

SEED YIELD OF TWO GENOTYPES OF ALFALFA UNDER CUTTING MANAGEMENT AND PLANT SPACING

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ABSTRACT

Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) is widely grown as a forage crop due to its good quality characteristics and high adaptability. However, seed yield is generally considered to be of secondary importance and is characterized by fluctuating yields with often poor seed quality. A field experiment was carried out at the Agricultural Experimental and Research Station of the Faculty of Agriculture, Cairo University, Giza governorate, Egypt during 2008-2011 to study the influence of cutting management and plant spacing on alfalfa seed yield. Two genotypes (Laboon and El-Wadi El-Gadid), three cutting management (once, twice and trice cuts) before the seed crop and four plant spacing (25, 50, 75 and 100 cm²) were used in this study. The results obtained could be summarized as follows: El-wadi El-Gadid surpassed Laboon in seed yield (kg/faddan). The plants that have been cut twice recorded the highest seed yield/feddan and yield components. Seed yield was significantly increased with decreasing plant spacing from 100 to 25 cm². The interaction between genotypes ×cutting management× plant spacing had a significant effect on seed yield (kg/fed) in seed crop years.

Kew Words: Alfaalfa Genotypes, Cutting Management, Plant Spacing, Seed Yield.