

EFFECT OF INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON HERB YIELD AND ESSENTIAL OIL CONTENT OF PEPPERMINT (*Mentha piperita L.*)

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during crop growth period of 2015 (January 2015 to May 2015) on 'Kosi' variety of Peppermint (*Mentha piperita L.*) to study the effect of Integrated Nutrient Management on herb yield essential oil content. Herb and essential oil yield at harvest only in this field experiment under 5 sq.m. bed size, each treatment replicated thrice.

T₁, Control; T₂, FYM @ 20 tonnes/ha; T₃, *Azotobacter spp.* + *Pseudomonas striata*; T₄, 50% N of RDF + *Pseudomonas striata*; T₅, 50% P₂O₅ of RDF + *Azotobacter spp.*; T₆, 50% RDF; T₇, 100% RDF; T₈, T₃ + T₆; T₉, T₆ + 10 tonnes FYM/ha; T₁₀, T₃ + T₉; T₁₁, T₃ + T₇; T₁₂, T₂ + T₃ + T₇; T₁₃, T₂ + T₃ + T₆

It was observed that total herb yield and essential oil content increased significantly by all Integrated Nutrient Management treatments. Treatment T₁₃ containing FYM @ 20 tonnes/ha + *Azotobacter* + *Pseudomonas striata* + 50% RDF was found best for herb yield 56.25% more than control (No treatment).

Key words: *Herb yield, essential oil content, fertilizer (NPK), FYM, Azotobacte and Pseudomonas striata.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Peppermint (*Mentha piperita L.*) is a hardy aromatic herb. This species is a cross between *M. spicata* and *M. aquatica*. This plant has strong odour and a more aromatic taste. It is rich in essential oil (0.5-1.5% approx.). This species originated in Europe. It is commercially cultivated in America, France, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Hungary, England, Thailand, Vietnam and Bulgaria. In India, it is commercially cultivated annually in tarai regions (Vaze et al. 1999 and Bhattacharjee, 2000) with Uttar Pradesh and Punjab as leading states. The herb yield, essential oil 0.5-1.5%, containing 56% menthol and 4% esters (Bhatia 1983; Breslow 1965; Chopra et al.,

1956; Kapoor 1990; Kirtikar and Basu, 1984; Roberto 1984 and Verghese 1982). The peppermint oil has fine odour and posses carminative, antiseptic, preservative and gastrostimulant properties. There are several pharmaceutical preparations of mint. It is used in lotions and fomentations, externally as a resolvent for bruises and scabies. The plant distilled in water or syrup made from it are recommended for treatment of vomiting in children and for gout. The essence is also applied for toothache and swollen gum. It is administrated in serious nervous disorders in headaches, collics nervous vomiting and tympanitis, hiccups, flatulence and periodic discharges with nervous symptoms. As a flavoring agent peppermint is used in wide range of pharmaceuticals, confectionary, alcoholic drinks, dental creams and mouth washes (Bhattacharjee, 2000; Chopra et al., 1956; Kapoor 1990; Rastogi and Mehrotra, 1993a, 1993b and 1995). The herb synthesise and concentrate oil in its leaves in highly specialized epidermal secretory structures known as glandular trichomes Mc Caskill et al. (1992). The oil from aerial plant parts (mainly foliage) is isolated commercially through hydrodistillation, exploiting volatility of the constituent terpenoides (Guenther (1955).

Peppermint *Mentha piperita* L. (Lamiaceae.) is a high demand aromatic and medicinal crop which is vegetatively propagated through stolon and rhizomes (Verma et al. 2013) Peppermint oil is used both as a medicinal and flavoring agent in foods and confectionery (Milovanovic et al 2009).

Hence it was proposed to conduct field experiments at Agriculture field, G.F. College, Shahjahanpur U.P. during (late Rabi season) year 2015 and 2016 on peppermint crop (*Mentha piperita* L.) variety “Kosi” to study Integrated Nutrient effect of chemical fertilizer, biofertilizer and organic manures alone and in combination on herb yield and essential oil content of peppermint crop (*Mentha piperita* L.)

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The field experiment was performed during late rabi (winter) season of 2015 on sandy loam soil. This was designed to determine under local conditions the suitability of “Kosi” variety of peppermint (*Mentha piperita* L.) with different doses of recommended fertilizer (RDF), farmyard manure (FYM) and biofertilizer (*Azotobacter spp* and *Pseudomonas striata*) treatments and their combinations, each treatment replicated thrice in a simple randomized design on herb and essential oil yield.

Suckers were dipped in captan (0.2%) aqueous pesticides before sowing to make disease free. The row to row distance was kept uniformly at 30.0 cm. The sowing was done on 20 January, 2015, with stolons planted in 5 cm deep furrow. The treatment of fertilizer and manure were given at the time of planting stolons whereas biofertilizers cultures stolons were treated at the rate of 500 kg /ha. The controls were not supplied with any kind of treatment (nutrient). Commercial grade urea, calcium superphosphate and muriate of potash were used as the respective sources of NPK. The crop was irrigated according to standard agricultural practices during the entire growth period. Weeding was done when required. The harvesting was done on 25 May 2015.

