ABBREVIATIONS

APX Ascorbate Peroxidase

BSA Bovine Serum Albumin

CAT Catalase

DAE Days After Emergence

DAS Days After Sowing

DHAR Dehydroascorbate reductase

GPX Glutathione Peroxidase

GR Glutathione Reductase

LA Leaf Area

LMR Leaf Mass Ratio

LWD Leaf Water Deficit

MDA Malondialdehyde

MSI Membrane Stability Index

mg/g milligram/gram

mg/g DW Milligram/gram Dry Weight

mg/g FW Milligram/gram Fresh Weight

mg/l milligram/liter

MI Membrane Integrity

m*M* millimoler

mmol/l millimole/ Liter

MPa Megapascal

MSI Membrane stability index

NAR Net Assimilation Rate

NPs Nanoparticles

OP Osmotic Pressure

POD Peroxidase

ppm Part Per Million

PSII Photosystem 2

RDM Root Dry Mass

ROS Reactive Oxygen Species

RWC Relative Water Content

SDM Shoot Dry Mass

SE standard Error

SOD Superoxide Dismutase

TAA Total Free Amino Acids

TP Total Phenols

Trays/ha Trays/ Hectare

TSP Total Soluble Protein

TSS Total Soluble Sugars

WUE Water Use Efficiency

μmol Micromoler

μg/ml microgram/ milllitre

CONTENTS

		Page
IN	NTRODUCTION	1
R	REVIEW OF LITERATURE	
1.	Drought stress effects.	6
	a. Chemical constituents	7
	1. Pigments	7
	2. Carbohydrates	9
	3. Phenols	11
	4. Amino acids and proline	12
	5. Total soluble proteins	15
	6. Antioxidant enzymes	17
	b. Yield characteristics	21
2.	Application of Nanofertilizers	23
:	a. Foliar application of lithovit nanoparticles (nano-CaCO ₃)	24
	1. Chemical constituents	26
	a. Pigments	26
	b. Carbohydrates	27
	c. Phenols	28
	d. Amino acids and proline	28
	e. Total soluble proteins	28
	f. Antioxidant enzymes	29

2. Yield characteristics	30
b. Foliar application of titanium dioxide nanoparticles (nano- TiO_2)	32
1. Chemical constituents	33
a. Pigments	33
b. Carbohydrates	34
c. Total soluble proteins	34
d. Antioxidant enzymes	35
2. Yield characteristics	37
c. Foliar application of silicon dioxide nanoparticles (nano- SiO_2)	39
1. Chemical constituents	40
a. Pigments	40
b. Carbohydrates	43
c. Phenols	45
d. Amino acids and proline	46
e. Total soluble proteins	48
f. Antioxidant enzymes.	49
2. Yield characteristics	54
MATERIALS AND METHODS	60
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	76
1. Effect of lithovit, titanium dioxide and silicon dioxide nanoparticles on chemical constituents of cotton plant under drought and normal conditions	76

a. Pigments.	76
b. Carbohydrates	83
c. Phenols	87
d. Total soluble proteins	90
e. Total amino acids	93
f. Free proline	95
g. Total antioxidant capacity and total reducing power	99
h. Catalase activity	103
i. Peroxidase activity	106
j. Superoxide dismutase activity	107
k. Glutathione redctase activity	109
2. Effect of lithovit, titanium dioxide and silicon dioxide nanoparticles on yield characteristics of cotton plant under drought and normal condition	110 123
REFERENCES	129
ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

No.	Title	Page
1.	Physicochemical properties of the experimental soil	63
2.	Effect of foliar application of llithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on Chlorophyll (Chl) a, b, total chlorophyll and carotenoid contents in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under drought stress condition.	77
3.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on Chlorophyll (Chl) a, b, total chlorophyll and carotenoids contents in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under normal condition.	78
4.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on total soluble sugars, reducing and non-reducing sugars contents in leaves of cotton plant Giza 94 cultivar under drought stress condition.	83
5.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on total soluble sugars, reducing and non-reducing sugars contents in leaves of cotton plant Giza 90 cultivar under normal condition.	84
6.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on total phenol, total soluble protein, total free amino acids and free proline contents in leaves of cotton plant Giza 94 cultivar under drought stress condition.	87

7.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on total phenol, total soluble protein, total free amino acids and free proline contents in leaves of cotton plant Giza 94 cultivar under normal condition	88
8.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on the total antioxidant capacity and total reducing power in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under drought stress condition.	100
9.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on the total antioxidant capacity and total reducing power in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under normal condition	101
10.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on the activities of catalase and peroxidase, superoxide dismutase and glutathione reductase in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under drought stress condition.	104
11.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on the activities of catalase peroxidase, superoxide dismutase and glutathione reductase in leaves of cotton plant cultivar Giza 94 under normal condition	105
12.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under drought stress condition season 2014	112
13.	Effect of foliar application of lithiovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under drought stress condition season 2015	
		113

14.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under drought stress condition season 2014.	114
15.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under drought stress condition season 2015.	115
16.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under normal condition season 2014	119
17.	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under normal condition season 2015	120
18	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under normal condition season 2014	121
19	Effect of foliar application of lithovit (nano-CaCO ₃), nano-TiO ₂ and nano-SiO ₂ on yield characteristics of cotton plant (cv Giza 94) under normal condition season 2015	100
	B010	122

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ABSTRACT

Application of nanofertilizers is one of the promising methods for increasing resources use efficiency and reducing environmental pollutions. This study was carried out to investigate the effects of lithovit (nano-CaCO₃), nano titanium dioxide (nano-TiO₂) and nano silicon dioxide (nano-SiO₂) on chemical constituents and yield characteristics of cotton plant under drought and normal conditions. The cotton plants pre-treated with four concentrations of nano-CaCO₃ (3000, 6000, 9000 and 11000 ppm), nano-TiO₂ (25, 50, 100 and 200 ppm) or nano-SiO₂ (400, 800, 1600 and 3200 ppm) then exposed to drought and normal conditions. In general, the drought stress reduced the pigments content, total soluble sugars content, glutathione reductase activity and yield characteristics, while increased total phenolics, total soluble proteins, total free amino acids, free proline content, total reducing power, total antioxidant capacity, catalase, peroxidase and superoxide dismutase activities in comparison with control. The obtained results showed that pretreatment of cotton plants under drought and normal conditions with nano-CaCO₃, nano-TiO₂ or nano-SiO₂ caused increasing of pigments content, total soluble sugars, total phenolics, total soluble proteins, total free amino acids, free proline content, total reducing power, total antioxidant capacity, antioxidant enzyme activities and enhancement of yield characteristics. The optimum concentrations of nano-CaCO₃, nano-TiO₂ and nano-SiO₂ to alleviate the drought stress and improve the productivity under normal condition in cotton plants were 1100, 50 and 3200 ppm, respectively. Finally, it can be concluded that foliar application of nano-CaCO₃, nano-TiO₂ or nano-SiO₂ could improve the drought tolerance and improve the productivity of cotton plants under normal condition.

Key words: Drought stress, Normal condition, Cotton, Lithovit, Titanium dioxide, Silicon dioxide, Nanofertilizers.