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Effect of integrated manuring and growth regulators on vegetative growth and flowering of pineapple (Ananas comosus L. Merr.)

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Abstract

A trial was conducted to find out the best treatment combination for an experiment "Effect of integrated manuring and growth regulators on vegetative growth and flowering of pineapple" with an objective to get high, uniform vegetative growth and flowering in pineapple by integrated application of manure and growth regulators. The result revealed that 75% of recommended NPK + 25% of N through organic recycling with vermicompost along with NAA@10ppm, GA₃@50ppm Ethrel@25ppm Perform best treatment combination with respect to physiological characters like, number of leaves per plant (49.19) number of leaves produced (3.96 per plant per month), chlorophyll a content (0.385 mg/g fresh leaf), chlorophyll b content (0.160 mg/g fresh leaf) total chlorophyll content (0.552 mg/g fresh leaf), percentage of flowering (92.76 %), and maximum plant height (82.28cm), length of D- leaf (76.50cm), width of D-leaf (6.14cm), with, leaf area (273.17cm²). Flowering character like minimum number of days to flower initiation (42.84 days), minimum number of days required from flower initiation to fruit maturity (108.25 days) where significant variation found in 75% of recommended NPK + 25% of N through organic recycling with vermicompost along with NAA@10ppm.

Keywords: Pineapple, vermicompost, vermiwash, biofertlizer, vegetative, flowering, PGR

Introduction

Pineapple (Ananas comosus L. Merr) is an important herbaceous monocot crop belongs to the family Bromeliaceae. India is having an area of 103413 ha and production of 2593207tonnes (FAO, 2011)^[6]. In India, highest area under pineapple is in Assam (16.24 t/ha) and West Bengal leading the production with 310.00 million tonnes (Annual Report of NHB and Ministry of Agriculture Govt. of India 2017). Pineapple is a good source of carotene and ascorbic acid and is fairly rich in vitamins B and B2 (Lal and Pruthi, 1995)^[8]. Fruit is high in the enzyme bromelain and the antioxidant vitamin C. It is a good source of dietary fiber. A major limitation that affects pineapple growers is the phenomenon of natural flowering, which results in unscheduled fruiting. All the plants do not flower at a time, over the whole field in one season. This causes not only great difficulty in the uniform harvesting of the crop but also keeps the land under the same crop for a longer time, thus, proper cultural requirements of the crop needs the immediate attention of the Horticulturists. Besides the use of the uniform planting materials and looking to proper and timely application of plant nutrient and water, the use of synthetic growth regulators have inspired workers for their practical use to induce uniform flowering and development of good quality fruits.

Materials and Methods

Accordingly, the present investigation entitled "Effect of integrated manuring and growth regulators on vegetative growth and flowering of pineapple (*Ananas comosus* L. Merr.)" The present investigation was carried out in the existing one year old pineapple plantation taken as a component crop in coconut based cropping system model in a paired row system of planting with 90 x 60 x 30 cm spacing conducted in the experimental site of All India Coordinated Research Project on Palms, Bhubaneswar operated under the Department of Fruit Science & Horticulture Technology, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar during July 2014 to June 2016.

The experiment was conducted in a Split Plot Design with 18 different treatment with 3 replication combinations. Variety used as component crop in pineapple is "Queen" variety. Treatment combination are M1G1, M1G2, M1G3, M1G4, M1G5, M1G6, M2G1, M2G2, M2G3, M2G4, M2G5, M2G6, M3G1, M3G2, M3G3, M3G4, M3G5, M3G6. Where, M1 -100% N through organic recycling with vermicompost + vermiwash + biofertilizer (Azotobacter and Azospirillum), M2- 50% of recommended NPK + 50% of N through organic recycling with vermicmpost + vermiwash + biofertilizer (Azotobacter and Azospirillum), M3-75% of recommended NPK+ 25% of N through organic recycling with vermicompost and G1-NAA@10ppm, G2-Ethrel@25ppm,G3-Ethrel@50ppm, G4 - GA3@ 50ppm, G5 - GA3@ 100ppm, G6 - Control (only water). Characters taken for this investigation are Plant height (cm), No. of leaves per plant, No. of leaves produce per plant per month, Length of D-leaf (cm), D-leaf width (cm), Leaf area (cm²), No. of days to flower initiation, No. of days to flower initiation, Percentage of flowering, Days required for flower initiation to fruit maturity with the objective to get uniform vegetative growth and flowering in pineapple by integrated application of manure and growth regulators.

Result and Discussion

In pooled data, it was observed that the maximum plant height (82.28cm) was recorded in the treatment combination, M_3G_4 which was on par with M_3G_5 (82.02cm). The treatment combinations of M_2G_4 (81.33cm), M_1G_5 (81.13cm), where the minimum plant height (68.05 cm) was recorded in the treatment combination, M_1G_6 which was on par with M_2G_6 (68.73cm) and M_1G_3 (69.30cm). This increase might be due to improvement of physical properties of soil through continuous supply of available nutrients from organic and inorganic sources. The similar result was reported by Bhowmick *et al* (2017) and Baraily and Deb (2018) ^[1] in pineapple and increase in cell elongation due to GA₃@ 50ppm application. Gibberellic acid promotes growth and elongation of cell. Similar results have been reported by Bhul *et al.* (1998) *Belamcanda sinesis* L.

