

YIELD AND SUGAR ACCUMULATION PATTERN IN SUGAR BEET

SADIQUE MOHAMMAD, MIR HATAM

Department of Agronomy, Agricultural University, Peshawar.

AND

KHALIL AHMAD

Faculty of Agriculture, Gomal University, D. I. Khan.

Abstract

Sugar beet samples were harvested at weekly interval, 4,3,2 and 1 week before harvest for determining the root yield and sucrose accumulation pattern during two consecutive years, (1979-80 and 1980-81). Sugar beet accumulated 1170 and 2380 kg/ha of root weight at the rate of 39 and 79.3 kg/ha/day during the last month before harvest. Total sugar increased in a similar pattern but dropped due to loss in sucrose content at harvest. Sugar content gradually increased towards maturity and then declined.

Introduction

Sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) a herbaceous dicotyledon, stands second to sugar cane in respect of sugar production and provides four percent of the total world sugar. It contains 30 percent more sugar than sugar cane. North West Frontier Province is the only region in Pakistan suitable for the cultivation of sugar beet. In this region sugar beet is grown as winter crop well fitted to the cropping pattern of the area. Sugar beet is ready for crushing after the sugar cane season is over and thus prolongs the processing period of the sugar factories. This is why no sugar manufacturing unit in the country can turn annually as much sugar similar to the Peshawar Valley.