

Productivity of sun flower crop *helianthus annus*, under irrigation with salinized water conditions

Nadia Moharam Bader

Two pot experiments were conducted in the green-house of the National Research Centre, Dokki, Giza in 1996 and 1997 growing seasons to study the effect of some growth regulators and irrigating with different levels of salinized water on growth, some physiological aspects, yield and seed constituents of sunflower cv. Y-sun. Each experiment included 21 treatments which were the combinations of three levels of salinized water (0, 3000, 6000 ppm) in the form of chloride type and seven growth regulator treatments as seedsoaking in 10, 20 % Polyethylene glycole (osmotic stress) for 24 hours, Paclobutrazol (PBZ) and Uniconazole (Uni .) (growth retardants) of 10, 20 ppm for each for 5 hours. in addition to control treatment (untreated) seeds. Treatments were arranged in randomized complete block design system in 10 replicates. The obtained results could be summarized as follows:

1. Effect of salinity:1. Germination percentage: Salinity significantly decreased germination percentage of sunflower seeds. The reduction was more substantial under 6000 ppm and the percentage of depression was 24.3 % as compared with the control.
2. Vegetative growth characters: Salinity tended to decrease significantly different characteristics of plant growth represented in plant height, number and area of green leaves as well as dry weight of leaves, stem, head and the whole plant compared with control treatment (irrigation with normal water). Salinity caused an increase in leaf thickness representing in decreasing S.L.A. (cm²/g).
3. Photosynthetic pigments content: Salinity tended to increase photosynthetic pigments slightly as chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b and carotenoid content in sunflower plant leaves under both 3000 and 6000 ppm salinity level. Also, salinity increased the ratio of total chlorophyll a + b carotenoids, but decreased the ratio of chlorophyll a/b.
4. Stability of chlorophyll-protein-lipid complex: Increasing salinity level up to 3000 ppm tended to decrease stability of chlorophyll in leaf tissues of sunflower plant leaves. The decrease was much more when salinity level increased to 6000 ppm compared with control treatment.
5. Cell sap concentration and proline content : Cell sap concentration (T.S.S.) and osmotic potential as well as proline content were increased by increasing salinity level. The rate of their increase was according to the level of salinity in water of irrigation.
6. Yield and its components: Irrigating sunflower plants with saline water significantly decreased head diameter, head weight, seed yield/plant, shelling %, 1000 seed weight (seed index) as well as oil yield/plant. Salinity reduced head weight by 20.3 and 40.2 %, seed yield/plant by 33.3 and 51.1 % and oil yield by 48.5 and 65.3 % under 3000 and 6000 ppm salinity level, respectively as compared with the control.
7. Oil, Protein and carbohydrates content: Saline water decreased the concentration of oil percentage as well as protein % in sunflower seed tissues compared to irrigation with normal water. However, soluble and total carbohydrates % were increased by increasing salinity level and the rate of increasing was substantial as salinity level raised up to 6000 ppm.
8. Nitrogen, potassium and sodium contents: Total nitrogen in sunflower seeds decreased as salinity level increased in water of irrigation up to 6000 ppm. potassium and sodium concentrations as well as Na/K eased in sunflower seed tissues as salinity level increased in root medium.
9. Fatty acids concentration: Increasing salinity level in the water irrigation to 3000 ppm decreased palmitic acid concentration in sunflower oil, but it increased as salinity level increased up to 6000 ppm. Oleic acid, however, behaved in an opposite manner, where it increased by increasing salinity level. Linoleic acid concentration linearly decreased as salinity level increased.
- n. Effect of growth regulators:1. Germination percentage: Paclobutrazol

(PBZ) and Uniconazole (nic.) under the two tested concentrations (10 and 20 ppm) as well as 20 % polyethylene glycole(PEG) as osmotic stress significantly inhibited the germination percentage. However, soaking seeds in 10% PEG significantly increased germination percentage.

2. Vegetative growth characters: Soaking sunflower seeds pre-sowing in either uniconazole (Unic.) or paclobutrazol (PBZ) at both concentrations exhibited remarkable effect on decreasing plant height as well as dry weight of different plant organs. The effect was significant for all of the studied developmental plant stages. The rate of decreasing was increased as concentration of growth retardants increased. However, Polyethylene glycole (PEG) at the concentration of 10 and 20 % significantly increased plant height and total dry weight at all of the studied plant stages. Generally all seed soaking treatments caused an increase in leaf thickness representing in decreasing S.L.A. and leaf area/plant.

3. Photosynthetic pigments content: Soaking sunflower seeds pre-sowing in either PBZ or Unic. solutions tended to increase photosynthetic pigments as chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b and consequently total chlorophyll as well as carotenoids content in plant leaves. However, the highest concentration (20 %) of PEG decreased both green and orange pigment.

