriana officinalis*) ,  
 (Mirkova, 1999);  
 (*Melissa officinalis*) 1992  
 ,  
 (Mirkova, 2000).  
 1985 1  
 (Tanev and Tsalbukov, 1969); 1992  
 4  
 ,  
 (Lecheva and Yanchev,  
 2005; NPPS, 2007; Mirkova, 2010;  
 Mascheva, 2016). ,  
 ( 300 )  
 30 ,  
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 1962 2007 .  
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(*Lavandula vera*) we found 5 articles published in the period after 1992, on leaf spots (Margina, 2000); alternaria; root rot (Mirkova, 2000); pathogen monitoring (Nakova, 2010); fungal diseases (Vasileva, 2015a; Nakova et al., 2017.); For coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) we found 2 publications after 1992 on phytosanitary condition (Atanasova et al., 2013) and the diseases of Bacterial Leaf Blight of Coriander Caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *coriandri*, ramulariosis, cucumber mosaic virus (Chavdarov, 2013); for Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) we found one article with information on Rhizoctonia rot (Mirkova, 1999); in one article on Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) in 1992 there was found information about fungal pathogens affecting the crop (Mirkova, 2000). General articles on medicinal and essential oil crops - until 1985 there was issued 1 article with the problems faced in plant protection (Tanev and Tsalbukov, 1969); after 1992 there were published 4 articles on the problems caused by fungi affecting medicinal and essential oil plants ((Lecheva and Yanchev, 2005; NPPS, 2007; Mirkova, 2010; Mascheva, 2016). We established that even for crops with long cultivation traditions on our territory such as rosa Kazanlika (*Rosa damascena* Mill. f. *trigintipetala* Dieck) (over 300 years) there have been published only 30 articles on phytopathological problems which could compromise the yield and quality of the harvest. There is also insufficient use of foreign sources of information in the preparation of such kind of materials, which could compensate the shortage or lack of such on certain matters on which there is no or insufficient work in the country.

In the specialized Bulgarian literature for the period from 1962 to 2007 we found 11 books published on this subject matter. Four of them treat diseases and pests on medicinal and

7  
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(10)  
1.

essential oil crops, and the other 7 examine their growing technology and only partially treat the matter of the diseases and their causes and present some control methods. These books cover a relatively small number of crops (10), included in Table 1

**Table 1. Printed books describing diseases of essential oil and medical crops**

Year	Title - Culture - Described Diseases
1962	Topalov, C. Essential oil and medicinal crops (notes). Hristo G. Danov. Plovdiv. 1962. Oil rose - rust and bacterial cancer; Mint - rust and curl; Lavender - leaf spots; Coriander - bacteriosis;
1965	Dimimanov, M., Tanev, Iv. Diseases and pests of essential oil and medicinal crops. Plovdiv. Hristo Danov. 1965 Oil-bearing rose - rust, black leaf spots, powdery mildew; Mint - rust, vertigo wilting, curdness, powdery mildew, anthracnose; Coriander - bacterial blackening of the fruits; Salvia - ovulariosis;
1967	Novelties in the cultivation of essential oils. 1967. Valeriana - rust, powdery mildew, sclerotic wilt, root rot; Oil rose - rust, black leaf spots, gray rot, bacterial cancer, mosaic; Mint - rust, powdery mildew, anthracnose, vertigo wisdom, curdness, jaundice;
1976	Problems of ethereal production. Sofia. 1976. Oil-bearing rose - rust, black leaf spots;
1999	Margina, A., Lecheva, Iv., Stoikova, K. Diseases, pests and weeds of oilseed rose, mint, valerian and yellow poppy. Forum Forum. 1999. Oil rose - rust, black leaf spots, gray rot, bacterial cancer, mosaic; Mint - rust, powdery mildew, ataractose, vertigo wilderness, curdness, jaundice; Valeriana - rust, powdery mildew, sclerotic wilt, root rot;
2000	Yankulov, Y. The main aromatic plants: 19 modern technologies for cultivation. Sofia. 2000. Oil-bearing rose - rust, black leaf spots; Mint - rust, vertigo wilderness;
2000	Margina, A. Diseases in essential oil and healing crops. Forum Forum. Stara Zagora. 2000. Coriander - bacterial blackening on the fruit; Lavender - leaf spots, blackleg, root rot and drying; Lemon - dark brown leaf spots; Marshmallow - rust; Salvia - powdery mildew, manna, round leaf spots, sclerotic wilt; Selim - brown spots;
2002	Petkov, T., Cultivated Herbs, Ed. "BILLER". Sofia, 2002. Mint - "rust", vertigo wilting, curl; Lavender - Soil diseases on the seedlings: Fusarium, Pythium and Rhizoctonia; Valeriana - powdery mildew; Estragon - rust; Copper - Cervicosporosis.
2003	Staikov, V. Perspective essential oil crops. IZ Zemizdat. 2003. Oil-bearing rose - rust, black leaf spots; Mint - rust, vertigo withering, curdness; Coriander - bacterial blackening of the fruits;
2004	Atanasova, M., Nedkov, H. Essential oil and medicinal crops: Modern technologies for cultivation, competitiveness, financing. <i>Kameya Publishing House</i> . Sofia. 2004. Oil-bearing rose - black blotchy spots; Mint - rust, curd; Coriander - bacterial blackened fruits, ramusliosis; Valeriana - rust, powdery mildew, white rot; Lemon - dark brown leaf spots
2007	Evstatieva, L., Y. Stancheva. Biological technologies for growing medicinal plants. Sofia. 2007. Mint - , rust, septoriosis, verticillium wilting, root rot; Lavender - septoriosis, alternateosis, stinging spots, blackheads, yellowing of the stem, root rot; Squam - rust, dark brown leaf spots, root rot; Salvia - powdery mildew, ashochitis, blackleg; Salvia - rust, powdery mildew, manna, leaf spots, white leaf spots, white rot; Selim - brown leaf spots; Coriander - mosaic, brown leaf spots, cerosporosis; Marshmallow - rust, cerosporosis, asciticosis
All	10 crops in 11 books <b>Rose - 8 pcs. Mint - 8 pcs .; Lavender - 4 pcs .; Coriander - 6 pcs .; Salvia - 4; Valeriana - 4; Medical marshmallow - 2 pcs .; Selim - 2 pcs .; Lemon - 3 pcs .; Dill- 2 pcs., Estraton - 1 pcs.</b>

( - | There are described diseases (separately  
) : - | or in combinations) affecting: Damask

(*Rosa damascena*) – 8  
 ; (*Mentha sp.*) – 7  
 (*Lavandula vera*) – 3  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) – 6  
 ; (*Salvia officinalis*) – 4  
 ; (*Valeriana officinalis*) – 3  
 ; (*Levisticum officinale*) – 2  
 ; (*Melissa officinalis*) – 3  
 ; (*Artemisia dracunculus*  
 L.) – 1  
 (*Althaea officinalis* L.) – 2  
 (*Anethum graveolens* L.) – 1967-2008  
 8  
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 ,  
 )  
 .  
 ( 2).  
 ,  
 (10)  
 ;  
 (*Rosa damascena*) 8  
 (*Mentha sp.*) 8  
 (*Lavandula vera*) 8  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) 4  
 ; (*Salvia officinalis*) 3  
 ; (*Valeriana officinalis*) 4  
 ; (*Althaea officinalis*) 1  
 ; (*Melissa officinalis*) 2  
 (*Carum carvi* L.) 1 ; (*Foeniculum  
 vulgare* Mill.) 2 ( 2).

rose (*Rosa damascena*) – in 8 books;  
 Mint (*Mentha sp.*) – in 7 books; Lavender  
 (*Lavandula vera*) – in 3 books; Coriander  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) – in 6 books; Sage  
 (*Salvia officinalis*) – in 4 books; Valerian  
 (*Valeriana officinalis*) – in 3 books;  
 Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*) – in 2  
 books; Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) –  
 in 3 books; Tarragon (*Artemisia  
 dracunculus* L.) – in 1 book; Marsh Mallow  
 (*Althaea officinalis* L.) – in 2 books; Dill  
 (*Anethum graveolens* L.) – in one book.

For the period 1967-2008 there  
 were issued 8 other print editions. Five of  
 them are study aid books for plant  
 protection, especially on diseases  
 affecting cultivated plants, among which  
 there are two textbooks (2 editions of  
 “Special Phytopathology”, A. Hristov) and  
 one study aid (Y. Stancheva). The rest  
 are manuals for plant growing technology  
 and a manual for integrated plant  
 protection management for medicinal and  
 essential oil crops (Table 2).

