# EFFECT OF SOWING DATES AND MINERAL SULPHUR FERTILIZER ON YIELD AND QUALITY OF SUGAR BEET UNDER NEWLY RECLAIMED SOILS

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Two field trials were conducted out in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 seasons at Kom Osheim, El-Favoum Governorate to study the effect of three sowing dates (1st October: 15th October and 1st November) and soil application of sulphur fertilizer in the form of Calcium poly sulfide CaSO<sub>4</sub> (30% sulphur) at the levels of (zero, 125 and 250 kα CaSO //fed. mixed with soil) which were applied at 45 and 75 days age, on Kawemira variety. A split plot design with four replicates in both seasons was used. The main plots were assigned to sowing dates, whereas, soil application with CaSO<sub>4</sub> in the sub plots. The results indicated that: early sowing dates at 1st October significantly increased root diameter, root fresh weight/plant, as well as root and sugar yields/fed, white, mineral contents SO<sub>4</sub>% and N% were significantly decreased as compared with the other two sowing dates 15<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. While, sown sugar beet at 15<sup>th</sup> October gave the highest sugar% in both seasons, respectively. Soil application with sulphur (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) level up to 250 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed significantly increased root diameter, root fresh weight/plant, sucrose% and yields/fed (root and sugar), while minerals content of SO<sub>4</sub>% and N% were increased as compared with control and sulphur (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) level with 125 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed in both seasons, respectively. The interaction between early sowing date at 1st October and soil application with 250 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed significantly increased sucrose%, root and sugar vields/fed in both seasons.

#### INTRODUCTION

Egyptian Government imports large amounts of sugar, i.e. about 1.10 million ton, every year to face the rapid increase of population. Sugar beet plays a prominent role for sugar production, about 37.27% of locally sugar production. (CCSC, 2010).

There are many factors affecting yield and quality of sugar beet as nutritional status as well as some agro practices application, i.e., fertilization, sowing dates and methods. With respect to sowing dates, Allam *et al.* (2005) showed that the highest value of root and sugar yields/fed were obtained when sugar beet sowing date at 1<sup>st</sup> October. Ismail *et al.* (2006) found that early sowing date at 1<sup>st</sup> October led to significant increase in root fresh weight, sucrose%, purity%, sugar and root yields/fed as compared with delay sowing dates to 15<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November. El-Geddawy *et al.* (2007) showed that sowing sugar beet early at 15<sup>th</sup> September significantly attained the higher value of root length, diameter, root fresh weight/plant, root and sugar yields/fed than at late sowing date to 15<sup>th</sup> October. Mosa (2009) studied three sowing dates to 15<sup>th</sup> September, October and November. He found that early sowing date to 15<sup>th</sup> September significantly increased root length, diameter, root and sugar yields/fed as compared with delay sowing

date to 15<sup>th</sup> October or November. Ei-Hosry *et al.* (2010) revealed that root length and root yield/fed were significantly increased with sowing date at 15<sup>th</sup> October as compared to 15<sup>th</sup> Sepember and 15<sup>th</sup> November.

