



Comparison of nitrogen fertilizer sources and rates on growth and productivity of squash plants

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Abstract: Squash (*Cucurbita pepo*) is an important vegetable crop cultivated in Egypt for local market. Field experiment was carried out at Banha City (Qalubia Governorate) to evaluate the effect of different rates of mineral fertilizers (NPK) and organic fertilizer “chicken manure” on the growth and productivity of squash plants. The rates of mineral fertilizers and/or chicken manure were 100%, 75% and 50%. The study revealed that, the highest plant height, leaf number and dry weight of stems were found with 100 N units with the organic source in the two seasons of study. The highest total yield and fruit length and diameter were found by 100 N units when using mineral fertilizer source in the both seasons of study. Furthermore, the highest fruit weight of squash fruits was recorded by using 100 units organic source of fertilizer. The highest N% was found by using 50 units of mineral nitrogen source and the lowest N% was found by using 100 % unit chemical fertilizer source in two seasons. Furthermore, the highest amount of P% was found by 50 units of nitrogen fertilizer with organic nitrogen source. About K%, the highest amount of K % was recorded by using 100 % unit chemical fertilizer.

Key words: Squash (*Cucurbita pepo*), Mineral fertilizers, Chicken manure, Growth, Yield.

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