The information contained in them  
 also covers a limited number (10) of  
 crops studied, namely: Damask rose  
 (*Rosa damascena*) in 8 books; Mint  
 (*Mentha sp.*) in 8 books; Lavender  
 (*Lavandula vera*) in 8 books; Coriander  
 (*Coriandrum sativum*) in 4 books; Sage  
 (*Salvia officinalis*) in 3 books; Valerian  
 (*Valeriana officinalis*) in 4 books; Marsh  
 Mallow (*Althaea officinalis*) in 1 book;  
 Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) in 2  
 books; Cumin (*Carum carvi* L.) in 1 book;  
 Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.) in 2  
 books (Table 2).

## 2.

**Table 2. Other printed publications with described diseases of EMNC and MAP**

Year	Culture with described diseases	name
1967	Mint - rust, mosaic; Oil-bearing rose - rust, black and brown spots; Lavender - Septoria	Hristov, Al. Special Phytopathology: Diseases of Cultural Plants. Third revised and additional edition. <i>Zemizdat. Sofia.</i>
1968	<b>Oil rose</b> - rust; Lavender - leaf spots (septoriosis); Mint - rust, curd, powdery mildew; Valeriana - rust, brown leaf spots, vertigo wilderness;	Popov, At., Pavlov, K., Popov, P. Crop production: Technical and pumpkin crops. T. 4. <i>Zemizdat. Sofia.</i>
1974	<b>Oil-bearing rose</b> - rust, black leaf spots; Lavender - leaf spots, blackleg, root rot; Mint - rust, vertigo withering, curdness; Salvia - powdery mildew; Coriander - cercosporosis, bacteriosis; Valeriana - dry sclerotic rot, powdery mildew, rust, root rot, yellow mosaic, stool;	Staykov, V., Astanzov, N., G. Atanasov. Manual on Essential Oily and Medicinal Crops. DI for agricultural literature <i>Zemizdat. Sofia.</i>
1976	<b>Oil-bearing rose</b> - rust, black leaf spots, brown spots; Mint - rust, mosaic; Lavender - Septoriosis (root rot);	Hristov, Al. Special Phytopathology: IV ed. DI za sel'skost. izd. Sofia.
2002	<b>Oil-bearing rose</b> - rust, black leaf spots; Mint - kuddness, rust, septoriosis, root rot; Lavender - septoriosis, alternicosis; Valeriana - mosaic, rust, manna, brown leaf spots, black root and basic rot; Salvia - rust; Lemon - dark brown leaf spots; Marshmallow - rust; Coriander - cercosporosis ;	Stancheva, Y. Atlas of Agricultural Diseases. T. 4 Diseases on technical cultures. Sofia - Moscow. "Pensoft".
2005	<b>Oil-bearing rose</b> - rust, black leaf spots; Lavender - leaf spots, blackleg, root rot; Mint - rust, vertigo withering, curdness; Salvia - powdery mildew; Coriander - manna, bacteriosis; Fetus - sarcosporosis; Lemon - dark brown leaf spots; Valeriana - powdery mildew, sclerotic wilt;	Nedkov, N., et al. A Guide to Essential Essential Oils and Medicinal Crops. Kazanlak.
2008	<b>Oil rose</b> - rust, black leaf spots, gray rot, bacterial cancer, vertigo wilting, stem and root rot on green cuttings; <b>Mint</b> - rust, kuddness and mosaic crunching, verticillium wilting, powdery mildew; <b>Lavender</b> - root and stem rot, septoriosis, mosaic or scabs; <b>Coriander</b> - bacterial blackening of the fruit, ramnulation, misting;	Atanasov, N., et al. Integrated pest management guide for oilseed rose, mint, lavender and coriander. <i>Sofia, NSPP.</i>
2015	<b>Oil-bearing rose</b> - mosaic, wilting, black spots, powdery mildew, rust, anthracnose; <b>Mint</b> - kuddness, rust, vertigo. Wailing; <b>Lavender</b> - non-infectious drying, phytophthora, phomopsy, blackleg, septoriosis; <b>Cumin</b> - bacterial pride, fusariosis; <b>Fetus</b> - cercosporosis, browning of the sunflower and stalk necrosis, seedling, root rot, Other diseases of EMMA and MAR	Nakova, ., S.. Karov, B. Nakov, G. Neshev, Special Phytopathology, NAM - Plovdiv.
<b>All</b>	<b>Rose - 8 pcs. Mint - 8 pcs .; Lavender - 8 pcs .; Coriander - 4 pcs .; Salvia - 3; Valeriana - 4; Medical marshmallow - 1; Lemonade - 2 pcs .; Cumin - 1; Fence - 1 pc.</b>	

The examination of the book publishing activity in Bulgaria in the course of more than four decades demonstrates the same insufficient amount of information regarding the phytopathological aspect of medicinal and essential oil crops, which is also the case with our periodic editions (scientific and popular science such). Out of the total 17 print works, which somehow

1/ 3

address these crops, only 1/ 3 is focused on specific diseases and their causes. The information presented in them is based mainly on data from foreign literature and to a little extent on studies in the specific conditions of the Bulgarian environment.

Based on selected keywords we attempted to research the subject matter on the Internet. Global practice shows that there are specialized websites (professional and amateur) in the global information space, dedicated to numerous questions of all kinds of topics of interest to amateur researchers. Among the existing browsers (*Web search engines*), having a specialized software for extraction of information, we used the unrivalled leader of the past years Google. The obtained results were more than humble. We found only 4 articles published in the Bulgarian electronic editions. One of them is dedicated to the diseases affecting coriander, and the other one treats technological aspects of the cultivation of lavender. The subjects treated in these articles are coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*); lavender (*Lavandula vera*); mint (*Mentha sp.*) and Damask rose (*Rosa damascena*) (Table 3).

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### 3.

**Table 3. Information from Bulgarian electronic publications**

	Article Name	Hyperlink
1.	Dacheva, S. CORRIDAN DISEASES - DISCRETION AND DISTRIBUTION	<a href="http://www.sustz.com/Proceeding08/Papers/GENETICS%20AND%20SELECTION,%20WEEDS,%20DISEASES%20AND%20ENEMIES/Dacheva_Svetlana.pdf">http://www.sustz.com/Proceeding08/Papers/GENETICS%20AND%20SELECTION,%20WEEDS,%20DISEASES%20AND%20ENEMIES/Dacheva_Svetlana.pdf</a>
2.	NSPP, 2008. Guide to integrated pest management for oil rose, peppermint, lavender and coriander.	<a href="http://www.stenli.net/nsrz/files/orz/books/maslodaini_kultur_i.pdf">http://www.stenli.net/nsrz/files/orz/books/maslodaini_kultur_i.pdf</a>
3.	NAAS, 2016. Useful advice - Growing lavender, mint and others. cultures.	<a href="http://www.naas.government.bg/">http://www.naas.government.bg/</a>
4.	" Consulting in Agriculture Ltd. Technology for Creation and Growing of Lavender	<a href="http://www.savetivzemedelieto.bg/topic/">http://www.savetivzemedelieto.bg/topic/</a>
5.	Vassileva K., M. Nakova, D. Kehayov, 2015, AU - Plovdiv Biological agents for the control of mushroom diseases in lavender.	<a href="http://conf.uni-ruse.bg/bg/docs/cp15/1.1/1.1-19.pdf">http://conf.uni-ruse.bg/bg/docs/cp15/1.1/1.1-19.pdf</a>
6.	Project "Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants in Bulgaria" - Information and Conservation Foundation, Bulgarian National Radio and Ecological Consultations. Co-funded by the EU through the Life + Program.	<a href="http://susherbsbg.eu/bg/">http://susherbsbg.eu/bg/</a>
All	6 pcs.	

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 ( , State Gazette, Issue  
 29/2000) 4  
 738

We did not find any specialized websites dedicated to the researched subject matter. As at the time of completion of the research there were no forums where questions could be asked on the phytopathological problems of medicinal and essential oil crops, and where they could be discussed and answered by specialists.

After researching the hosts and the pathogene species in the various publications, we checked the number of medicinal plants in Bulgaria treated with a special regime and included in a schedule to the Bulgarian Medicinal Plants Act (State Gazette, Issue 29/2000) and as to whether some of the pathogens are attacking them. It was found that only for 4 out of 738 plants such pests have been identified and published.

