

RESPONSE OF SUNFLOWER (Helianthus annuus,L.) TO SOWING DATES AND N P K FERTILIZATION.

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Two field trials were carried out during 1985 and 1986 growing seasons to study the combined effects of sowing dates and N P K fertilizer combinations on growth characteristics as well as seed and oil yields of sunflowers.

Early sowing dates favoured growth parameters, seed oil content, as well as seed and oil yields. Fertilizer applications significantly decreased seed oil content as compared to the unfertilized control. In contrast, nitrogen additions markedly increased growth characteristics as well as seed and oil yields. No significant differences were detected between P, K or PK applications on seed yield. Balanced addition of N P K fertilizers was the most effective treatment for obtaining the highest seed and oil yields. Significant interaction between sowing dates and fertilizers on 1000-seed weight was recorded giving the heaviest seeds when sunflower was planted on 1st May and fertilized with NPK during the two seasons of experimentation.