

Effect of Zeolite and Foliar Application of Selenium on Growth, Yield and Yield Component of Three Canola Cultivar under Conditions of Late Season Drought Stress

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Abstract

In order to study effect of zeolite soil application and selenium foliar application on growth, yield and yield components of three canola cultivar under conditions of late season drought stress an experiment was conducted in two growing season in 2006 and 2007. Site study was field of Seed and Plant Improvement Institute, Karaj, Iran. The experimental design was a Randomized Complete Block arrangement in factorial split plot with three replications. Irrigation factors were chosen at two levels, included complete irrigation and irrigation holding at stem elongation stage. Zeolite was used at two levels, non application and 10 ton per hectare. Also selenium was sprayed at three concentrations, 0, 15 and 30 gr per liter from sodium selenate. These treatments were randomized in main plots while three canola cultivars ('Zarfam', 'Okapi' and 'Sarigol') were randomized in sub plots. The results showed that, main effects of different irrigation levels have significant effect on all traits and drought stress decreased significantly all traits. Foliar application of selenium had significant and additive effect on plant height, number of pods in plant, number of seeds in pod, seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield. There was significant difference between zeolite application and non application on all traits except oil percent and harvest index. It was shown that canola cultivars were different in all of studied traits. Comparison of means showed that, four critical traits that is seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield were affected by experimental treatments. Different cultivars have different responses under unlike conditions inside upon traits. Under different treatment conditions especially drought stress, zeolite and selenium application have positive and significant effect on traits related to yield. In finally, zeolite and selenium application in dry lands that are exposure to late season drought stress can be helpful for yield improvement and prevent of decreasing yield.

Keywords: canola, drought stress, selenium, yield and yield component, zeolite

Introduction

In many region of the world among Iran, drought stress is one of the most important factors that decrease agricultural crop production. Canola (*Brassica napus* L.) is one of the important oil plants in the world. Late season drought stress and increase of temperature during flowering and seed filling stages decreases canola yield. The results of researchers shown that, in many plants flowering, pollination and seed filling are sensitive stages to drought stress (Thomas *et al.*, 2004; Liu *et al.*, 2004). It's reported that, flowering and primary stages of pod setting are most sensitive stages of canola growth (Hashem *et al.*, 1998). Responses of two canola cultivars to drought stress have been studied by Wright *et al.* (1995) they shown that, seed yield and oil percentages were strongly affected by drought

stress. According to published results, decrease in canola seed yield is due to decrease in yield component include pod number, seed number in pods and 1000 seed weight in response to drought stress. Jensen *et al.*, (1996) showed that complete irrigation during flowering and primary stages of pod development, increases pod number and seed number in pods but average of 1000 seed weight were less affected than seed number in pod. Flowering stage and pod setting are critical stages to drought stress in canola (Rao and Mendham, 1991). Effects of different irrigation regimes at flowering stage on canola has been studied by Deepak, and Wittal (1995) their results showed that water stress decreased significantly seed yield and biological yield. Decrease of biological yield and pod dry matter has been observed in two canola cultivars under conditions of water deficit (Wright, *et al.*, 1998).