## CONCLUSIONS

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 9  
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 42  
 15, 0,84%  
 -  
 (0,82%),  
 ,  
 ,  
 40  
 17

The results of the performed bibliographic research and the subsequent analysis lead to the conclusions that the information on the pathogens and their species affecting essential oil and medicinal crops in Bulgaria is covered in diverse print and electronic editions. For 9 of the essential oil and medicinal crops cultivated in Bulgaria there has been studied and identified a limited number of phytopathogenic microorganisms. The scientific publications for the 42-year period are 15, which makes 0.84% of all publications in the specialized scientific editions in Bulgaria. The popular science publications in the specialized journal on plant protection for a similar period represent a similar percentage to the scientific ones (0.82%) compared to the total number of publications, despite the fact that the number of these articles is more than double the number of scientific articles.

For more than 40 years in Bulgaria there were published a total of 17 print

( , ), - editions (books, textbooks, etc.) covering  
 - problems of the researched crops  
 ( . ), 6 (including the diseases affecting them),  
 ( 1/3) - and only 6 (around 1/3) are focused on  
 , specific diseases and their causes, with  
 - information based mainly on foreign  
 literature.  
 4 738 - Phytopathogenic microorganisms  
 were established for 4 out of all 738  
 species listed in the Bulgarian Medicinal  
 Plants Act.  
 - Scientific publications reflect the  
 scientific research work in the respective  
 fields and this gives us grounds to  
 - assume that this subject matter is not a  
 priority for the Bulgarian phytopathology  
 science.

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 - distribution in Bulgaria“ and assisted for  
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 2.009-0034 "Support for the development  
 of scientific capacity in the University of  
 Forestry".  
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 BG05M2OP001-2.009-0034 „  
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## Sort testing of strawberry culture – phenological observations and resistance to late-spring frosts

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### SUMMARY

2015 . - Ostara,  
Korona, Pineberry, Dora, Maxim,  
Cambridge favourite ( ).

(2016 ., 2017 .).

20 (Maxim) 26 (Ostara)

Dora (15.05.);

(13.06.).

17 (Korona) 20 (

Maxim).

The results of a sort testing trial, beginning in 2015 and including six strawberry cultivars (Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Dora, Maxim, Cambridge favourite (standard)), are presented in this article. The flowering and ripening times of the above cultivars were identified in the two years following the start of the trial (2016 – 2017). This was done on the basis of phenological observation. The resistance to late-spring frosts of buds and flowers has also been studied. It was established that Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Maxim, Dora, and Cambridge favourite can be classed as early-flowering. The flowering length varies from 20 to 26 days in Maxim and Ostara respectively. The earliest ripening is seen in Dora (15 May); and the end of the yield period is latest in Maxim (13 June). The period of ripening is between 17 (Korona) and 20 days in the standard and Maxim. The selected cultivars form buds and flowers which are resistant to late-spring frost.

**Key words:** sort testing, strawberry varieties, phenology, flowering, ripening, resistance to late spring frost

(*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.)

## INTRODUCTION

The importance and value of the garden strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.) are due to its fast fruit production, palatability, appearance, rich biochemical composition, nutritious and healing properties. It is defined by a wide range of distribution and the growing of different strawberry varieties should be in accordance with the specific climatic conditions in order for the normal period of flowering to take place, avoid damage to buds and flowers by late spring frost and so that fruits can reach maturity at the right time. Therefore, it is necessary that the cultivars used are resistant to late spring cold periods or planting of late-fruiting cultivars should be chosen when the imminent danger has passed. The unfavorable ecological conditions negatively affect yield, and in many regions this is a main high yield limiting factor. When cultivars are grown under protected cultivation, the production of the strawberry fruit can be year-round.

The purpose of this study is to determine the the flowering and maturation periods in specific climatic conditions, as well as the resistance of the studied strawberry cultivars to late spring frost.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the spring of 2015 (May) in the trial field of Kostinbrod, Institute of Agriculture – Kyustendil, a trial with the following six cultivars was set up – Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Maxim, Dora, Cambridge favourite (standard). The trial was set up in four repetitions. Each cultivar was represented by 20 plants with a planting scheme of 1.80 0.25 m. Spacing between cultivars was 1.0 m. The soil is characterised as Euthric Chernozem Vertisols with strong to low alkaline reaction; and the plot is situated at an elevation of 543 m. Cultivar trials

2015 . ( . )

– Ostara, Korona,  
Pineberry, Maxim, Dora, Cambridge  
favourite ( )

1.80 0.25 m.  
1.0 m.

543 m.

1979)

(Nedev et al.

(Boytsheva and Lazarov, 2003).

○ : -  
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 ), , ( );  
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 .

were conducted in accordance with Methods for studying of planting resources of fruit crops (Nedev et al.) and Methodology for successful agricultural and biological grading of cultivar trials using strawberry varieties (Boytsheva and Lazarov, 2003). Indicators used for observation and research:

○ phenological – *flowering* (beginning, beginning of full flowering, end, duration), *maturation* (beginning of fruit formation (individual fruit bodies), full maturation, end, duration);

○ resistance of buds and flowers to late spring frost

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Timing and length of flowering*

-  
 -  
 .  
 (2016 .)  
 ,  
 17. 6° - 23. 8° .  
 -  
 Ostará (4.04.), ( 1).  
 6  
 : Dora (10.04.), Korona,  
 Maxim, Cambridge favourite (11.04.);  
 Pineberry (13.04.). 2  
 3  
 Dora  
 - (19.04.), -  
 Pineberry (29.04).  
 10 (Dora) 19  
 (Ostará),  
 Pineberry - 17 .

- The observation and recording of the first and last flowers determines the average length of the flowering period. The cultivars investigated flower between the beginning of April and the middle of May under the specific climatic conditions. In the first year of the trial (2016), March temperature reached values atypical for the season with maximum daytime temperatures between 17. 6° - 23. 8° . The earliest flowering is seen in Ostará (4.04), (Table 1). After 6 days, flowering is seen in the other cultivars in the following chronological order: Dora (10.04.), Korona, Maxim, Cambridge favourite (11.04.); with Pineberry being last (13.04.). After 2 to 3 days full flowering is observed. In the cultivar Dora, this phenophase finishes the earliest (19.04.) and the latest in Pineberry (29.04). Length of the flowering period varies between 10 (Dora) and 19 days (Ostará), while the standard and Pineberry have the same flowering period length – 17 days.

1. (2016-2017 .)

Table 1. Flowering periods (2016-2017)

Variety	/ Flowering										
	2016				2017				/ average		
	start	full	end	days	start	full	end	days	start	end	days
Ostara	4.04.	7.04.	22.04.	19	9.04.	13.04.	12.05.	32	6.04.	2.05.	26
Korona	11.04.	13.04.	28.04.	18	16.04.	19.04.	15.05.	29	13.04.	6.05.	23
Pineberry	13.04.	15.04.	29.04.	17	11.04.	14.04.	13.05.	32	12.04.	6.05.	24
Maxim	11.04.	13.04.	23.04.	13	14.04.	17.04.	12.05.	28	12.04.	3.05.	21
Dora	10.04.	12.04.	19.04.	10	13.04.	17.04.	15.05.	32	11.04.	3.05.	22
Cambridge favourite	11.04.	14.04.	27.04.	17	10.04.	13.04.	14.05.	34	10.04.	5.05.	25

Pineberry  
-  
34  
Ostara  
(2009-2011)  
Korona  
12.05.  
19  
(Antonova, 2014).  
(  
2011  
0.9 °  
3 °,  
4.8 °  
2016  
7.5 °  
22.0 °  
4.8 °  
2016 2017

The beginning of the flowering period during second vegetation begins 3 to 5 days later than in 2016 with the exception of Pineberry and the standard. The length of this phenophase is significantly longer than the previous year, 34 and 19 days respectively. The reason is the unusually cold weather, followed by high temperatures. It was established that all cultivars part of this study can be identified as early flowering after conducting a flowering period data analysis. Since Ostara is a day-neutral strawberry, a second flowering stage can be observed.

In a similar study (2009-2011) conducted in the same region, the beginning of the flowering period in Korona is observed on 12 May and concludes at the end of the same month. This gives us a length of 19 days (Antonova, 2014). In comparison to this current study, this period is significantly later in the year with a one-month difference, which can be explained by temperature differences in the years of the two studies. For example, in February 2011, the average temperature was 0.9 ° with a maximum of 4.8 ° and a minimum of -3 °. In contrast, in February 2016 the average temperature was 7.5 ° with a maximum of 22.0 ° and a minimum of -4.8 °. It is evident that maximum and minimum

2009-2011 .

