



Plant Physiology and Soil Chemistry (PPSC)

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Contents

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2, 2023		
No	Editorial	Pages
1	BIOFERTILIZERS: A SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR ORGANIC FARMING THAT WOULD INCREASE CROP PRODUCTION AND SOIL HEALTH	49-53
2	THE COMBINED EFFECT OF THE TILLAGE DEPTH AND COMPOST APPLICATION ON CALCAREOUS SOIL AGGREGATES AND THE YIELD OF INTERCROPPED FABA BEAN WITH WHEAT	54-62
3	COMPARATIVE BETWEEN WATER LEVEL AND SOIL COVER MATERIAL ON GROWTH, PRODUCTIVITY AND WATER USE EFFICIENCY OF HOT PEPPER PLANT	63-70
4	INFLUENCE OF SHOOT MANAGEMENT ON GROWTH AND YIELD ATTRIBUTES OF BELL PEPPER IN PROTECTED CONDITION	71-76
5	REVIEW ON ECOLOGICAL WHITE FLY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN VEGETABLE CROPS	77-81
6	EFFECT OF MOISTURE ON SEEDLING STAGE OF SOYBEAN (GLYCINE MAX)	82-85
7	EVALUATION OF DIFFERENT RATES OF COMPOST MINERAL FERTILIZER ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF TOMATO	86-88
8	INFLUENCES OF USING SOME COMPOUNDS THAT RETAIN WATER UNDER WATER STRESS CONDITIONS ON THE PRODUCTIVITY OF WHEAT (TRITICUM ACTIVIUM L.) GROWN IN SANDY SOIL)	89-98
9	EFFECT OF NITROGEN AND PLANT SPACING ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF ONION (ALLIUM CEPA L.) IN AFGHANISTAN	99-106
10	IONIC ACTIVITIES OF PHOSPHORUS SPECIES IN RESPONSE TO VARYING pH IN SOILS OF KANO-RIVER-IRRIGATION PROJECT	107-115

Editorial

Plant physiology is the study of plant function and behaviour, encompassing all the dynamic processes of growth, metabolism, reproduction, defence, and communication that account for plants being alive. Considering that most of these processes take place at the level of cells, tissues, and organs, there is, because of the close association between structure and function in plants, also a close association between plant physiology and plant anatomy. Moreover, within the living cell, much of the metabolic activity is at the molecular level; therefore, a full understanding of a plant's physiology requires an essential background in chemistry and physics. Many plant physiological insights into basic processes were gained from research based on a relatively small number of convenient experimental or model plants (e.g. beans, lettuce, maize, wheat, and in more recent times, *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh., the thale cress). Knowledge thus gained is then extrapolated to other plants as it is assumed that such processes operate similarly. For example, the vast majority of green plants have never been chemically analysed for the presence of chlorophyll, yet we assume that the green colour of their leaves is due to the presence of this pigment.

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