

## Effect of Plant Growth Regulators, Micro-Nutrients and Date of Transplanting on Growth and Yield of Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)

Pragya Ramgirya\*, D. P. Sharma and S. K. Pandey

Department of Horticulture, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, M.P.

\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [ramgirypragya@gmail.com](mailto:ramgirypragya@gmail.com)

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### ABSTRACT

The field experiment was carried out during the Rabi season 2018-19 at the Horticulture Research Complex, Maharajpur, Department of Horticulture, J.N.K.V.V. Jabalpur (M.P.) to evaluate the effect of micronutrients and plant growth regulators on different dates of transplanting in tomato. Significant differences were found for plant height, number of branches per plant, days to first flowering, number of clusters per plant, fruit length, fruit diameter, average fruit weight and fruit yield per plant. The highest plant height was recorded at T<sub>25</sub>. The Treatment T<sub>45</sub> was found better for Number of branches per plant and days to first flowering. The number of clusters per plant was noticed maximum in T<sub>14</sub>. The highest fruits yield per plant found in treatment T<sub>13</sub>. While the rest of the characters namely fruit length, fruit diameter and average fruit weight in treatment T<sub>30</sub>.

**Keywords:** Tomato, NAA, Boron, Zinc Salicylic Acid and Date of transplanting.

### INTRODUCTION

Tomato is botanically called *Solanum lycopersicum*. It is most popular crop all over the world for its nutritional value that's why it is called protective food. In India tomato is most versatile with wide usage in culinary tradition and widely used in soup, salad, pickles, ketchup, puree, sauce and in many other ways. Tomato is an important crop for value addition chain of processing. It comes under the warm season crop which requires 21°C to 24°C for its growth and development. Day temperature of 28°C and night temperature

of 18°C is ideal for its growth. Fruit set is affected at temperature higher than 35°C and relative humidity of more than 90%.

Micro-nutrients play important role Boron and Zinc two important micronutrient which are highly required for plant nutrition. Foliar application of boron and zinc significantly increased the number of fruits per plant, yield and quality of fruits. Boron play key role on accumulation of photosynthates that has correlation with fruit weight (Shukha, 2011).

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Boron involves in cell division, differentiation and maturation. Boron also promote seed germination, growth of pollen grains, development of pollen tube and fertilization process. Due to its deficiency growing point may die, stem weak and plant become dead. In tomato zinc play a vital role in enzyme reaction and involved in chloroplast development application of its maximize flower set, development, fruiting and also ensure even ripening. Difficiency causes dwarf leaves with show chlorosis, necrotic spots, bronzing and limiting the extraction of micro-nutrient from growing medium.

For increasing the profitable vegetable production plant growth regulator widely used. In this aspect two growth regulators namely salicylic acid and NAA included in the study. Salicylic acid has positive effect on different aspects of plant life like plant growth and development, photosynthesis, evaporation, ion transmission and absorption, also causes to special changes in leaf anatomy and chloroplast structure (Sakhabutdinova et al., 2003) and salicylic acid also promote flowering and fruiting under the cold stress. Naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) comes under the synthetic plant hormones which regulates the growth and development and also affect the biochemical and physiological process of plant and helps to promote plant growth by enhancing the cell division, cell elongation and cell differentiation which may initiate the development of plant organs. Flower cluster and whole plant spray of salicylic acid and NAA before the flowering, are highly beneficial. Therefore the present experiment was carried out with different dates of transplanting along with above mention micronutrient and plant growth regulators with the following objectives to find out the effect of micronutrient, plant growth regulators and dates of transplanting on growth and fruit yield in tomato.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field experiment was conducted at the Horticulture Research Complex, Maharajpur, Department of Horticulture, J.N.K.V.V.

Jabalpur (M.P.) during *Rabi* season of 2018-2019. The field experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. Treatment details of the experiment : T<sub>1</sub> :- Control, T<sub>2</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.0mM), T<sub>3</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.5mM), T<sub>4</sub> :- NAA (25ppm), T<sub>5</sub> :- NAA (50ppm), T<sub>6</sub> :- Boron (100ppm), T<sub>7</sub> :- Zinc (100ppm), T<sub>8</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.0mM) + Boron (100ppm), T<sub>9</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.5mM) + Boron (100ppm), T<sub>10</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.0mM) + Zinc (100ppm), T<sub>11</sub> :- Salicylic acid (1.5mM) + Zinc (100ppm), T<sub>12</sub> :- NAA (25ppm) + Boron (100 ppm), T<sub>13</sub> :- NAA (50ppm) + Boron (100 ppm), T<sub>14</sub> :- NAA (25ppm) + Zinc (100 ppm), T<sub>15</sub> :-NAA (50 ppm) + Zinc (100 ppm). These treatments applied at three different dates of transplanting at 15 days of interval D<sub>1</sub> (30<sup>th</sup> Nov.), D<sub>2</sub> (15<sup>th</sup> Dec.) and D<sub>3</sub> (30<sup>th</sup> Dec.). The seedlings were transplanted at 60 cm x 50 cm. The details observations recorded on different growth parameters namely plant height (cm), number of branches per plant, days to first flowering, number of cluster per plant, fruit length (cm), fruit diameter (cm), average fruit weight (g) and fruit yield per plant (kg/plant). The analysis was done as per procedure given by Panse and Sukhatme (1967).