(  
).  
6.04., Ostara 6.05. - ,  
1 3  
- . 10  
34 . -  
- 6 .  
- .  
- (Popova, 1979).

- temperatures in 2016 and 2017 are significantly higher than in the period 2009-2011.

- The cultivars investigated maintain consistency in regard to differences in flowering rate during the two years (from the beginning to mid-April). The average date for the beginning of flowering was 6.04., and the end stage of flowering began 6.05. Compared with the standard, the cultivar Ostara was the only one flowering earlier, while the remaining cultivars flowered 1 to 3 days later. Depending on the year selected, the flowering period varied between 10 and 34 days. The difference between the earliest and the latest flowering cultivar was 6 days.

Temperature and rainfall have a significant impact on growth. In weather with higher temperatures and lower humidity, the length of phenophases' beginning and end shortened (Popova, 1979).

*Degree of damage to buds and flowers*

2016 . 27.04. " " .  
2 ° ,  
, ,  
( 1).

Late spring frost damages the strawberry fruit, resulting in the so called „black eyes”. On 27 April 2016, temperatures dropped to -2 ° , resulting in damage to flowering buds and flowers. However, these were not significant as the flowering phenophase was in its last stage (Figure 1). Depending on the degree of damage on buds and flowers by late spring frost, cultivars can be characterised in the following categories:

- ( 5 %) - Maxim;
  - ( 6 20 %) - Korona, Dora, Ostara, Cambridge favourite;
  - (21-40 %) - Pineberry;
  - ( 40 %) - Pineberry
- Pineberry , 3 %.

- highly resistant (frost up to 5 %) - Maxim;
- resistant (from 6 to 20 %) - Korona, Dora, Ostara, Cambridge favourite;
- mid resistant (21-40 %) - Pineberry.
- weak resistance (under 40%) - none.

In the last year of the study, Pineberry is highly resistant with damage of only 3%. The cultivar Maxim which can



Maxim,  
(14 %).  
(Korona, Dora, Ostara)

be classified as highly resistant is resistant (14%) in its second vegetation.

During both years of the trial, the cultivars Korona, Dora, Ostara can be classified as consistently resistant. The standard can also be classified as resistant to late spring frost.

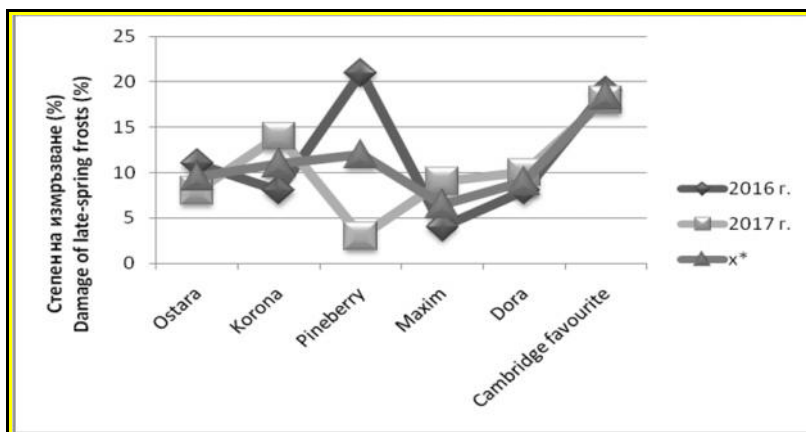


Fig. 1 Damage of late-spring frost (%)

Timing and length of fruit maturation

Maturation did not always match the rate of flowering observed. In 2016, due to high temperatures atypical for the season, all cultivars part of this study presented as very early to early in terms of maturation (Table 2). Single fruits begin to mature in the cultivar Dora first (7.05). After 7 days, maturation is seen in the other cultivars, as well. The earliest end of the maturation period is observed in Pineberry (7.06), followed by Ostara and Korona. In the standard, the end of maturation coincides with Maxim and Dora (10.06.). The length of the phenophase varies between 10 and 33 days, while in Cambridge favourite it is between 14 and 25 days. The beginning of the maturation period in Dora (2016) coincides with that of New Gorella (2010) in a study conducted in the Sofia plain on leached cinnamon forest (Petrova-

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(Petrova-Branicheva, 2013a, 2013b; Petrova-Branicheva et al., 2010).

(2017 .)

1.06.

Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Dora  
Cambridge favourite; Maxim

2.06.

Pineberry Maxim  
16.06.

Branicheva, 2013; Petrova-Branicheva et al., 2010).

In 2017, the beginning of the maturation period varies by between two weeks to a month later. On June 1 single fruits start to mature in Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Dora, Cambridge favourite, and on June 2 only in Maxim. The length of the phenophase (16 days) is significantly shorter in comparison to 2016. In Pineberry and Maxim the last harvest is on 16.06.

## 2.

**Table 2. Ripening time of tested cultivars**

Variety	/ Ripening								
	2016			2017			/ average		
	start	end	days	start	end	days	start	end	days
Ostara	14.05.	9.06.	25	1.06.	10.06.	10	22.05.	9.06.	18
Korona	19.05.	9.06.	20	1.06.	15.06.	15	25.05.	12.06.	17
Pineberry	18.05.	7.06.	21	1.06.	16.06.	16	24.05.	12.06.	19
Maxim	14.05.	10.06.	26	2.06.	16.06.	14	23.05.	13.06.	20
Dora	7.05.	10.06.	33	1.06.	14.06.	14	15.05.	12.06.	18
Cambridge favourite	15.05.	10.06.	25	1.06.	14.06.	14	23.05.	12.06.	20

7.05. 2.06., -  
26 .  
10 (Ostara)  
33 (Dora).  
1 7 , Ostara  
13 -  
Dora (15.05.). Korona  
(25.05.)  
(17 ),  
Maxim  
(20 ).

As a result of the two-year study, cultivars were observed to be in the maturation phase between 7.05. and 2.06., i.e an interval of 26 days. The length of the phenophase varies between 10 (Ostara) and 33 days (Dora). The difference in maturation length between the two years varies from 1 to 7 days, while in Ostara, it is 13 days. It was established that the earliest beginning of maturation is seen in Dora (15.05.). Korona is distinguished by the having the latest maturation start date (25.05.) and the shortest harvest period (17 days), while the standard and Maxim have the longest one (20 days).

## CONCLUSIONS

Korona, Pineberry, Maxim, Ostara,  
Cambridge favourite Dora,

The following strawberry cultivars - Ostara, Korona, Pineberry, Maxim, Dora, Cambridge favourite - can be classified as early flowering.

				Maxim; 6 20	Highly resistant to late spring frost is the cultivar Maxim. The cultivars Korona, Dora, Ostara, Cambridge favourite are resistant to late spring frost with a frost rate between 6 and 20 %. The white-coloured cultivar Pineberry had a medium resistance to frost.
%	Korona, Dora, Ostara, Cambridge favourite;			-	
	Pineberry.				
	Dora				In the cultivar Dora maturation of fruits occurred 7 to 10 days earlier than in the other cultivars. All cultivars can be classified as very early and early-maturing with maturation length between 17-20 days.
	7	10		-	
		.			
	17-20	.			

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## Comparative investigation of black currant varieties – number and length of clusters, number of blossoms and berries per cluster

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### SUMMARY

2014-2017 .  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 11,62 26,13  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 ,  
 cm 3,39 cm.  
 ,  
 ,  
 5.72 7.25  
 ,  
 ,  
 4,88 4,01  
 ,  
 (3,14)

The investigation was carried out in the period 2014-2017 and included five Russian black currant varieties – Doch Pamyati, Seyanets Golubki, Studencheskaya, Chernaya grozd, Chernaya krupnoplodnaya and the standard/control variety Titania. The average number of clusters per fruiting spur varies from 11,62 to 26,13 ones. Studencheskaya and Doch Pamyati which surpass the control variety Titania have greater number of clusters per fruiting spur. The investigated varieties distinguish themselves by short clusters. According to the data regarding cluster traits cluster length ranges from 2,40 cm to 3,39 cm. The longest clusters are produced by the standard Titania. The varieties form comparatively small number of blossoms – between 5,72 and 7,25 ones on the average. Studencheskaya and the standard variety form the greater number of berries per cluster 4,88 and 4,01 ones accordingly whilst Chernaya krupnoplodnaya produces only 3,14 ones. According to the obtained results the

varieties from a small number of berries and blossoms per cluster, which reveals their limited abilities. It looks like a tendency that Studencheskaya and Doch Pamyati demonstrate better results compared by the standard Titania as regards the number of clusters per fruiting spur. Under the climatic conditions of our region the investigated varieties do not achieve the desired degree of their genetic features that form fruitfulness – number and length of clusters and number of blossoms and berries per cluster.

