

## DAYS TO SUNFLOWER HARVESTING AFTER COMPLETION OF FLOWERING

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### ABSTRACT

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) harvesting was carried out on different days after completion of flowering at Agricultural Research Institute, D.I.Khan during Autumn-1991 and Spring-1992. The crop was harvested on 11, 18, 25, 32, 39 and 46 days after the completion of flowering. Significant differences in the average yield have been found due to different harvesting intervals / treatments. Average maximum grain yield (1476.500 Kg/ha) was obtained when harvesting was done after 25 days after completion of flowering.

### INTRODUCTION

Sunflower has a great potential for bridging up the edible oil gap in Pakistan. It is a short duration crop (90-110 day) and can be grown twice a year. The optimum time of harvesting the sunflower crop is very important because it plays an important role to increase the yield through escaping the birds damage which mostly occurs when harvesting is delayed. Bird and Smith (1964) found that Sunflower seed made up about 20 percent of the diet of birds. Stones (1973) reported 1.2 percent damage by birds. Camprag (1974) estimated that about 3 percent of Sunflower crop was eaten by birds. Small (1975) calculated the loss up to 40 g of seed per sunflower head. Aslam and Khan (1986) reported that maximum yield was obtained when harvesting was done after 25 days of completion of flowering. The present study was undertaken to determine the optimum period of sunflower harvesting, so that it can be saved from Shattering as well as birds damage.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at Agricultural Research Institute, D.I.Khan during Autumn, 1991 and Spring, 1992 to compare six different harvesting dates/intervals after completion of flowering. A short duration Hybrid "NK-265" was used. Randomized complete Block Design with four replications during each season was adopted. The