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the present investigation are presented in Table: 1. The analysis of variance showed the significant differences for all the characters studied. The maximum plant height (153.50 cm) was recorded in the treatment T<sub>25</sub> (D<sub>2</sub> +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)) followed by T<sub>30</sub> (151.23 cm) and T<sub>15</sub> (148.73 cm) as compare to other treatments. Similar result found by Ingle et al. (1993), Ahmed Abou El-Yazied (2011) and Choudhary et al. (2016). Among all the treatments, the minimum plant height 121.20 cm was noticed in the treatment T<sub>31</sub> (D<sub>3</sub> + control). The foliar spray of NAA(50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm) with third date of transplanting treatment (T<sub>45</sub>) significantly increase the number of branches per plant (10.77) followed by D<sub>2</sub> +NAA (50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm) (9.17) and D<sub>2</sub> +NAA (25 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm) (8.40), same result

denoted by Ingle et al. (1993). It showed that the foliar application of all three nutrients have a significant effect on the development of branches per plant in tomato. While lowest value was found in D<sub>1</sub>+ control (5.77). The significant days to minimum first flowering was observed in T<sub>45</sub> (52 days) followed by T<sub>40</sub> (54 days). In respect to number of flower clusters maximum (25.43) noticed in treatment T<sub>14</sub> (D<sub>1</sub> +NAA (25ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)), T<sub>30</sub> (24.17) (D<sub>2</sub> +NAA (50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)) and T<sub>26</sub> (23.10) (D<sub>2</sub> +Salicylic acid (1.5mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)) as compare to control.

The highest fruit length was recorded in treatment T<sub>30</sub> (5.98 cm) followed by the treatment T<sub>12</sub> (5.78 cm) and T<sub>9</sub> (5.68), while the shortest fruit length was found in treatment T<sub>1</sub> (4.44 cm). Significant variation was recorded in fruit diameter due to combine effect of NAA + Boron. The significant highest 6.25, 6.10 and 5.93 cm fruit diameter were recorded under the treatments T<sub>30</sub> (D<sub>2</sub> +NAA (50 ppm)+Zinc (100 ppm)) and T<sub>28</sub> (D<sub>2</sub> +NAA (50 ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)) and T<sub>13</sub> (D<sub>1</sub> +NAA(50 ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)) respectively and which were at par with each other. Kiranmayi et al. (2017) reported that combine use of NAA + Boron gave the

maximum fruit girth (2.98 cm). Whereas lowest fruit diameter was found in T<sub>32</sub> (4.27 cm).

The result showed that the highest average fruit weight was noticed in T<sub>30</sub> (88.86 g) followed by treatment T<sub>28</sub> (87.73 g) and T<sub>15</sub> (87.67 g). Same result reported by Mahadev V (2006) reported that the highest fruit weight per plant (1095.84 gm) and maximum number of fruits per plant (806.44) was obtained with the application of Boron 280 ppm + Zinc 0.50% +NAA 20ppm while the lowest average fruit weight was found in treatment T<sub>31</sub> (68.28 g) as control. The data presented in the table 2 revealed that all the treatments had significant differences in case of fruit yield per plant. The maximum fruit yield per plant was noticed in treatment T<sub>13</sub> (1.140 kg/plant), followed by T<sub>30</sub> (1.133 kg/plant) and T<sub>28</sub> (1.120 kg/plant), whereas lowest fruit yield was noticed in T<sub>31</sub> control (0.490 kg/plant). These finding are in closed agreement with Merwad et al. (2016) reported that the highest yield (121kg/tree) was recorded in mango tree when plant is spread with Zn +NAA (0.2%+25ppm). It is evident from the finding that the combine use of NAA, Boron and Zinc significant increased the fruit yield per plant in tomato.

