

EFFECT OF SOWING DATES ON THE YIELD OF CHICKPEA
(CICER ARIETINUM L.)

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted at the Research Farm of Faculty of Agriculture, Gomal University, during the year 1984-85 to study the effect of sowing dates from 16th September to 16th February at fourteen days interval on the growth and yield of chickpea variety, C.M-72. The statistical analysis of the data revealed that all the planting dates had significant effect on the yield of chickpea. However, crop sown on 16th October and 1st November gave the highest grain yield of 862 and 884 kg ha⁻¹, respectively. Late planting caused decrease in the growth and grain yield.

INTRODUCTION

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is an important grain legume crop grown in Pakistan. It is a rabi crop which requires cool weather for its growth and slightly high temperature for seed maturity. It is mostly cultivated under rainfed conditions on light soils. Chickpea is often sown in mixture with wheat, barley and mustard. It has 17.1 % protein. It also improves soil fertility.

About 70 percent of chickpea production comes from rainfed areas where yield level is very low. In rainfed areas, its planting time commences from September to October. Our growers believe that chickpea can not be planted late in the season, though rainfall occurs during November and December.

Therefore it was imperative to investigate an optimum sowing