There is a great need to find out the proper technical recommendations for improving the productivity and quality of sugar beet under Egyptian conditions. Because the most Egyptian soils suffer from a high pH values particularly newly reclaimed soil, the availability of P, K (Table 2) and micronutrients is reduced. The use of sulphur might help in decreasing soil alkalinity during sulphur biological oxidation. Sulphur nutrient can significantly increase crop yield and improve its quality. It is indispensable for strong growth of plant, as it can involved in its metabolism in a host of ways as described in many basic text. Draycott (1972) and Thomas et al. (2000) stated that sulphur is a constituent element of some amino acids, namely Cystein and Methionine and it is involved in synthesis of chlorophyll, certain vitamins, carbohydrates and proteins. In recent years, sulphur has received increasing attention as world soils are becoming deficient in this element for that, use of sulphur as free fertilization is important for increasing and improving crop production. In this subject, El-Kammah and Ali (1996) and Hashem et al. (1997) indicated that yields of roots and sugar were significantly increased with increasing levels of applied sulphur. Also, Nemeat Alla (2005) reported that sulphur fertilizer level at 300 kg/fed led to significant differences in root growth, i.e. length and diameter, as well as root yield/fed as compared with the other two levels 100 and 200 kg/fed in both seasons. Ouida, Sohier (2002), Shafika et al. (2005), Zeinab et al. (2006) and Awed Allah et al. (2007) reported that response degree of growth, quality, chemical composition and yield of sugar beet differ according to the level of sulphur fertilization. Osman and Shehata, Mona (2010) foliar spray with sulphur in the form of Calcium Poly Sulfide (30%) at concentration of 6 cm/l which was applied once, twice and three times at 70, 85 and 90 days after sowing in addition to foliar spray with distilled water as control. The results observed that there were significant increases in root diameter, root fresh weight/plant, root yield/fed and accumulation N, P, K, and SO<sub>4</sub>. While, root quality significantly decreased. Ferweez et al. (2011) indicated that sulphur fertilization level at 200 kg/fed had a significant increase on root diameter. pol%, Na content, α- amino nitrogen, sugar recovery%, quality index and sugar yield/fed in the two growing seasons. The aim of this study to find out the suitable sowing dates and level of CaSO<sub>4</sub> as soil application to induce high quality and yields/fed of sugar beet plants under newly reclaimed soil conditions.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field trials were conducted out in 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 seasons at Kom Osheim, El-Fayoum Governorate to study the effect of three sowing dates (1<sup>st</sup> October; 15<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November) and soil application of sulphur fertilizer in the form of Calcium poly sulfide (CaSO<sub>4</sub> 30% sulphur) at the levels of (zero, 125 and 250 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed, mixed with

soil) which were applied at 45 and 75 days age, on Kawemira variety. The mean of temperature degree and relative humidity% in both seasons are presented in Table (1). The preceding crop was maize in both seasons. A split plot design with four replicates in both seasons was used. The main plots were assigned to sowing dates, whereas, soil application with CaSO4 in the sub plots. Sub plot area was 12.25 m<sup>2</sup> consisted of 5 ridges of 3.5 m long at 70 cm apart and spacing between hills 20 cm. Some physical and chemical analysis of the experimental soils according to Page (1982) in Table 2. Nitrogen fertilizer at the level of 100 kg/fed in the form of ammonium nitrate (33.5% N) was applied in four equal doses, the first was applied after thinning and the others was applied at 2-weeks interval after the first application. Phosphorus fertilizer level at the rate of 45 kg/fed in the form of calcium super phosphate (15.5% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) was added during land preparation. Potassium fertilizer level of 24 kg/fed in the form of potassium sulfate (48% K<sub>2</sub>O) was applied in four equal doses with nitrogen fertilizer. Other agricultural practices for sugar beet field were carried out as recommended by Sugar Crops Research Institute

Table (1): mean of temperature degree and relative humidity% in both seasons.

Year		2	009-201	0 sea	son	2010-2011 season						
Months	Temp	eratu	re (C°)	Relat	ive hu	midity%	Temperature (C <sup>5</sup> ) Relative humidi					nidity%
	Max	Min	Aver	Max	Min	Ауег	Max	Min	Aver	Max	Min	Aver
September	34.2	21.4	27.8	87.0	35.0	61.0	34.5	20.3	27.4	83.0	29.0	56.0
October	33.1	19.4	26.2	86.0	32.0	59.0	32.8	19.3	26.1	82.0	28.0	55.0
November	28.7	16.5	22.6	89.0	41.0	63.0	29.1	14.7	21.9	81.0	30.0	55.5
December	23.4	10.3	16.9	81.0	37.0	59.0	22.2	9.2	15.7	82.0	37.0	59.5
January	22.2	9.8	16.0	83.0	36.0	59.5	22.1	8.6	15.3	78.0	34.0	56.0
February	24.8	9.6	17.2	86.0	36.0	61.0	22.0	7.9	14.9	87.0	36.0	61.5
March	28.2	13.4	20.8	82.0	32.0	57.0	26.2	10.4	18.3	79.0	29.0	54.0
April	30.7	14.1	22.4	81.0	24.0	52.5	31.1	14.0	22.5	77.0	25.0	51.0
May	31.2	15.7	23.5	80.0	23.0	51.5	32.7	15.6	24.2	76.0	23.0	49.5

Source: Agro-meteorological station, Agric. Res. Center, Giza, Egypt.