**Key words:** investigation, varieties, black currant, number of clusters, number of blossoms and berries, cluster length

## INTRODUCTION

Interest in the black currant is largely due to the diverse biochemical composition of the berries. They are characterized by a favourable combination of vitamins, sugars, organic acids, and biologically active substances, all of which gives them a high nutritional value.

In Bulgaria, black currant is grown in more limited quantities compared to strawberry, raspberry and blackberry. Due to the specific requirements of the black currant many of the varieties do not reveal the desired qualities. One of the reasons for this is the fact that the climatic conditions of the region are characterized by high summer temperatures, combined with insufficient atmospheric and soil humidity. An important requirement to raise the fruitfulness is to pick only the varieties which are the most adapted to the environmental conditions. This is why studying and testing the varieties in the specific environmental conditions is of great importance.

A few of the main components which influence yield, are the number of clusters per spur, the number of blossoms, the number of berries and the length of the spurs.

A large amount of varieties created

40-60  
 -  
 Ogol'tsova (2004)  
 -  
 4-8 cm.  
 3 17.  
 4-9  
 (Georgiev, 2006;  
 Sazonov, 2011; Shavyrkina et al., 2015).

in recent years have 40-60 clusters on each main spur, which guarantees a high yield. Varieties with medium and long clusters are preferred for an easier harvest of the berries. According to Knyazev and Ogol'tsova (2004) long clusters contain more blossoms and berries, which leads to increase in yield.

The most common varieties have clusters with length of 4-8 cm. Yield can be predicted based on the formed blossoms. The number of formed berries on the clusters is between 3 and 17. Modern-day preferred varieties have a minimum of 4-9 berries on each cluster. The number of formed berries greatly depends on the self-fertility of the variety, climatic conditions and the applied agrotechnology (Georgiev, 2006; Sazonov, 2011; Shavyrkina et al., 2015).

The purpose of the research is to test five introduced Russian varieties and propose those, who perform the best, to be grown in the specific climatic conditions.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

(2014-2017  
 .)  
 , , , ,  
 ,  
 (pH – 5.5-6.5)  
 560 m.  
 2.50 m 0.80 m.  
 20  
 (  
 ).  
 .  
 (Nedev et al.,  
 1979)

The investigation was carried out at the Small Fruit Crops Department in Kostinbrod in the period 2014-2017 and includes five black currant varieties introduced from Russia – Doch Pamyati, Seyanets Golubki, Studencheskaya, Chernaya grozd, Chernaya krupnoplodnaya and the standard Titania. The soil type is chernozem with low acid reaction (pH 5.5-6.5) and the altitude is 560 m. The plants were established in rows 2.5 x 0.8 m and the distance between the varieties is 1 m. Twenty (20) plants of each variety were involved in the investigation (each repetition group included 5 plants). The experimental plantation was grown in accordance with an adopted technology but without irrigation. It was used Methods for studying of fruit crops (Nedev et al., 1979) and Methods for conducting variety



1.

(cm)

**Table 1. Comparative analysis of traits number clusters on basal shoot and length of clusters (cm)**

Varieties Trait	Doch Pamyati	Seyanets Golubki	Studencheskaya	Chernaya grozd	Chernaya krupnoplodnaya	Titania	LSD		
							0.05	0.01	0.001
<b>2014 .</b>									
number clusters on shoot	21.98ns	16.86+	31.99++	19.3ns	16.12++	24	5.504	7.825	11.33
length of clusters (cm)	2.33ns	2.3ns	3ns	3.67ns	2.17ns	3	1.014	1.442	2.088
<b>2015 .</b>									
number clusters on shoot	22.9ns	12.81ns	27.65ns	15.44ns	10.77+	19.5	8.367	11.89	17.22
length of clusters (cm)	2.77ns	2.97ns	2.43+	3.17ns	2.17+	3.73	1.289	1.832	2.653
<b>2016 .</b>									
number clusters on shoot	14.32ns	5.18+++	12.87ns	7.46++	8.24++	14.93	4.548	6.465	9.361
length of clusters (cm)	2.4++	2.47++	2.47++	2.67+	2.6+	3.33	0.5509	0.7831	1.133
<b>2017 .</b>									
number clusters on shoot	30.31ns	27ns	32ns	11.5+++	11+++	29	5.206	7.401	10.71
length of clusters (cm)	2.67+	2.47++	2.67+	2.87ns	2.67+	3.5	0.7265	1.032	1.495
<b>2014 . - 2017 .</b>									
number clusters on shoot	22.42ns	15.46+++	26.13++	13.43+++	11.61+++	21.77	2.197	3.123	4.522
Length of clusters (cm)	2.54++	2.55++	2.63++	3.09ns	2.40++	3.44	0.5247	0.7459	1.08

ns – ; + (P<0.05); ++ (P<0.01); +++ (P<0.001)

ns – nosignificant differences; + (P<0.05); ++ (P<0.01); +++ (P<0.001)

4-6 m,

The varieties, the cluster length of which is over 4-6 cm and which have a





Titania, differences were proven only for the variety Doch Pamyati. For the rest of the varieties the differences were small and not proven.

2.

**Table 2. Comparative analysis of traits number of blossoms and number of berries per cluster**

Varieties Trait	Doch Pamyati	Seyanets Golubki	Studencheskaya	Chernaya grozd	Chernaya krupnoplodnaya	Titania	LSD		
							0.05	0.01	0.001
<b>2014</b>									
Number of blossoms per cluster	6.03ns	6.2ns	7.87ns	8.97+	9.33+	6.67	2.018	2.869	4.155
Number of berries per cluster	3.8+++	3.8+++	3.97+++	4.23++	3.93+++	4.86	0.4044	0.5748	0.8323
<b>2015</b>									
Number of blossoms per cluster	6.2ns	6.43ns	5.57ns	6.93ns	5.37ns	6.73	1.442	2.05	2.969
Number of berries per cluster	4.33ns	4.07ns	3.4++	4.8ns	3.27++	4.87	0.9609	1.366	1.978
<b>2016</b>									
Number of blossoms per cluster	4.03+++	6.27ns	5.57+	5.93ns	5.53+	7	1.346	1.914	2.772
Number of berries per cluster	2.93+++	3.57++	4.33+	3+++	2.6+++	5.17	0.8149	1.158	1.677
<b>2017</b>									
Number of blossoms per cluster	6.6ns	6ns	7ns	7.2ns	5.4ns	6.5	2.418	3.437	4.977
Number of berries per cluster	3.7ns	3.43+	4.33ns	3.7ns	2.7++	4.6	0.9341	1.327	1.922
<b>2014 . - 2017</b>									
Number of blossoms per cluster	5.72+	6.23ns	6.5ns	7.26ns	6.41ns	6.73	0.7819	1.111	1.609
Number of berries per cluster	3.69+++	3.72+++	4.01+++	3.94+++	3.13+++	4.88	0.412	0.5856	0.848

ns – ; + (P<0.05); ++ (P<0.01); +++ (P<0.001)  
 ns – nosignificant differences; + (P<0.05); ++ (P<0.01); +++ (P<0.001)

The formed number of berries per cluster is of great importance for yield.

( 2).
(4,88 .),
(4,01 .),
(3,14 .).

5,17 .

-

26,13 .

11,62

2,40

cm 3,39 cm.

- The studied varieties do not differ from one another in terms of number of berries per cluster (Table 2).

The variation of the number of berries is relatively small. The biggest number of berries per cluster is formed by the standard Titania (4,88) and the variety Studencheskaya (4,01) and the smallest one is formed by the variety Chernaya krupnoplodnaya (3,14). The maximum achieved value of 5,17 allows us to confidently predict greater abilities of demonstrated characteristics by the variety Titania. All of the varieties form a small number of berries per cluster. Apart from the genetic predisposition, the number of berries per cluster also depends on the level of self-fertility and the formed young fruit following blossoming.

The tested varieties form a smaller number of berries per cluster compared to the standard Titania and differences are proven.

