

COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF FOLIAR AND SOIL APPLIED BORON ON GROWTH AND FODDER YIELD OF MAIZE

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted to compare the effect of foliar and soil-applied boron on the different growth stages and fodder yield of maize (*Zea mays* L.) variety Akbar at Latif Experimental Farm, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam in spring 2006. Experimental results revealed that the foliar application of 0.5% boron as a boric acid at early, mid and late whorl stages resulted in taller plants (195.05 cm), thicker stem girth (5.21), more number of green leaves (8.00) plant⁻¹, less number of dry leaves (3.00) plant⁻¹, more fresh (58.04 t ha⁻¹) and dry fodder yield (17.59 t ha⁻¹). Soil and applied boron at 2 kg ha⁻¹ did not remain effective for growth and yield of maize crop as compared to foliarly applied boron. There was significant effect of boron on its concentration in straw and its uptake when applied on foliage. It can be concluded from the study that application of B (0.5%) as foliar spray at early, mid and late whorl stage along with recommended dose of NPK fertilizers may be considered for getting higher fodder yield of maize under agro climatic conditions of Tandojam, Sindh.

Keywords: Boron, fodder, growth, maize, yield