Following Treatments of various nutrients combinations were tested on peppermint crop in year 2015 herb and essential oil yield at harvest only in this field experiment under 5 sq.m. bed size, each treatment replicated thrice. T₁, Control; T₂, FYM @ 20 tonnes/ha; T₃, *Azotobacter spp.* + *Pseudomonas striata*; T₄, 50% N of RDF

+ *Pseudomonas striata*; T₅, 50% P₂O₅ of RDF + *Azotobacter spp.*; T₆, 50% RDF; T₇, 100% RDF; T₈, T₃ + T₆; T₉, T₆ + 10 tonnes FYM/ha; T₁₀, T₃ + T₉; T₁₁, T₃ + T₇; T₁₂, T₂ + T₃ + T₇; T₁₃, T₂ + T₃ + T₆.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Herb yield was calculated at harvest only (Table-1). Highest herb yield was noted in T₁₃ followed by T₁₁, 56.25% and 45.53% more than control (without any treatment) respectively. The lowest value was noted in T₅ and T₁₀ respectively. The essential oil content % was noted at harvest only. The highest % was found in T₁₃ which was statistically equal to T₁₂, 34.69% more than control (without any treatment) table-14. The next better essential oil % was found in T₁₁. The lowest value was noted in T₅. Genetic constitution is primarily responsible for determining the pattern of plant growth and yield. Nevertheless, these are also markedly influenced by various other factors including available nutrients, climate, cultural practices, population density, season and soil. An ideal combination of these factors ensures optimum yield which has always been the aim of researchers as well as farmers. Infact, soil is the important source of plant nutrients. When the crop requirements are higher than the soil supplying power, nutrients are applied as manures or fertilizer or both. Manures are plant and animal wastes that are used as sources of plant nutrients. They release nutrients after their decomposition. Manures can be grouped into bulky organic manures and concentrated organic manures based on concentration of the nutrients. Bulky organic manures contain small percentage of nutrients and they are applied in large quantities. Farmyard manure (FYM), compost and green manure are the most important and widely used bulky organic manures. Publications on these lines with regard to peppermint, an important cash and essential oil crop among the crop plants necessitating periodical researches above result corroborates finding of Azaldeen (2013), Mehboobeh et al (2014)

Table-1 Effect of different treatments on herb yield (t/ha) at harvest in Peppermint (<i>Mentha piperita</i> L.)		
(Mean of three replicates)		
Treatments	herb yield (t/ha)	
1. T ₁ , Control		11.20
2. T ₂ , FYM @ 20 tonnes/ha		14.90
3. T ₃ , <i>Azotobacter spp.</i> + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>		16.28
4. T ₄ , 50% N of RDF+ <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>		15.30
5. T ₅ , 50% P ₂ O ₅ of RDF + <i>Azotobacter spp.</i>		13.20
6. T ₆ , 50% RDF		14.50



7. T ₇ , 100% RDF		15.30
8. T ₈ , T ₃ + T ₆		15.65
9. T ₉ , T ₆ + 10 tonnes FYM/ha		14.10
10. T ₁₀ , T ₃ + T ₉		13.90
11. T ₁₁ , T ₃ + T ₇		16.30
12. T ₁₂ , T ₂ + T ₃ + T ₇		16.25
13. T ₁₃ , T ₂ + T ₃ + T ₆		17.50
Mean		14.95
C.D. at 5%	1.120*	
* Significant		

Table-2 Effect of different treatments on essential oil content (%) at harvest in Peppermint (<i>Mentha piperita</i> L.)		
(Mean of three replicates)		
Essential oil content (%)		
Treatments		
1. T ₁ , Control		0.32
2. T ₂ , FYM @ 20 tonnes/ha		0.39
3. T ₃ , <i>Azotobacter</i> spp. + <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>		0.36
4. T ₄ , 50% N of RDF+ <i>Pseudomonas striata</i>		0.39
5. T ₅ , 50% P ₂ O ₅ of RDF + <i>Azotobacter</i> spp.		0.35
6. T ₆ , 50% RDF		0.42
7. T ₇ , 100% RDF		0.41
8. T ₈ , T ₃ + T ₆		0.49
9. T ₉ , T ₆ + 10 tonnes FYM/ha		0.45



10. T ₁₀ , T ₃ + T ₉		0.45
11. T ₁₁ , T ₃ + T ₇		0.47
12. T ₁₂ , T ₂ + T ₃ + T ₇		0.49
13. T ₁₃ , T ₂ + T ₃ + T ₆		0.49
Mean		0.43
C.D. at 5%	0.013*	
* Significant		

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