In recent year a few of the more commonly used inorganic soil amendments are the porous ceramics, diatomaceous earth and zeolites. Some of the characteristics of these products that potentially make them desirable for improving the properties of soils are the large internal porosity that result in water retention, a uniform particle size distribution that allows them to be easily incorporated and high cation exchange capacity that retains nutrients (Ok *et al.*, 2003). The unique physical and chemical properties of natural zeolites, in combination with their abundance in sedimentary deposits and in rocks derived from volcanic parent materials, have made them useful in many industrial applicators. These properties have spurred their use for agronomic and horticultural applications as well (Dwairi, 1998). Zeolites are natural minerals first discovered in 1756 by Swedish mineralogist, who named the porous minerals from the Greek words meaning "boiling stone" (Mumpton, 1999). They are hydrated aluminosilicates, characterized by three dimensional networks of SiO_4 and AlO_4 tetrahedral, linked by the sharing of all oxygen atoms. The partial substitution of Si^{+4} by Al^{+3} lead to an excess of negative charge which is compensated by cations. In structure of natural zeolite the water and cations can be reversibly removed or replaced by other cations (Rehakova *et al.*, 2004). Clinoptilolites are one kind of zeolites which are not the most well known yet, but are one of the most useful zeolites. Extensive deposits clinoptilolite are found in Western United State, Bulgaria, Hungary, Japan, Australia and Iran (Mumpton, 1999). The size of clinoptilolite channels controls the size of the molecules or ions that can pass through them and therefore a zeolite like clinoptilolite can act as a chemical sieve allowing some ions to pass through while blocking others (Mumpton, 1999). Amendment of clinoptilolite zeolite to sandy soils has been reported to lower nitrogen concentration in the leachate and to increase moisture and nutrients in the soil due to increased soil surface area and cation exchange capacity (He *et al.*, 2002). Additionally, clinoptilolite zeolite is a more permanent addition to the root zone, demonstrating good stability in weathering, impact and absorption tests (Ok *et al.*, 2003).

Selenium is an essential trace element for animals and humans (Tapiero *et al.*, 2003) but its role in plants is still unclear (Hartikainen *et al.*, 2000). Most cereal crops and fodder plant are relatively weakly able to absorb selenium, even when grown on soils with higher selenium content (Nowak *et al.*, 2004). Selenium is chemically similar to sulphur, this may cause a non-specific replacement of S by selenium in proteins and other sulphur compounds (Nowak *et al.*, 2004). There are indications that it can also play a positive biological role in higher plants (Germ *et al.*, 2005). Selenium could increase the tolerance of plants to UV-radiation induced oxidative stress, delay senescence, and promote the growth of ageing seedlings (Xue *et al.*, 2001). Results of Pennanen *et al.* (2002) have showed that plant growth promoted by selenium is due to the increased

starch accumulation in chloroplasts. Recently it has been shown that selenium can regulate the water status of plants under conditions of water deficiency and thereby performs its protective effect (Kuznetsov *et al.*, 2003). The goal of this work was to determine the response of three cultivars of canola to combined effect of late season drought stress, soil zeolite application and Se foliar application.

Materials and methods

This study was conducted at the experimental field of Seed and Plant Improvement Institute (SPII), Karaj, Iran, ($35^{\circ} 59' \text{ N}$ latitude, $50^{\circ} 75' \text{ E}$ longitude and altitudes of 1313 m) on three canola cultivar (*Brassica napus* L. C.V 'Zarfam', 'Okapi' and 'Sarigol'), in the 2006 and 2007 growing season. The yearly average precipitation (30-years long term period) which is mostly concentrated during the autumn and winter months was 244 mm.

Before the beginning of experiment, soil samples were taken to determine the physical and chemical properties. A composite soils sample was collected from depth of 0-30 and 30-60 cm. It was air dried, crushed, and tested for physical and chemical properties. The research fields had a clay loam soil. Details of soil properties are shown in Tab. 1. After plow and disk, plots were prepared. The experimental design was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block with a factorial split plot arrangement of treatments in three replications. The treatments were included; irrigation at two levels, complete (I1) and limited irrigation (I2) at early of stem elongation. Zeolite application at two levels that is 0 (Z1) and 10 ton per hectare (Z2) and selenium foliar application at three concentration 0, 15 and 30 gr.liter^{-1} as sodium selenate, S1, S2 and S3, respectively. These treatments were applied on three canola cultivars. According to soil analysis chemical fertilizers and zeolite were distributed on the soil surface and incorporated with the soil in depth of 30 cm. The plots were 5 m long and consisted of six rows, 0.3 m apart. Among blocks and main plots, 6 m and 2.4 m alley was kept to eliminate all influence of lateral water movement. The canola seeds were disinfected and sown on early of October. The distance between plant rows was 30 cm and the plant density was around 1,000,000 plants per hectare at sowing time. Irrigation was carried out as similar in all plots until flowering stage. Non stressed plants were irrigated according to 80 mm evaporation from class A pan evaporation. Weeds were effectively controlled by hand. Selenium foliar application from sodium selenate was carried out in three concentrations (0, 15 and 30 gr.liter^{-1}) by engine backpack sprayer at late of stem elongation stage. At of growing season, plant height, number of branches in plant, number of pods in plant, number of seeds in pod, 1000 seed weight, seed yield, oil percentage, oil yield, biological yield and harvest index were measured. To measurement of plant height and number of branches in plant, after eliminating the margin effect 10 plants were randomly harvested