Table 2: Some physical and chemical analysis of the experimental soil.

Particle size S			Soil textural		E.C. Soil		Ha li	Org	anic	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	
Sand %	Silt %	Čla %		Sand silty loam   (1:2.5)			1	tter %	% 3.00		
27.0	61.0	12.	0			2.75	8.1				1.10
Solut	Soluble Cations (meg/l)			) S	Soluble anions(				availa	ble conte	ents (ppm)
Ca⁺⁺	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Na	K <sup>+</sup>	CO <sub>3</sub>	HCO	- C	ſ	SO <sub>4</sub>	N	P	K
2.02	3.00	4.20	0.10	0.11	0.10	5.7	75	2.85	16.9	19.2	58.3

#### Recorded data:

At harvest time (210 days from sowing) the three guarded ridges were topped: A sample of 10 roots was randomly taken and the following traits were recorded:

- 1. Root length (cm), 2. Root diameter (cm), 3. Root fresh weight (kg/plant),
- 4. Total soluble solids (TSS%) was determined by using Hand refractometer.
- 5. Sucrose% was determined according to the procedure of Le Docte (1927).
- 6. Purity% was calculated according to Purity % = Sucrose% x 100/TSS%.

- Sulfate% was determined according to Johnson and Nishita (1952).
- 8. Nitrogen was determined according to A.O.A.C. (2005).
- Root yields (ton/fed) was determined on the whole plot basis were harvested, topped and weighed to determine root yield. 10. Sugar yield which was calculated by multiply root yield (ton/fed) x sucrose%. Data statistically analyzed according to Snedecor and Cochran (1981).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### I. Sowing dates effect:

Results in Table 3 revealed that different sowing dates significantly effected root length, diameter, fresh weight/plant, sucrose%, root and sugar yields/fed, SO<sub>4</sub>% and N%, in both seasons. Early sowing date 1<sup>st</sup> October surpassed the other two sowing dates for root diameter, root fresh weight. root and sugar yields/fed in both seasons. While, the medium sowing date to 15<sup>th</sup> October was the best for root length and sucrose%. For, the late sowing date to 1st November, it gave the highest SO<sub>4</sub>% and N%. It could be noted that early sowing date to 1st October gave the highest values for root and sugar yields/fed. These results may be attributed to favorable conditions which encountered within the early growth stage of seedlings that could boost their growth and yields, and/or the relatively cooler weather in the harvest. In respect to sucrose% significantly decrease to 1st November than the other two sowing dates 1st and 15th October, this result may be attributed to the unsuitable conditions at harvest as a result to late sowing where high temperature on May Table (1), which did not encourage accumulation of sucrose well in root and so purity% was decreased.

Table 3: Effect of sowing dates on growth, quality traits, yields and mineral contents at harvest during 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 seasons.

seasons.												
				2009/20	10 seas	оп						
Characters Treatments	Root	growth	traits	Juic	e quali	ty %	Yields	(ton/fed)	Mineral contents			
Sowing dates	RL RD RFW			TSS	S	P	Root	Sugar	SO <sub>4</sub> %	N%		
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	29.0	14.5	1.61	22.50	17.37	77.20	29.55	5.13	0.30	1.23		
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	33.0	12.8	1.34	21.30	18.13	85.12	26.56	4.82	0.42	1.38		
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	26.0	11.5	1.07	23.10	16.37	70.87	23.84	3.90	0.45	1.61		
F. Test	**	**	**	_	**		**	##	**	**		
LSD at 5%	1.12	0.33	0.16	NS	0.55	NS	0.22	0.13	0.02	0.05		
	2010/2011 season											
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	25.0	13.7	1.49	22.00	17.20	78.18	30.36	5.22	0.27	1.30		
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	30.0	11.5	1.29	21.00	18.30	87.14	27.54	5.04	0.30	1.39		
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	22.0	10.5	1.08	23.30	16.60	71.24	26.20	4.35	0.38	1.60		
F. Test	**	**	**	_	**		**	**	**	**		
LSD at 5%	0.95	0.12	0.02	NS	0.11	NS	0.10	0.12	0.01	0.03		

RL= Root length (cm), RD = Root diameter (cm), RFW = Root fresh weight Kg/plant, TSS = Total soluble solids%, S= Sucrose%, P = Purity%. Oct. = October and Nov. = November.