Data shows the formation of a small number of berries and blossoms per cluster, combined with a relatively small number of clusters per spur, which speaks for a limited potential.

Under the specific climatic conditions the studied varieties cannot entirely demonstrate their genetic abilities in terms of number and length of cluster, number of blossoms and berries per cluster and do not perform optimally.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The average number of clusters per fruiting spur varies between 11,62 and 26,13. A high number of clusters was seen in the varieties Studencheskaya and Doch Pamyati, which surpass the control variety Titania.

The tested varieties have short clusters. Data, regarding the characteristics of the clusters, shows that their longitude is between 2,40 cm and 3,39 cm. The variety with the longest

5.72 7.25. -  
 (4,88 .)  
 (4,01 .), -  
 (3,14 .).

clusters is the control Titania.

The varieties form a relatively small number of blossoms, on average between 5.72 and 7.25. The biggest number of berries per cluster forms the standard Titania (4,88) and the variety Studencheskaya (4,01), and the smallest Chernaya krupnoplodnaya (3,14).

Under the climatic conditions of our region, the performance of the studied varieties compared to the control variety is unsatisfactory in particular for Chernaya krupnoplodnaya, Chernaya grozd and Seyanets Golubki. Therefore they are not recommended for wider commercial growing.

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5800

## Flumioxazin efficiency and selectivity in vine nursery

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### SUMMARY

50 (500 g/kg  
0,008 kg/da 0,016 kg/da

4.

2015-2017

50

*Xantium strumarium* L.  
0,008 kg/da

The impact of the herbicide Pledge WP 50 (500 g/kg flumioxazin) at doses of application 0.008 kg/da and 0.016 kg/da on the weeds in vine nursery had been studied. Its effect on grafted vine cuttings of the variety/rootstock combination Cabernet Sauvignon/Berlandieri X Riparia SO4 was established. The trial was carried out at the Institute of Viticulture and Enology, Pleven in the period 2015–2017. The soil type is leached chernozem, formed on clay loess. The treatment was performed immediately after the cuttings were planted in the nursery, before sprinkling. Pledge WP 50 effectively controlled the annual weed species typical of the region, except *Xantium strumarium* L. The dose of 0.008 kg/da resulted in an increase in yield of standard rooted vines compared to the untreated control. The vines from this variant had a mature growth with a greater length and mass. The herbicide did not inhibit their rooting and did not reduce the number of the brace roots.

**Key words:** vine propagation material, weeds, flumioxazin, mature growth, root system

(Chelebiev, 1981, Tonev et al., 2000; Chelebiev and Encheva, 2007; Todorov, 2005).

(Prodanova-Marinova, 2012; Tsvetanov et al., 2014).

(Rankova and Tityanov, 2014; Ivanova and Rankova, 2016; Rankova and Tityanov, 2017).

2015-2017 .

(Krastanov and Dilkova, 1963).

4.

## INTRODUCTION

High soil and air humidity in the nursery is required for the production of vine propagation material. Maintaining such a microclimate has stimulated the development of acute competitive processes for the absorption of biotic factors between weed vegetation and the grafted cuttings. Their control has been most often carried out by mulching with polyethylene foil and manual weeding. During different periods various herbicides have been recommended - simazine, oryzalin, trifluralin, etc. (Chelebiev, 1981, Tonev et al., 2000; Chelebiev and Encheva, 2007; Todorov, 2005). There have been studies showing that oxyfluorfen, pendimethalin, s-metolachlor and others could also be used efficiently (Prodanova-Marinova, 2012; Tsvetanov et al., 2014).

Flumioxazin has revealed high efficacy against row weed associations (characteristic of vineyards) and selective action in the production of fruit propagation material (Rankova and Tityanov, 2014; Ivanova and Rankova, 2016; Rankova and Tityanov, 2017).

The objective of this study was to investigate the possibilities for weed control in the vine nursery with flumioxazin and a suitable dose to be established for ensuring the optimal development of the grafted cuttings during the vegetation period.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The trial was carried out at the Institute of Viticulture and Enology, Pleven in 2015-2017. During this period, the nurseries were located on soils of the same soil type – leached chernozem, formed on clayed loess (Krastanov and Dilkova, 1963). Cuttings of Cabernet Sauvignon variety, grafted on Berlandieri X Riparia SO4, were used. Their rooting was done according to the technology adopted by IVE Pleven (Dimitrova et al.,

(Dimitrova et al., 2007).

(500 g ) 50  
300 kPa 40 l/da.  
: 0,008 kg/da (4 g a.i. ha<sup>-1</sup>) – V1  
0,016 kg/da (8 g a.i. ha<sup>-1</sup>) – V2.  
(  
):  
( ,  
) –  
( .m<sup>2</sup>);  
(%);  
(%)  
– (cm) (g)  
(mm),  
(Dimova and  
Marinkov, 1999).

(  
/Galeopsis tetrahit L./  
/Sinapis arvensis L./),  
(  
/Amaranthus blitoides L./,  
/Amaranthus retroflexus L./,  
/Chenopodium album L./,  
/Coniza anadensis L./,  
/Heliotropium europaeum L./,  
/Hibiscus trionum L./,  
/Portulaca oleracea L./,  
/Setaria viridis L./,  
/Solanum nigrum L./,  
/Sonchus arvensis L./,  
/Xanthium strumarium L./),

2007). The treatment with the herbicide was performed right after the cuttings were planted into the nursery and immediately after that the areas were sprinkled. Pledge 50 WP (500 g flumioxazin) was applied with a knapsack sprayer at nozzle pressure of 300 kPa and working solution 40 l/da. The treatment doses were: 0.008 kg/da (4 g a.i.ha<sup>-1</sup>) – V1 and 0.016 kg/da (8 g a.i.ha<sup>-1</sup>) – V2. The results were compared with a manually weeded out control (three times during the vegetation).

It was recorded: the weeds density in dynamics (thirties, sixtieth and ninetieth day post treatment) – in total and per species by the quantitative method (number/ m<sup>2</sup>); the grafted cuttings germination (%); yield of standard rooted vines (%) and the biometric indicators of the obtained vines – length (cm) and mass (g) of the mature annual growth, the second internode diameter of the main shoot (mm) and the number of developed roots.

The data were processed by analysis of variance (Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the period of the study weed species belonging to four classification groups were found out – annual early spring weeds (common hemp-nettle /Galeopsis tetrahit L./ and field mustard /Sinapis arvensis L./), annual late spring weeds (white amaranth /Amaranthus blitoides L./, amaranth /Amaranthus retroflexus L./, lamb's quarter /Chenopodium album L./, Canadian horseweed /Coniza anadensis L./, European Heliotrope /Heliotropium europaeum L./, flower-of-an-hour /Hibiscus trionum L./, pigweed /Portulaca oleracea L./, green foxtail /Setaria viridis L./, Hound's berry /Solanum nigrum L./, field sowthistle /Sonchus arvensis L./, and Common cocklebur /Xanthium strumarium L./), perennial rooted weeds (Canada

(  
/Cirsium arvense L./,  
/Convolvulus arvensis L./  
/Rumex crispus L./  
( /Cynodon dactylon (L.)  
Pers./ /Sorghum halepense (L)  
Pers./).

thistle /Cirsium arvense L./, field bindweed /Convolvulus arvensis L./ and curly dock /Rumex crispus L./ and perennial rhizome weeds (Bermuda-grass /Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers./ and Johnson grass /Sorghum halepense (L) Pers./). The weed diversity was typical for an association of row weeds and was mainly found in the controls.

In 2015, 13 weed species of the above classification groups were reported in the untreated plots and only four in those treated with Pledges 50 WP (Table 1). At a dose of 0.008 kg/da (V1), they were one perennial (field bindweed) and two annual (pigweed – ninety days after treatment and common cocklebur – throughout the whole growing season). At a dose of 0.016 kg/da (V2) – one perennial (field bindweed) and again two annual (flower-of-an-hour – ninety days after treatment and common cocklebur – throughout the whole vegetation period). The common cocklebur density in V2 was lower compared to that in V1. The field bindweed density increased from day 30 to day 90 at a dose of 0.008 kg/da, while at a dose of 0.016 kg/da, the first weeds were reported only ninety days post treatment.