It was noticed that highest number of leaves per plant (49.19) was recorded in the treatment combination M_3G_1 which was at par with the treatment combination M_3G_2 (48.20) and M_2G_1 (48.17) and the lowest number of leaves (36.46) was recorded in the treatment combination, M_1G_6 . For effectiveness the number of leaves in pineapple has an important factor ad 30-40 leaves are required for flowering of pineapple. Similar responses of increase in number of leaves per plant has been reported by Baraily and Deb (2018) ^[11], Bhowmick *et al.*, (2017), Liu *et al.* (2013) and Ortuchuwc and Adedokun (2014) in pineapple. The results are in conformity with the finding of Shrama (1970) who obtained higher number of leaves by the application of GA₃ & NAA in Kew pineapple. The perusal of the pooled data indicated that the interaction

The perusal of the pooled data indicated that the interaction effect of integrated manuring and growth regulator was nonsignificant with respect to number of leaves produced per plant per month. However, the maximum number of leaves produced (3.96 per plant per month) was recorded in the treatment M_3G_1 and the minimum number of leaves produce per month (2.88 per plant per month) was recorded in treatment M_1G_6 . Organic recycling with vermicompost + vermiwash + bio-fertilizer). This is in line with the findings of Darnaudery *et al.*, (2016). All plant growth regulators significantly influenced the rate of production of leaves in pineapple.

The two years pooled data presented in table 1 indicated that, significantly highest length of D- leaf (76.50cm) was recorded in the treatment combination M_3G_4 and the lowest length of D-leaf (61.43cm) was recorded in the treatment combination M_1G_6 which was followed by the treatment M_2G_6 (62.43cm). The maximum width of D-leaf (6.14cm) was recorded in the treatment combination M_3G_4 and was superior to rest of the treatment combinations. However, the minimum width of D-leaf (4.15cm) was recorded in the treatment combination M_1G_6 . It is clear from the table 1 that adoption of integrated manuring effective in increasing length of D-leaf through organic recycling with vermicompost). Similar result has been reported by Bhowmick *et al.*, (2017) and Baraily and Deb (2018) ^[1]. The elongation caused by GA₃ resulted from increased cell division and cell elongation.

Table 1: Effect of integrated manuring and growth regulators on vegetative growth and flowering of pineapple

	Pooled data (2014-2016)											
Interaction effect	Plant height (cm)	No. of leaves per plant	No. of leaves produce per plant per month	Length of D- leaf (cm)	D-leaf width (cm)	Chlorophyll a Content in D leaf	Chlorophyll b Content in D leaf	Total Chlorophyll in D leaf	Leaf area (cm2)	No. of days to flower initiation	Percentage of flowering	Days required for flower initiation to fruit maturity
M1G1	77.97	42.33	3.48	70.93	4.47	0.311	0.134	0.438	181.00	48.55	87.80	137.25
M1G2	71.63	40.62	3.12	65.30	4.42	0.225	0.119	0.340	175.50	45.82	68.00	112.25
M1G3	69.30	40.89	2.98	62.50	4.41	0.220	0.116	0.332	163.50	47.66	67.82	115.92
M1G4	80.55	38.24	3.35	73.27	5.23	0.215	0.113	0.330	204.83	65.55	64.40	150.92
M1G5	80.13	37.57	3.33	71.72	4.53	0.181	0.087	0.261	186.50	67.82	63.18	154.08
M1G6	68.05	36.46	2.88	61.43	4.15	0.155	0.080	0.240	148.17	70.93	61.12	119.58
M2G1	78.92	48.17	3.87	72.52	4.92	0.359	0.155	0.521	210.00	46.60	90.40	134.92
M2G2	78.32	46.10	3.40	71.15	5.17	0.315	0.146	0.461	196.17	44.94	70.59	109.25
M2G3	77.55	44.57	3.18	70.07	5.00	0.245	0.128	0.377	178.00	45.90	70.27	111.92
M2G4	81.33	42.61	3.52	75.35	5.89	0.225	0.121	0.346	249.33	64.83	68.59	140.92
M2G5	80.85	41.14	3.53	74.40	5.41	0.220	0.106	0.323	221.67	66.83	64.69	144.25
M2G6	68.73	38.36	2.98	62.43	4.33	0.172	0.101	0.270	153.00	69.84	62.60	116.92
M3G1	81.00	49.19	3.96	74.80	5.69	0.385	0.160	0.552	213.83	44.56	92.76	132.91
M3G2	80.63	48.20	3.75	73.82	5.61	0.345	0.157	0.497	191.83	42.84	72.14	108.25
M3G3	77.55	47.45	3.53	71.52	5.31	0.292	0.136	0.431	168.67	44.89	71.19	112.25
M3G4	82.28	45.05	3.88	76.50	6.16	0.275	0.122	0.400	273.17	64.14	70.74	134.24
M3G5	82.02	42.30	3.85	75.50	5.80	0.221	0.112	0.331	244.17	66.17	67.78	137.58
M3G6	71.71	40.26	3.30	64.35	4.92	0.175	0.106	0.281	154.00	69.87	65.55	115.91
SE (m) ±	0.275	0.406	0.076	0.300	0.014	0.001	0.001	0.002	8.996	0.680	0.759	1.918
CD(P=0.05)	0.863	1.396	NS	0.935	0.044	0.006	0.003	0.007	26.189	NS	2.201	5.602

It was indicated that the maximum chlorophyll a content (0.385 mg/g fresh leaf) was estimated in the treatment combination M_3G_1 the minimum value of chlorophyll A content (0.155 mg/g fresh leaf) was estimated in the treatment combination M_1G_6 .