from middle of each plot and then mean of the traits were registered. Numbers of pod were counted in these plants. Pods of these plants were separated and 30 pods were randomly selected and number of seeds in each pod and 1000 seed weight were calculated. Also, five plants of each plot was sampled and dried in oven at 60° C during 72 hours to determine of biological yield. Harvest index and seed yield were calculated too. Oil percentage was estimated by N.M.R and oil yield was calculated via product seed yield in percentage oil.

All data were analyzed from analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the GLM procedure in SAS (SAS Institute, 2002). The assumptions of variance analysis were tested by insuring that the residuals were the random, homogeneous, with a normal distribution about a mean of zero. LSMEANS command was used to comparison of means at $P < 0.05$ probability.

Results and discussion

According to Bartlett test results, χ^2 was not significant for all traits therefore the analysis of variance was carried out on base of combined analysis of variance. Combine *F* significance from analysis of variance of irrigation, zeolite, selenium and cultivar in 2006 and 2007 (Tab. 2) showed that, effect of year was significant in all traits except, number of branches in plant and harvest index. It was observed that effect of different irrigation levels was significant in all traits. Selenium foliar application had significant effect on plant height, number of pods in plant, number of seeds in pod, seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield. Affect of zeolite soil application was not significant just on oil percentage and harvest index. Canola cultivars had significant difference among them. The results showed that, often interaction effects among treatments was not significant. Interaction effects among irrigation, selenium, zeolite and cultivars was significant just on seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield.

Comparisons of main effects are shown in Tab. 3. There are significant differences among first and second year on all traits except, number of branches and harvest index. Oil percentage and biological yield were decreased at second year than first year while in other traits a significant increase was observed.

Limit irrigation during stem elongation stage decreased significantly all traits. Seed yields was lost by 51.81%. This reduction was due to decrease in yield components such as seed weigh, number of seeds in pods number of pods in plant and number of branches in plants. Also there was significant decrease in biological yield by 61.73% due to decrease of vegetative growth and height. It's known that, decrease in plant height is due to decrease in cell division and assimilates transport. There are many reports about decrease of vegetative growth and plant height under conditions of drought stress (Wright *et al.*, 1995). Increase of plant height is related two phenomena, increase of nod

numbers and increase of inter nods length and these are strongly affected by drought stress (Wright *et al.*, 1995).

Reproductive stage included, stem elongation, flowering, pollination and seed filling are sensitive stages to water stressing (Thomas *et al.*, 2004). Flowering and pod setting stages are susceptible to drought stress in canola (Wright *et al.*, 1995). The results are descriptive of this fact that, flowering and pod setting stages are critical period to water supply and water stress in these period decreases strongly pod number and seed yield. Triboi and Renard (1999) have been reported that, drought stress in canola decreases pod number, also Bouchereau et al (1996) showed that there is positive correlation between seed yield and number of branches and seed yield and seed weigh. In general, suitable water supply at flowering stage and pod development stage increases seed number in pods and increases seed yield (Mendham and Salisbury, 1995). Mendham and Salisbury (1995) have reported that sufficient irrigation at first of pod setting stage is very vital for produce of desirable yield; also they have observed water stress occurrence at first of pod growth is effective on pod number while water stress after this stage is effective on seed number in pods. Decrease of 1000 seed weight is due to decline of water and nutrients absorption by plant and then decrease of assimilation and assimilates transport to seed. Effect drought stress on winter canola has been studied by Andersen *et al.* (1996); it observed that, pod number in plant, seed number in pods and seed yield were significantly decreased by drought stress while 1000 seed weight was decreased by drought stress at flowering seed filling stages. Oil percentage was decreased by drought stress it seems that, reduces of photosynthesis and assimilates remobilization reasons decrease of oil. In addition, drought stress reduces seed filling period and oil content. Results of Mendham and Buzza (1984) are agreed to our results. Champolivier and Merrien (1996) have reported obviously decrease in oil content due to drought stress at flowering stage. Biological yield was decreased affected by drought stress. Plant height and number of branches were decreased by drought subsequently biological yield was decreased. There are many reports that, late season drought stress apart from decrease of total dry matter, decreases assimilates transportation to seeds and lead to decrease harvest index (Wright, 1995; Kajdi, 1994). Oil yield was affected by drought stress and significantly decrease was observed.