Otherwise, the medium sowing date, gave the highest sucrose%. In respect to decrease of minerals content, the results may be attributed to the early sowing which led to harvest at suitable conditions and consequently Table (1), root fresh weight and decrease in minerals content in juice as compared

with the sowing. Similar results were recorded by Allam et al. (2005), Ismail et al. (2006), El-Geddawy et al. (2007), Mosa (2009) and El-Hosry et al. (2010).

## II. Effect of soil application with calcium poly sulfide CaSO<sub>4</sub> (30% sulphur):

Results in Table 4 indicated that soil application with sulphur (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) at the level of 250 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed significantly increased in root diameter, fresh weight, sucrose%, purity%, root and sugar yield/fed as compared with control (zero sulphur) in both seasons. The level of 125 kg CaSO //fed significantly increased root length in both seasons. It could be noted that soil application with 250 kg CaSO<sub>4</sub>/fed gave the lest value for TSS% and highest values for SO<sub>4</sub>% and N% in both seasons. This increase in growth traits might be principally due to that sulphur element may be oxidized by soil microorganisms to sulphuric acid which in turn lowers soil pH and increase the availability of certain plant nutrients notably phosphorus and several of micronutrients i.e. iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), zinc (Zn) and thus increasing plant uptake of these nutrients which led to increasing photosynthesis products which emigrate to storage sites in sugar beet (El-Kammah and Ali (1996). These findings are in the same line with those published by Nemeat Alla (2005) who reported that root length and diameter of sugar beet were gradually increased with increasing sulphur level. This increase in growth might be due to applying sulphur led to increasing the availability of plant nutrient from soil such as P, K, Mg, Fe, Mn and Zn and hence on root and sugar yields/fed (El- Kammah and Ali, 1996 and Hashem et al., 1997). These finding confirmed the previous reports of Nemeat Allah (2005), Zeinab et al. (2006), Awad Allah et al. (2007) and Ferweez et al. (2011) found a positive and significant effect on root growth, quality traits and yields/fed due to mineral sulphur fertilization.

Table 4: Effect of sulphur on roots growth, quality traits, yields/fed and mineral contents at harvest during 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 seasons.

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	<u></u>		20	09/201	0 seas	on				
Characters	Boot		h tunita	luio	o augli	4., 9/	Yie	elds	Mineral contents	
Treatments	ROOL	growt	h traits	Juic	e quali	ty 76	(ton	/fed)		
CaSO₄ (kg/fed)	RL	RD	RFW	TSS	S	Р	Root	Sugar	SO₄ %	N%
Zero	25.00	11.1	1.18	23.80	16.40	68.91	25.63	4.20	0.20	1.36
125	32.00	12.7	1.30	22.75	17.37	76.35	26.52	4.61	0.25	1.55
250	28.00	13.0	1.53	21.00	18.10	86.19	27.81	5.03	0.35	2.18
F. Test	**	**	**	_	**		**	**	**	**
LSD at 5%	2.10	0.40	0.02	NS	0.23	NS	1.55	0.24	0.02	0.65
			20	10/201	1 seas	on				
Zero	22.00	10.4	1.15	23.22	16.13	69.47	27.05	4.36	0.23	1.29
125	29.00	11.4	1.29	21.77	17.53	80.52	28.14	4.93	0.27	1.50
250	25.00	12.1	1.42	21.02	18.43	87.68	28.91	5.33	0.39	2.12
F. Test	**	**	**		**		**	**	**	**
LSD at 5%	1.12	0.14	0.01	NS	0.10	NS	1.12	0.11	0.01	0.55
Plan Boot longth (cm) BD - Boot diameter (cm) BDM - Boot frosh weight Kalplant TS								TOO .		

RL= Root length (cm), RD = Root diameter (cm), RFW = Root fresh weight Kg/plant, TSS = Total soluble solids%, S= Sucrose%, P = Purity%.

#### III. Interaction effects:

Results in Table (5) found that the interaction between sowing dates and soil CaSO<sub>4</sub> application led to a significant effect on sucrose%, root and sugar yields/fed in both seasons.

