

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

=====

Onions are known botanically as Allium cepa. Onion is the most important bulb crop in Egypt. It is consumed fresh through the largest part of the year. It's bulbs are an important constituent of human food all the year around. A. R. E. is the largest exporter of onions on a world scale. Because of its export value, it is considered one of the major field crop in Egypt. It was the third important crop after cotton and rice, but nowadays it moved to the fourth situation. It is exported mainly as bulbs and recently as dehydrated onions.

Egyptian agriculture represents a unique system of raising onion, as it has three distinct onion crops i.e. winter, summer and nili seasons. Winter crop is grown in upper and middle Egypt. It is the main crop especially for exportation because of its earliness and good keeping quality. The summer onion which is raised in the Delta is used for local consumption. Nili onions, grown in middle and upper Egypt are used for local consumption because of its poor keeping quality. For winter and summer seasons, the seeds are planted in a nersery, then transplanted to the fields, while the nili crop is grown from small bulbs. With regard to the production of onion seed, bulbs are stored from the winter season in cool sheds and then planted in november in upper Egypt.

Onion has shallow roots which has a poor suction force, Moreover it does not protect the soil from evaporation and does not appear well adapted to drought even though it is grown in arid and semi-arid areas. The main purpose of irrigation is to increase crop production per unit area and the object of an efficient irrigation is to obtain the highest agricultural return per unit of water applied.

The present work was carried out to study the effect of water deficit on onion production.

ooooOoooo