Zeolite application as a soil amendment, improved water retention capacity and increased more assayed traits. Zeolite application had not significant effect on oil percentage and harvest index. Lack of significant difference between zeolite application and absence of zeolite in soil is illustrative of this fact that, enhancement of seed yield and biological yield was increased with same ratio so there was no difference between harvest indexes in upon treatments. Plant height and number of branches in plant were increased by zeolite application. It seems that, zeolite

Tab. 1. Physical and chemical properties of soil collected from site study

Texture	T.N.V (%)	K (ppm)	P (ppm)	N (%)	Saturated percentage (%)	Organic Carbon (%)	pH	EC (ds.m ⁻¹)	Depth (cm)	Year
Clay loam	8.25	171	4.9	0.05	30.58	0.47	7.8	1.36	0-30	2006
	10.69	132	2	0.04	30.84	0.35	7.7	1.76	30-60	
Clay loam	9.81	205	3.1	0.06	36.01	0.51	7.8	1.42	0-30	2007
	10.53	150	2	0.06	37.12	0.40	7.9	1.44	30-60	

Tab. 2. Summary of combined F significance from analysis of variance of irrigation, zeolite, selenium and cultivar in 2006 and 2007

O.Y	H.I	B.Y	O.P	S.Y	S.W	N.S	N.P	N.B	P.H	df	S.O.V
**	ns	**	**	**	*	**	*	ns	**	1	Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	R(Y)
**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	1	I
**	**	**	ns	**	ns	**	**	ns	*	2	S
**	ns	**	ns	**	**	**	**	**	**	1	Z
**	ns	**	ns	**	ns	*	**	ns	ns	2	I*S
**	ns	**	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	1	I*Z
ns	ns	*	*	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	1	I*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	S*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	1	Z*Y
**	**	ns	*	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	S*Z
**	*	**	ns	**	ns	ns	*	ns	ns	2	I*S*Z
ns	ns	ns	*	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	I*S*Y
ns	ns	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	1	I*Z*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	S*Z*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	I*S*Z*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	44	R*I*S*Z(Y)
**	**	**	*	**	**	**	**	**	**	2	C
ns	ns	ns	**	ns	*	**	**	ns	*	2	I*C
**	**	**	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	S*C
**	**	**	ns	**	ns	ns	*	ns	ns	2	Z*C
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	C*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	I*C*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	S*C*Y
ns	ns	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	Z*C*Y
ns	**	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	I*S*C
ns	**	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	S*Z*C
*	**	ns	*	*	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	I*Z*C
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	I*S*C*Y
**	**	**	ns	**	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	I*S*Z*C
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	S*Z*C*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	2	I*Z*C*Y
ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	4	I*S*Z*C*Y
11.9	12.6	8.6	2.2	11.4	4.8	9.5	13.2	24.8	8.2		C.V

Y: Year; I: irrigation; S: Selenium; Z: Zeolite; C: Cultivar; P.H: Plant height; N.B: Number of branches in plant; N.P: Number of pods in plant; N.S: Number of seeds in pod; S.W: 1000 seed weight; S.Y: Seed yield; O.P: Oil percentage; B.Y: Biological yield; H.I: Harvest index; O.Y: Oil yield. ns: Not significant, * and **: significant at P<0.05 and P<0.01, respectively

