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EFFECT OF WEED COMPETITION ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF MAIZE

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ABSTRACT

A field study was carried out to study the effect of weed competition on growth and yield of maize variety Akber, at 30, 45, 60 and 75 days weed free period and were compared with control (check) and chemical applications stomp as pre-emergence treatments. Analysis of variance exhibited significant difference between weed control treatments for all the characters except number of leaves per plant, length of cob per plant and grain weight. Generally the treatment weeded for 75 days (T4) after sowing produced maximum grain yield over unweede control, followed by 60 and 30 days weed free period. Application of stomp at 1.50 and 2.00 litre per hectare gave 21.60 and 18.30 percent more yield over control respectively.

INTRODUCTION

Maize (Zea mays L.) family gramineae the genus zea is characterized with monoecious flowers. It is summer annual crop, also can be planted in much wider range of climatic conditions. Maize is grown for green fodder and grain purpose. It is an excellent human food and feed for animals and is ready for harvesting in 50-70 after sowing. It requires water and nutrients specially nitrogen deficiency causes permanent damage to ear development and yield. Weed competion is a major problem in cultivation of maize. Weeds compete crop plants for nutrients and water and reduce yield. Reducation in grain yield has been reported to vary from 33 to 72 percent. According to Lozanovski, et al. (1975) storng weed competition all season greatly reduce the soil moisture content,