2015 .  
13  
50 -  
( 1). 0,008 kg/da (V1)  
( )  
( - )  
) 0,016 kg/da (V2) -  
( )  
( - )  
) .  
V2 -  
V1.  
0,008 kg/da, 0,016 kg/da

1.  
2015 . ( /m<sup>2</sup>)

50 -

**Table 1. Weed species density after treatment with Pledge 50 WP – 2015 (number/m<sup>2</sup>)**

	Species				V1			V2		
		30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day
1	<i>A. blitoides</i>	3,0	1,8	0,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	<i>A. retroflexus</i>	2,0	2,5	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	<i>C. album</i>	3,0	3,3	0,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	<i>C. anadensis</i>	-	0,3	1,0	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	<i>Conv. arvensis</i>	4,5	3,3	15,3	0,5	2,8	5,0	-	2,3	3,8
6	<i>H. europaeum</i>	1,8	2,3	0,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	<i>H. trionum</i>	0,8	1,0	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	0,3
8	<i>P. oleracea</i>	7,0	14,5	9,8	-	-	0,5	-	-	-
9	<i>S. arvensis</i>	9,3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	<i>Sonch. arvensis</i>	0,5	0,5	0,5	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	<i>S. nigrum</i>	1,8	2,0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	<i>S. viridis</i>	2,3	7,5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	<i>X. strumarium</i>	16,8	2,0	-	7,8	11,3	11,8	3,3	3,8	4,3
		<b>52,8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28,7</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>14,1</b>	<b>17,8</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>8,4</b>



2016 .  
 - 15 ( 2).  
 7.  
 (V1) (V1, V2)  
 ( )  
 50  
 0,016 kg/da (V2),  
 50  
 2016 .

In 2016, the greatest weed variety was found in the control – 15 species (Table 2). In the treated variants, a larger number of species was also observed – 7 in total. The perennial rhizome Bermuda grass (V1) and Johnson grass (V1, V2) developed mainly from rhizomes surviving after pre-treatment. The rooted (field bindweed and curly dock) were recorded only ninety days post treatment with Pledge 50 WP at a dose of 0.016 kg/da (V2), indicating rather a section stock of the soil with root residues from these species than a different effect of the herbicide dose. The data on the field sow thistle were analogous. Pledges 50 WP action on the green foxtail seeds decreased after the sixtieth day. In 2016, the common cocklebur was again observed throughout the whole growing season.

2. 50 -  
**2016 . ( /m<sup>2</sup>)**  
**Table 2. Weed species density after treatment with Pledge 50 WP – 2016 (number/m<sup>2</sup>)**

	Species				V1			V2		
		30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day
1	<i>A. blitoides</i>	1,5	0,3	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	<i>A. retroflexus</i>	-	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	<i>C. album</i>	1,0	0,5	0,8	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	<i>C. anadensis</i>	-	3,3	2,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	<i>C. dactylon</i>	0,8	-	1,5	0,5	0,5	1,5	-	-	-
7	<i>Conv. arvensis</i>	1,0	8,0	3,3	-	-	-	-	-	3,8
8	<i>G. tetrahit</i>	-	0,5	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	<i>H. europaeum</i>	1,3	10	0,8	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	<i>P. oleracea</i>	1,0	2,3	1,0	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	<i>R. crispus</i>	-	0,5	1,5	-	-	-	-	-	0,3
12	<i>Sonch. arvensis</i>	0,3	1,0	0,8	-	-	-	-	0,5	0,8
13	<i>S. halepense</i>	4,0	1,0	5,5	0,8	0,8	4,8	0,5	0,5	0,8
14	<i>S. viridis</i>	46,0	4,3	3,8	-	-	5	-	-	3,8
15	<i>X. strumarium</i>	10,5	0,5	0,5	1,0	1,0	1,5	1,0	1,0	1,3
		<b>64,4</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>12,8</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>2,0</b>	<b>10,8</b>

2017 .  
 - - 9 ( 3).

In 2017 the number of weed species is the smallest – 9 (Table 3). Again, the minimal action of the herbicide

50 0,016 kg/da (V2)

on the species of Bermuda grass and field bindweed was reported. The constant density of Canada thistle during the vegetation period in the plots treated with Pledge 50 WP at a dose of 0.016 kg/da (V2) gave reason to believe that weed did not exhibit susceptibility to the soil application of the herbicide. It was reported the presence of white amaranth ninety days after spraying, while the data on the density of the rest annual species did not differ significantly from the previous years.

3. 2017 . ( /m<sup>2</sup>)

50 -

**Table 3. Weed species density after treatment with Pledge 50 WP – 2017 (number/m<sup>2</sup>)**

	Species				V1			V2		
		30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day	30 day	60 day	90 day
1	<i>A. blitoides</i>	8,5	10,3	2,8	-	-	0,3	-	-	-
2	<i>C. dactylon</i>	11,5	10,0	3,3	8,0	9,8	11,8	1,3	4,3	6,8
3	<i>Conv. arvensis</i>	3,0	7,3	3,8	0,8	2,3	3,5	7,3	8,0	8,3
4	<i>C. arvense</i>	0,3	1,0	-	-	-	-	4,0	4,0	4,0
5	<i>H. europaeum</i>	1,0	0,8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	<i>P. oleracea</i>	1,5	4,3	1,0	-	-	0,5	-	-	-
7	<i>Sonch. arvensis</i>	0,3	0,3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	<i>S. nigrum</i>	2,8	4,5	1,0	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	<i>X. strumarium</i>	-	-	-	0,3	0,8	1,0	0,3	1,0	1,0
		<b>28,9</b>	<b>38,5</b>	<b>11,9</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>12,9</b>	<b>17,1</b>	<b>12,9</b>	<b>17,3</b>	<b>20,1</b>

2015-2017 . -  
 ( 1).  
 - 7,4  
 (V1) 8,3 (V2)  
 -  
 1,3 (V1) 1,6 (V2)  
 [ GD(5,0%) = 30,048;  
 GD(1,0%) = 49,835; GD(0,1%) = 93,196 ]

The average density of weeds during the period 2015-2017 in the treated variants was significantly lower compared to the manually weeded out control (Figure 1). The maximum difference in the rates of both ways for maintaining the soil surface clear of harmful vegetation was observed on the thirtieth day – 7.4 (V1) and 8.3 (V2) times. Over time, it dropped down, but remained significant on the ninetieth day too – 1.3 (V1) and 1.6 (V2) times. The analysis of variance had shown that these differences were well provided on the thirtieth day [at GD(5.0%) = 30.048; GD(1.0%) = 49.835; GD(0.1%) = 93.196] and on the sixtieth day [at

GD(5,0%) = 9,808; GD(1,0%) = 16,267; GD(0,1%) = 30,422].

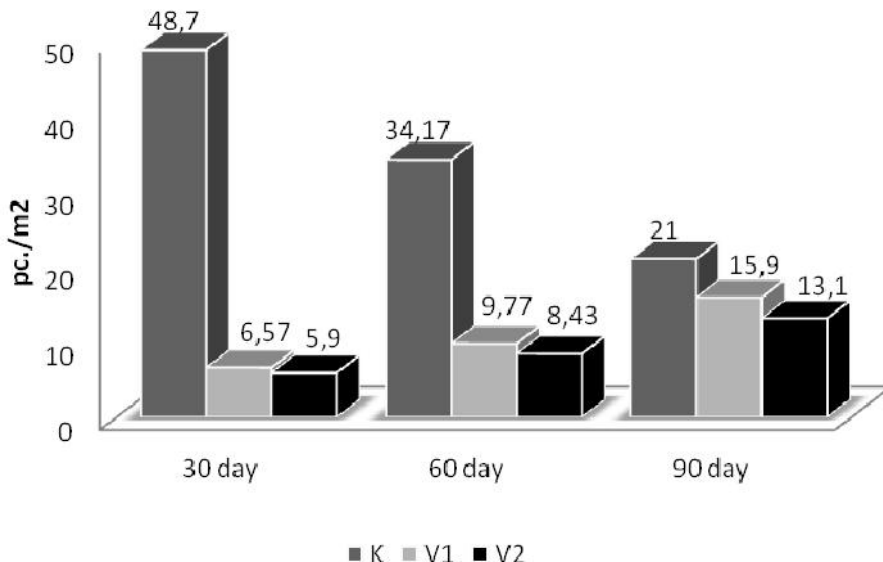
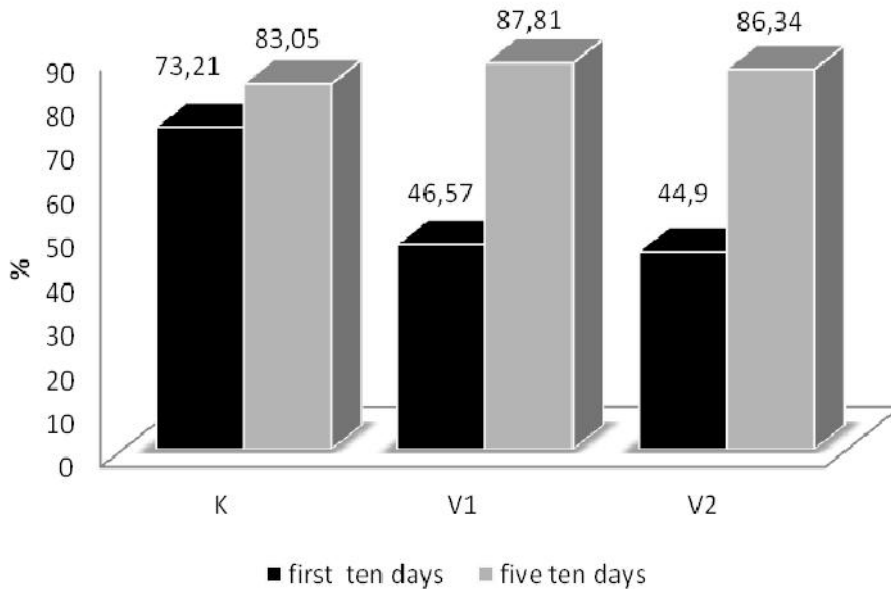