Tab. 3. Main effects of year, irrigation, zeolite, selenium and cultivar on some agronomic traits of three canola cultivar in 2006 and 2007

O.Y	H.I	B.Y	O.P	S.Y	S.W	N.S	N.P	N.B	P.H	Levels	Treatments
1632.94b	24.24a	17717.2a	43.14a	3765.29b	5.46b	22.99b	70.59b	3.16a	86.54b	2006	Year
1822.89a	25.29a	15406.3b	40.19b	4518.29a	5.68a	25.17a	81.26a	3.42a	97.76a	2007	
2300.23a	26.80a	20479.8a	42.28a	5456.33a	5.75a	26.12a	90.73a	3.61a	98.32a	Complete	Irrigation
1155.60b	22.74b	12643.7b	41.05b	2827.24b	5.39b	22.04b	61.11b	2.97b	85.98b	Limit	
1488.12b	25.06a	14116.00b	41.78a	3563.13b	5.48b	23.04b	67.31b	3.11b	88.37b	0 ton.ha-1	Zeolite
196772a	24.47a	19007.50a	41.56a	4720.44a	5.66a	25.12a	84.54a	3.47a	95.93a	10 ton.ha-1	
1552.14b	23.23c	15590.00b	41.94a	3704.92c	5.51a	23.23b	69.99b	3.16a	90.12b	0 gr.liter-1	Selenium
1776.61a	24.65b	17095.50a	41.9ab	4263.17b	5.61a	64.24a	78.94a	3.35a	93.32a	15 gr.liter-1	
1855.00a	26.43a	16999.70a	41.47b	4457.28a	5.58a	24.37a	78.83a	3.36a	93.01a	30 gr.liter-1	
1654.04b	25.27a	15478.00b	41.84a	3941.68b	5.60b	21.20c	94.28a	3.95a	86.69c	'Sarigol'	Cultivar
1777.65a	22.80b	18308.60a	41.44b	4275.25a	5.77a	24.99b	71.31b	3.02b	99.56a	'Zarfam'	
1752.06a	26.23a	15898.60b	41.73ab	4208.43a	5.33c	26.05a	62.18c	2.90b	90.20b	'Okapi'	

P.H: Plant height; N.B: Number of branches in plant; N.P: Number of pods in plant; N.S: Number of seeds in pod; S.W: 1000 seed weight; S.Y: Seed yield; O.P: Oil percentage; B.Y: Biological yield; H.I: Harvest index; O.Y: Oil yield. For a given means within each column of each section followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

improved soil cation exchangeable capacity and so water and nutrients were accessible for canola plants. Increase of canola plant height has been reported due to nitrogen availability (Ozer, 2003). Positive effect of zeolite on plant height, number of branches, yield and yield component can be related to increment of nitrogen availability and prevent of nitrogen leaching. Similar these results are reported by Sing and Bhargava (1994). Also increase of biological yield is associated with water and nutrition availability.

In general, selenium foliar application had positive effect on most traits. This treatment had not significant effect on number of branches in plant, 1000 seed weight and oil percentage. It's reported that, selenium has antioxidant properties and under conditions of environmental stress especially water stress it can scavenge reactive oxygen species (Xue *et al.*, 2001). Glutathione peroxidase is an important enzyme in antioxidant defense system of plants. Selenium is an essential element in structure of this enzyme. In this study seed yield was increased by selenium application due to enhancement of pod number in plant and seed number in pods. It seems that, selenium improved pollen survival and fertilization. Also it's reported that, selenium prevents from chlorophyll degradation under stress conditions (Seppänen *et al.*, 2003). Enhancement of photosynthesis and decrease of leaf senescence (Xue and Hartikaine, 2001) increases assimilate production and transportation toward seeds and as a result seed yield will be increased. Tab. 3 shows that, canola cultivars are different from each other in respect of height, number of pods in plant, number of seeds in pod and 1000 seed weight. The highest seed yield and oil yield was related Zarfam and 'Okapi' cultivars while the highest oil percentage was obtained from 'Sarigol' and 'Okapi' cultivars. These differences can be associated to genetic background of these cultivars. Comparison of means among different canola cultivars under