It was indicated that maximum amount of chlorophyll b content (0.160 mg/g fresh leaf) was estimated in the treatment combination, M_3G_1 . Whereas, the minimum amount of chlorophyll b (0.080 mg/g fresh leaf) was recorded in the treatment combination M_1G_6 .

It was observed that the treatment combination M_3G_1 was statistical significantly superior to all other treatments by resulting maximum amount of total chlorophyll content (0.552 mg/g fresh leaf) M_3G_1 . The minimum amount of total chlorophyll content (0.240 mg/g fresh leaf) was estimated in the treatment combinations M_1G_6 .

The chlorophyll content in leaves indicates the efficiency of photosynthesis, where the solar energy is converted into chemical energy and N,P & K were utilized efficiently by the plant, which resulted in producing plant biomass and translocation of the assimilated materials to the developing sink. The role of nitrogen and potassium in the functioning of chlorophyll has been established. These results were in accordance with results reported by kuttimani *et al.*, (2013) in papaya. In general, treated plants registered more photosynthesis rate as reported by Liu *et al.*, (2013), Baraily & Deb (2018) ^[1] in pineapple. The plant growth regulators had significant effect in chlorophyll contents of D-leaf of pineapple. The present findings are in conformity with the findings of AO Bhowmick *et al.*, (2017) in pineapple.

The maximum leaf area (273.17 cm^2) was observed in the treatment combination and the minimum leaf area (148.17 cm^2) was found in the treatment combination M_1G_6 . Leaf area is an important growth indication determining the capacity of plant to trap solar energy for photosynthesis and has marked influenced on growth and yield of plant through organic recycling with vermicompost. GA₃ increased the leaf area by multiplying, elongation and enlargement of cell.

Data depicted in table 10 (C) clearly indicated that the interaction effect of integrated manuring and growth regulator was quite non-significant with respect to earliness in flowering in pineapple. However, minimum number of days to flower initiation (42.84 days) was recorded in the treatment combination of M_3G_2 during the year in pooled data whereas longer time take for flower initiation in the treatment 69.87(M_3G_6) which is at par with 69.84 (M_2G_6). The application of ethrel@25ppm induced early flowering compared to other treatment. Similar results are in conformity with the finding reported by Hassain *et al.*, (2008) and Pal *et al.*, (2015) ^[11] in pineapple.

Maximum percentage of flowering (92.76 %) was recorded in the treatment combination M_3G_1 and the minimum percentage of flowering (61.17 %) was recorded in the treatment combination M_1G_6 also. Its is due to organic recycling with vermicompost + vermiwash + bio-fertilizer. This line with the studies of Baraily & Deb (2018) ^[1] in pineapple. Similar resultsare in agreement with those Ghosh *et al.*, (2013) ^[2] and Bhowmick *et al.*, (2017) in pineapple.

NAA affect the development of development of anthers that appear to influence corolla development and pigmentation. Inhibition of auxin biosynthesis can delay anthesis while exogenous auxin have the inducing effect of flowering in pineapple. Similar results of percentage of flowering have been reported by Pal *et al.*, (2015) ^[11] in pineapple.

It was observed that the minimum number of days required from flower initiation to fruit maturity (108.25 days) was recorded in the treatment combination M_3G_2 , where maximum number of days taken from flower initiation to fruit

maturity M_1G_5 (154.25 days) was recorded in the treatment combination.

This may be due to increase in the availability of nitrogen in soil resulting the earlier in flower initiation to fruits maturity (Liu & Liu 2012)^[9] in pineapple. Fruit maturity period was delayed due to different growth regulators. The earlier in fruit maturity due to ethers treatment was reported by Pal *et al* (2015)^[11] in pineapple.

Conclusion

The salient findings of the present study entitled "Effect of integrated manuring and growth regulators on vegetative growth and flowering of pineapple" clearly reveals that significant variation found in treatment M₃G₁ - 75% of recommended NPK + 25% of N through organic recycling with vermicompost + NAA@10ppm with respect to number of leaves per plant, number of leaves per plant per month, chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, total chlorophyll, percentage of flowering and M_3G_2 -75% of recommended NPK + 25% of N with vermicompost through organic recycling Ethrel@25ppm with respect to no. of days to flower initiation, Days required for flower initiation to fruit maturity with M₃G₄ -75% of recommended NPK + 25% of N through organic recycling with vermicompost + GA₃@50ppm show good result on plany height, length and weidth of D leaf and leaf area.

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