Effect of planting date on yield and yield components in soiless culture of three strawberry (*Fragaria* × *ananassa* Duch) cultivars in Sari climate

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(Received: 24 January. 2017 ; Accepted: 10 Oct. 2018)

Abstract

The aim of present study was determination of optimum planting date for soiless culture of three strawberry comertial cultivars for Sari climatic conditions in northen Iran. A factorial pot experiment, based on completely randomized design, was conducted with four planting dates at one month intervals from October 1st to December 30th for three strawberry cultivars (Gaviota, Queen Elisa and Camarosa) with 3 replications and 5 plants in each replication. Results showed that the highest yield (403.25 g per plant) and the highest fruit set (80.72%) were obtained for Camarosa cultivar at November 1st planting date. The lowest unmarketable fruits (1.54%) belonged to Camarosa at November 30th planting date. At October 1st planting date, Queen Elisa and Camarosa cultivars produced the highest average number of crowns (2.66) and Gaviota cultivar produced the highest average number of leaves (24.33), inflorescences (6) and flowers (42). At November 1st planting date, the highest average number of fruits (23.8) and fruit weight (16.61 g) were produced by Camarosa cultivar. Therefore, Camarosa and Gaviota had higher yield in Sari climatic conditions and optimum planting date for Gaviota, Queen Elisa cultivars was October 1st and for Camarosa cultivar was November 1st.

Keywords: Stawberry, Planting dates, Yield, Camarosa, Queen Elisa, Gaviota.

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