different irrigation treatments, zeolite and selenium foliar application are shown in Tab. 4. Comparisons of means were performed by LSMEANS command in SAS software so these comparisons were done among different canola cultivars under different treatment condition. There was not significant different among canola cultivars on seed yield under completed irrigation, no zeolite and selenium while the highest biological yield was related to Zarfam. The highest harvest index and the lowest oil yield were obtained from 'Sarigol' and 'Okapi', respectively. There was not significant difference between oil yield of Zarfam and 'Sarigol'.

Also under conditions of completed irrigation, zeolite application there was not difference among cultivars in respect of seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield.

It observed that, the highest harvest index was achieved from 'Okapi' and 'Sarigol' under complete irrigation and 15mg.liter^{-1} selenium treatments. Respect of other traits there was not significant difference among cultivars.

Under completed irrigation and zeolite application treatments, foliar application by 15mg.liter^{-1} selenium showed that there was not different among seed yield and biological yield of cultivars. But the lowest harvest index and oil yield was obtained from 'Sarigol' while between Zarfam and 'Okapi' was not significant difference.

Foliar application with 30mg.liter^{-1} selenium under conditions of completed irrigation and lack of zeolite showed that there are not significant differences among cultivars of seed yield, harvest index and oil yield while biological yield was increased in 'Zarfam' than other cultivars. In contrast the highest seed yield and oil yield was obtained from 'Okapi' and 'Zarfam' under conditions of completed irrigation, zeolite use and 30mg.liter^{-1} selenium foliar application. Also the highest of biological yield

Tab. 4. Effects of irrigation, zeolite and selenium treatments on seed yield, biological yield, harvest index and oil yield three canola cultivar in 2006 and 2007

Oil yield	Harvest index	Biological yield	Seed yield	Cultivar	
1799.2a	22.58b	18813a	4277.8a	'Zarfam'	I1S1Z1
1463.5b	22.71b	15528b	3521.7a	'Okapi'	
1799.2a	2827a	15229b	4300.8a	'Sarigol'	
2537.2a	27.87a	21201a	5915.7a	'Zarfam'	I1S1Z2
2347.1a	25.98a	21799a	5637.7a	'Okapi'	
2344.0a	25.41a	22097a	5584.0a	'Sarigol'	
2042.6a	19111a	25.29b	4827.8a	'Zarfam'	I1S2Z1
2116.8a	16424a	30.32a	4980.5a	'Okapi'	
1958.2a	15826a	28.71a	4522.2a	'Sarigol'	
2761.3a	27.76a	23740a	6615.3a	'Zarfam'	I1S2Z2
2657.4ab	27.34a	23590a	6386.3a	'Okapi'	
2380.9b	23.71b	23292a	5599.3a	'Sarigol'	
2112.3a	25.81a	19858a	5079.8a	'Zarfam'	I1S3Z1
2093.1a	29.47a	17320b	5125.7a	'Okapi'	
2139.3a	27.11a	18812ab	5064.7a	'Sarigol'	
3057.1a	23.01b	31205a	7180.5a	'Zarfam'	I1S3Z2
3196.3a	30.25a	25083b	7585.3a	'Okapi'	
2568.8b	30.77a	19708c	6011.8b	'Sarigol'	
656.1b	14.80c	10750.0a	1588.8b	'Zarfam'	I2S1Z1
712.1b	20.73b	8062.5c	1680.7b	'Okapi'	
945.9a	24.61a	9257.0b	2276.3a	'Sarigol'	
1377.7a	20.88a	16125.0a	3368.8a	'Zarfam'	I2S1Z2
1345.7a	22.21a	14631.7ab	3246.5a	'Okapi'	
1266.8a	22.73a	13586.8b	3063.2a	'Sarigol'	
1255.8a	20.71b	14632.1a	3025.0a	'Zarfam'	I2S2Z1
1076.3b	23.58a	11048.6b	2612.5a	'Okapi'	
1059.6b	22.68ab	11496.6b	2620.2a	'Sarigol'	
1364.7a	21.06a	16573.0a	3437.5a	'Zarfam'	I2S2Z2
1379.0a	21.90a	15379.0ab	3368.8a	'Okapi'	
1266.5a	22.70a	14035.0b	3162.5a	'Sarigol'	
1118.4b	23.02b	12243.0a	2803.3ab	'Zarfam'	I2S3Z1
1446.6a	38.02a	9227.0b	3468.0a	'Okapi'	
960.9b	22.71b	10451.0ab	2360.5b	'Sarigol'	
1249.3a	20.85a	15453.0a	3158.5a	'Zarfam'	I2S3Z2
1189.6ab	22.23a	12989.7b	2887.5ab	'Okapi'	
1128.3b	23.85a	11645.8b	2734.7b	'Sarigol'	