Table 5: Interaction between sowing dates and soil application with CaSO<sub>4</sub> in both seasons.

-			2009	/2010 s	easons							
Traits	S	ucrose	%	R	oot yie	ld	Sugar yield					
Sowing	Sulphur (CaSO₄ kg/fed)											
Dates	Zero	125	250	Zero	125	250	Zero	125	250			
1 <sup>st</sup> October	16.80	17.30	18.00	28.23	29.00	31.43	4.74	5.02	5.66			
15 <sup>th</sup> October	17.40	18.00	19.00	25.96	26.66	27.06	4.52	4.80	5.14			
1 <sup>st</sup> November	15.00	16.80	17.30	22.70	23.90	24.93	3.41	4.02	4.31			
LSD at 5%		1.50			2.02		0.13					
			2010	0/2011	season							
1 <sup>st</sup> October	16.20	17.80	18.60	31.15	32.13	30.63	5.05	5.72	5.70			
15 <sup>th</sup> October	17.20	18.60	19.10	26.60	27.73	28.30	4.58	5.16	5.41			
1 <sup>st</sup> November	15.00	16.20	17.60	23.40	24.56	27.80	3.51	3.98	4.89			
LSD at 5%		0.23			0.27	_	0.12					

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تاثير مواعيد الزراعة والتسميد المعنى الكبريتى على محسصول وجسودة بنجسر السكر تحت ظروف الإراضي حديثة الاستصلاح

عادل محمود حسن عثمان

معهد بحوث المحاصيل السكريه - مركز البحوث الزراعيه - الجيزة.

اقیمت تجربتان حقلیتان فی موسیمی ۲۰۱۰/۲۰۱۰ و ۲۰۱۰/۲۰۱۰ بکسوم اوشیم بمحافظة الفیوم لدراسة تاثیر ثلاثة مواعید الزراعة و هی الاول من اکتوبر والنصف الثیانی مسن اکتوبر والاول من نوفمبر والاضافة الارضیة للسماد الکبریتی المعدنی فی صورة کالسیوم بسولی سلفید ۳۰% کبریت بثلاثة معدلات (صفر و ۱۲۰ و ۲۰۰ کجم کالسیوم بولی سلفید/فدان) مسرتین بعد ۵۰ و ۷۰ یوم من الزراعة علی بنجر السکر صنف (کاومیرا).

#### واوضحت النتائج مايلي:

- سجل ميعاد الزراعة المبكر الاول من اكتوبر زياده معنويه لقطر الجنر ووزن الجنر الطـــازج ومحصولي الجنور والسكر بينما انخفضت عنويا محتوى الجنور من الكبريت والنيتروجين في كلا الموسميين مقارنة بمواعيد الزراعة الاخرى بينما النت الزراعة في ١٥ من اكتوبر لاعلـــى طول جنر والنسبة المثوية للسكروز في كلا الموسميين على التوالي.
- انت الاضافة الارضية لسماد الكبريت المعننى عند مستوى ٢٥٠ كجم/فدان الى زيادة معنوية بالنسبة لقطر الجنر والوزن الطازج للجنر والنسبة المئوية للسكروز ومحصولى الجنور والسكر طن/فدان كما اعطت اعلى نسبة كبريت ونيتروجين فى كلا الموسميين مقارنة بالكونترول او الاضافة الارضية ب ١٢٥ كجم/فدان.
- ادى التفاعل بين ميعاد الزراعة المبكر الاول من اكتوبر مع زيادة معدل اضافة السماد المعمدنى الكبريتى حتى ٢٥٠ كجم/فدان الى زيادة معنوية لكلا من محصولى الجذور والسكر طن/فدان بينما سجل ميعاد الزراعة المتوسط ١٥ من اكتوبر مع ٢٥٠ كجم كبريت/فدان لزيادة معنوية فى النسبة المنوية للسكروز فى كلا الموسميين.
- تحت ظروف منطقة كوم أوشيم بالفيوم ينصبح بزراعة البنجر في الميعاد الاول من اكتوبر مع الضافة السماد المعدني الكبريتي بمعدل ٢٥٠ كجم كالسيوم بولي سلفيد/فدان للحصول على اعلى محصول جنور وسكر طن/فدان.

### قام بتحكيم البحث

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