4. Stability of chlorophyll-protein-lipid complex: Both PBZ and Unic. growth retardants with their two concentrations tended to increase stability of chlorophyll-protein-lipid complex in sunflower plant leaves. Treatment with 20 % PEG gave the lowest value of chlorophyll stability.

5. Cell sap concentration and proline content: Soaking sunflower seeds pre-sowing in any of tested growth regulator tended to increase the accumulation of proline in leaf tissues as well as the cell sap concentration and osmotic potential.

6. Yield and its components: All soaking treatments in growth regulators solutions recorded higher values yield and its components than untreated one. Uniconazole at 20 ppm surpassed all of the other treatments as for increasing head diameter, head weight and seed yield/plant followed by 10% PEG and 10 ppm Unic. treatments.

7. Oil, Protein and Carbohydrates content: Soaking sunflower seeds pre-sown in either 10% PEG or 10 or 20 ppm Unic. tended to increase oil percentage slightly. However, protein percentage as well as soluble and total carbohydrates increased due to soaking seeds in all of the tested growth regulator solutions compared with those of untreated ones.

8. Nitrogen, potassium and sodium contents: Growth regulators tended to increase nitrogen, potassium and sodium in seed tissues. However, they caused reduction in Na/K ratio compared with untreated seeds.

9. Fatty acids concentration: The lowest ratio of oleic/linoleic was recorded when using 20% PEG (the best one). Also the lowest ratio of saturated/unsaturated fatty acid ratio was obtained from soaking seeds in 10% PEG.

III. Effect of the interaction between salinity levels and growth regulators:

1. Germination percentage: Soaking seeds in 10% PEG solution tended to increase germination percentage significantly under irrigation with normal water or 3000 ppm salinity level. However, the increase was not significant under 6000 ppm level of salinity. Generally, all tested growth retardants as PBZ and Unic. reduced germination percentage under all salinity levels.

2. Vegetative growth characters: All growth retardant treatments decreased plant height, dry weight of all plant parts as well as the leaf area, except that of 20 ppm Unic. which surpassed control treatment. These results were true under 3000 and 6000 ppm levels of salinity at both budding and flowering stages, while soaking seeds in 10% PEG significantly increased plant height and dry weight of whole plant under 3000 and 6000 ppm salinity level and insignificantly increased leaf area under both levels of salinity at flowering stage.

3. Photosynthetic pigments content: At vegetative growth stage, soaking seeds in either 10 or 20 % Unic. and irrigated with 3000 or 6000 ppm salinized water formed the highest photosynthetic pigments content. However, at budding stage, 20 ppm Unic. combined with 6000 ppm salinity level surpassed all of the other interactions as for increasing chl.a, chl. a+b and carotenoids compared with the other interactions. At flowering stage soaking seeds in any of the tested growth regulators as PEG, PBZ and Unic. increased total chlorophyll (a+b) compared with untreated seeds.

4. Stability of chlorophyll-protein-lipid complex: The most promising interaction for increasing stability of chlorophyll was when seeds soaked in 10 ppm Unic. and irrigated with normal water. 20 % PEG tended to decrease such parameters under 3000 and 6000 ppm level of salinity.

5. Cell sap concentration and proline content: Soaking seeds in any of the tested growth regulator as PEG, PBZ and Unic. solution at the two concentrations increased cell sap concentration as well as proline content in leaves under all salinity levels. Proline content increased with increasing both salinity level and growth regulator concentrations.

6. Yield and its

components :Under irrigation with normal water, soaking seeds in 20 ppm Unic. significantly increased both seed and oil yield/plant. The treatment of 10 % PEG recorded the highest seed index. Under 3000 ppm salinity level, 10 % PEG recorded the highest seed and oil yield/plant as well as seed index. However, under irrigation with 6000 ppm salinized water, 20 ppm Unic. gave the highest seed and oil yield, but seed index was the highest due to 10 ppm Unic. treatment under the same salinity level.

7. Oil, Protein and Carbohydrates content Generally 1 soaking seeds in any of the tested growth regulator tended to increase oil percentage slightly under irrigation with 3000 and 6000 ppm salinity level. Such increase was more obvious as for protein, soluble and total carbohydrates percentage compared with untreated seeds.

8. Nitrogen, sodium and potassium concentrations :Under saline condition, soaking seeds in solutions of the tested growth regulators increased nitrogen, sodium and potassium concentrations. However, it decreased the ratio of Na/K compared with the untreated seeds.

9. Fatty acids concentration: Soaking seeds in 20 % PEG gave the highest value of linoleic acid under 3000 ppm salinity level. However, 10% PEG treatment increased the unsaturated fatty acids: Under 6000 ppm level of salinity, 10% PEG recorded the highest value of linoleic acid, while 10 ppm Unic. caused the highest concentration of the unsaturated fatty acid.