I1: complete irrigation; I2: limited irrigation at stem elongation stage; S1: 0 gr.liter-1 Selenium; S2: 15 gr.liter-1 Selenium; S3: 30 gr.liter-1 Selenium; Z1: no zeolite; Z2: 10 ton.ha-1 zeolite. For a given means within each column of each section followed by the same letter are not significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

was observed in 'Zarfam' cultivar. Harvest index in 'Okapi' and 'Sarigol' in this treatment was more than 'Zarfam'.

The 'Sarigol' cultivar had the highest seed yield, harvest index and oil yield under conditions of late season drought stress and without zeolite and selenium while the highest of biological yield was related to 'Zarfam'. In this condition zeolite application increased seed yield in 'Zarfam' and 'Okapi' and improved biological yield in 'Okapi'. The results showed that, harvest index and oil yield were increased by zeolite in 'Zarfam' and 'Okapi'.

There are not significant differences among cultivars in respect of seed yield under conditions of late season drought stress, lack of zeolite and 15mg.liter^{-1} selenium foliar application but in compare to 0mg.liter^{-1} selenium (Control) seed yield was increased in 'Okapi' and 'Zarfam' cultivars. Biological yield was increased in 'Okapi' cultivar due to selenium foliar application under drought stress condition. The highest of harvest index was observed in 'Okapi' and 'Sarigol' cultivars under late season drought

stress and 30mg.liter⁻¹ selenium foliar application. Also the highest oil yield was achieved by 'Zarfam'.

There are not significant differences among cultivars in respect of seed yield, harvest index and oil yield under conditions of late season drought stress, zeolite application and 15mg.liter⁻¹ selenium foliar application. It was observed that, application of 15mg.liter⁻¹ selenium under conditions of limited irrigation and zeolite application had not significant effect on seed yield, biological yield, oil yield and harvest index in compare to lack of selenium in similar condition.

The highest seed yield, harvest index and oil yield was obtained from 'Okapi' cultivar under conditions of limited irrigation, non zeolite application and 30mg.liter⁻¹ selenium foliar application while the highest of biological yield was related to 'Zarfam' cultivar. The highest and the lowest seed yield, biological yield and oil yield were achieved from 'Zarfam' and 'Sarigol' cultivars under conditions of late season drought stress, zeolite application and 30mg.liter⁻¹ selenium foliar application. In addition, there are not significant differences among cultivars about harvest index under upon mentioned condition.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it was observed that, under conditions of late season drought stress 'Sarigol' cultivar produced the highest seed yield, harvest index and oil yield than two other cultivars. Also the highest biological yield was related to 'Zarfam' cultivar under conditions of late season drought stress and completed irrigation and it is suitable for forage production. Zeolite application in lands which are exposure to late season drought stress can keep soil water content and improve plant growth and production. The result shows that selenium as foliar application can improve yield under conditions of drought stress and it can be suggested for these lands in arid and semi arid regions.

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