Fig. 1. Weed density on the average for the period 2015-2017 (pc./m<sup>2</sup>)

The high efficacy of the soil application of Pledge 50 WP against annual weed species in the vine nursery (except for common cocklebur) allowed significantly the reduction of the competition for water, nutrients and light absorption. The treatment of the areas immediately after the cuttings were planted, however, resulted in direct contact of the already developing buds with the working solution and the inhibition of the germination – proved in 2015 and 2016. The delay was recorded during the first ten days and was gradually overcome (Figure 2). At the end of the fifth 10 days after treatment, the grafted cuttings germination in the control (83.05%) was already lower compared to the variants treated with Pledge 50 WP. The differences were insignificant and unproven [GD(5,0%) = 8,107; GD(1,0%) = 13,446; GD(0,1%) = 25,146].

The high efficacy of the soil application of Pledge 50 WP against annual weed species in the vine nursery (except for common cocklebur) allowed significantly the reduction of the competition for water, nutrients and light absorption. The treatment of the areas immediately after the cuttings were planted, however, resulted in direct contact of the already developing buds with the working solution and the inhibition of the germination – proved in 2015 and 2016. The delay was recorded during the first ten days and was gradually overcome (Figure 2). At the end of the fifth 10 days after treatment, the grafted cuttings germination in the control (83.05%) was already lower compared to the variants treated with Pledge 50 WP. The differences were insignificant and unproven [GD(5,0%) = 8,107; GD(1,0%) = 13,446; GD(0,1%) = 25,146].



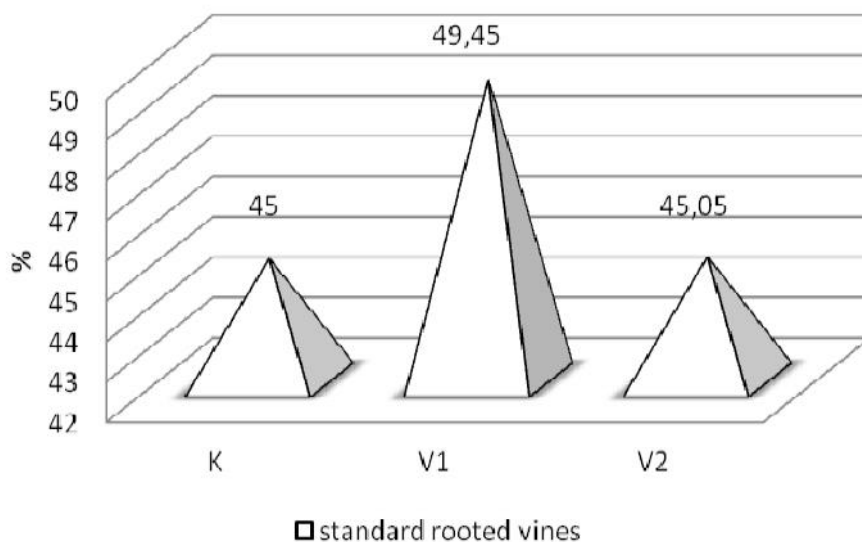
. 2.

2015-2017 .

**Fig. 2. Germination of the grafted cuttings in the nursery on the average for the period 2015-2017**

0,016 kg/da (V2)  
 ( .3),  
 50 0,008  
 kg/da (V1) –  
 2015 .  
 V2 [GD(5,0%) = 7,753;  
 GD(1,0%) = 11,745; GD(0,1%) = 18,879]

That increase in the ratio of the germinated cuttings affected positively the yield of standard rooted vines. The control and variant with a dose of 0.016 kg/da (V2) were actually equal – both on average for the period (Figure 3) and during the separate years. A more favorable action on the grafted cuttings had Pledge 50 WP at a dose of 0.008 kg/da (V1) – in this variant the yield of standard rooted vines exceeded that in the control during the entire period of the study, whereas only in 2015 the difference with K and V2 was proven [GD(5.0%) = 7.753; GD(1.0%) = 11.745; GD(0.1%) = 18.879]



3. 2015-2017  
**Fig. 3. Yield of standard rooted vines on the average for the period 2015-2017**

50  
 49  
 48  
 47  
 46  
 45  
 44  
 43  
 42

45

49,45

45,05

K V1 V2

□ standard rooted vines

0,008 kg/da (V1)

0,016 kg/da (V2).

The biometric data illustrated the effect of Pledge 50 WP and the differences in the action of both doses. The vines obtained from the grafted cuttings in the treated variants were distinguished by a larger length and mass of the annual mature growth, better developed root system and a larger diameter of the shoots compared to the manually treated control (Table 4). A dose of 0.008 kg/da (V1) provided optimal conditions for the absorption of the biotic factors and the development of the grafted cuttings in the nursery and as a result the vines obtained had the highest biometric characteristics. It was the most pronounced for the shoot length – the mature part they formed at the end of the vegetation exceeded that in the control and at the dose of 0.016 kg/da (V2).

4.

2015-2017 .

**Table 4. Biometric indicators of the grafted rooted vines on the average for the period 2015-2017**

V	Length of the mature growth (cm)	Mass of the mature growth (g)	Second internode diameter (mm)	/ Number of roots		
				2 mm	2mm	/ Total number
K	52,2	10,41	6,0	4,5	7,8	12,3
V1	88,1 +	16,4 n.s.	6,5 n.s.	5,5 n.s.	8,2 n.s.	13,7 n.s.
V2	79,8 n.s.	15,61 n.s.	6,7 n.s.	5,1 n.s.	8,1 n.s.	13,2 n.s.
	GD(5,0%) =34,894 GD(1,0%) =37,873 GD(0,1%)=108,228	GD(5,0%) =9,809 GD(1,0%)=16,268 GD(0,1%)=30,422	GD(5,0%)=1,141 GD(1,0%)=1,892 GD(0,1%)=3,538	GD(5,0%)=2,526 GD(1,0%)=4,189 GD(0,1%)=7,834	GD(5,0%)=2,178 GD(1,0%)=3,612 GD(0,1%)=6,755	GD(5,0%) =3,961 GD(1,0%) =6,659 GD(0,1%)=12,284

The study results showed that the application of flumioxazin in the vine nursery might support the favorable microclimate (as long as it maintained the soil surface free of weeds for a long time) for the development and successful rooting of the grafted cuttings. The relatively small enough dose (4 g a.i. ha<sup>-1</sup>), its high persistence and selectivity made the products created on this basis perspective in the production of vine propagation material.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Flumioxazin, applied to the soil, effectively controlled the annual species found in the vine nursery (except for *Xanthium strumarium*).

The herbicide inhibited bud germination of the grafted cuttings during the first ten days post treatment, however that response was overcome and did not adversely affect the yield of standard rooted vines.

Applied at doses of 0.008 kg/da and 0.016 kg/da, Pledge 50 WP did not inhibit the growth processes, but an increase in the ratio of standard rooted vines and increase in their biometric indicators (compared to the vines from the manually weeded out controls) was achieved only at a dose of 0.008 kg/da.

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