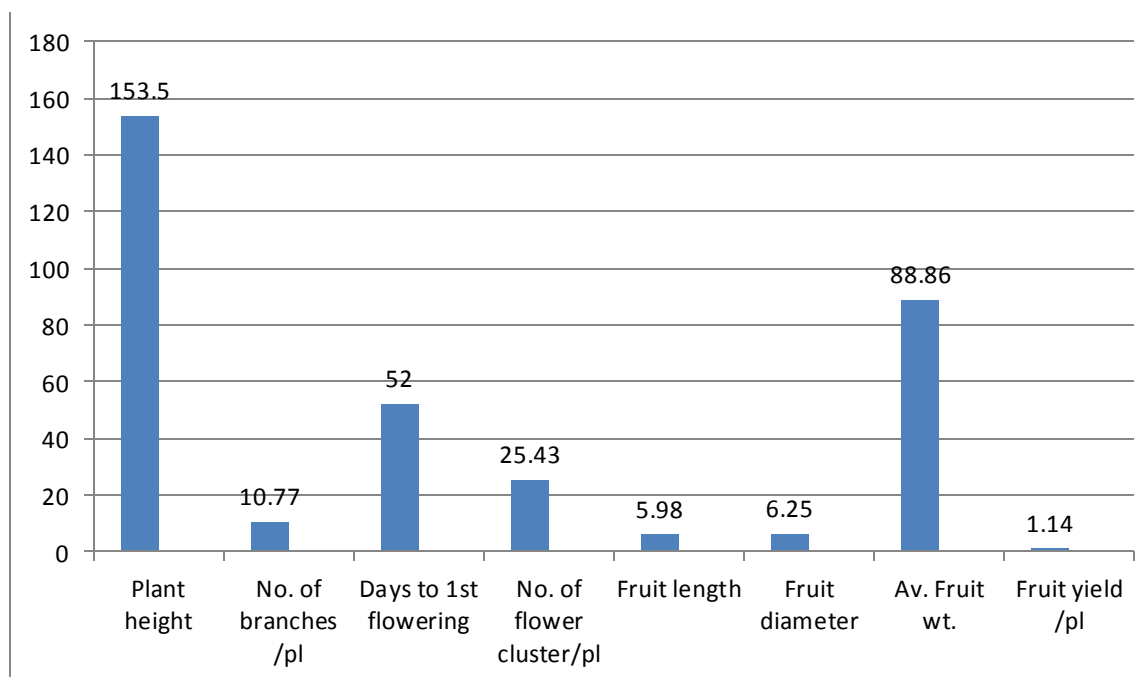


Fig. 1: Presentation of highest significant value of yield contributing tarits

Table 1: Effect of plant growth regulators, micro-nutrients and date of transplanting on Tomato

Sym.	Treatment details	Pl. ht. at 120 Days	Branches/pl	days to 1 <sup>st</sup> flowering	No. of flower cluster/pl	fruit length	fruit diameter	av. fruit wt.	fruit yield /pl
T <sub>1</sub>	D1 +Control	121.60	5.77	62.33	15.27	4.44	4.38	68.78	0.713
T <sub>2</sub>	D1 +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)	128.27	6.53	63.00	16.04	4.58	4.70	73.43	0.753
T <sub>3</sub>	D1 +Salicylic acid (1.5mM)	131.10	6.73	63.00	15.83	4.58	4.84	73.89	0.790
T <sub>4</sub>	D1 +NAA (25 ppm)	125.97	6.77	64.00	16.23	4.81	5.18	80.45	0.813
T <sub>5</sub>	D1 +NAA (50 ppm)	124.67	6.97	61.67	16.37	5.06	5.24	75.88	0.890
T <sub>6</sub>	D1 +Boron (100 ppm)	130.33	7.23	63.00	16.73	4.83	5.28	78.34	0.900
T <sub>7</sub>	D1 +Zinc (100 ppm)	128.07	7.13	63.33	17.27	4.73	5.25	79.18	0.857
T <sub>8</sub>	D1+Salicylic acid(1.0mM)+Boron (100 ppm)	130.93	7.10	63.33	18.93	5.19	5.27	80.42	0.913
T <sub>9</sub>	D1+Salicylic acid(1.5mM)+Boron(100 ppm)	133.97	7.73	61.00	20.07	5.68	5.51	78.77	0.997
T <sub>10</sub>	D1+Salicylic acid(1.0mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)	139.03	7.73	63.33	20.23	4.78	5.39	77.20	0.963
T <sub>11</sub>	D1 +Salicylic acid(1.5mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)	133.23	7.20	60.33	20.63	4.75	5.46	81.57	1.080
T <sub>12</sub>	D1 +NAA(25ppm)+ Boron (100ppm)	136.87	8.03	62.33	20.93	5.78	5.45	81.24	1.097
T <sub>13</sub>	D1 +NAA(50 ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)	138.13	7.90	59.33	22.27	5.44	5.93	82.10	1.140
T <sub>14</sub>	D1 +NAA(25ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	144.23	8.07	62.33	25.43	5.05	5.58	79.31	0.977
T <sub>15</sub>	D1 +NAA(50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	148.73	8.37	59.33	22.93	5.23	5.91	87.67	1.103
T <sub>16</sub>	D2 +Control	124.97	6.73	66.00	16.17	4.59	4.62	72.49	0.720
T <sub>17</sub>	D2 +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)	131.37	6.77	62.33	16.40	4.79	4.77	78.82	0.767
T <sub>18</sub>	D2 +Salicylic acid (1.5mM)	133.53	7.13	62.33	17.17	4.78	4.87	74.03	0.780
T <sub>19</sub>	D2 +NAA (25 ppm)	127.13	7.20	61.67	17.60	4.67	5.13	77.59	0.793
T <sub>20</sub>	D2 +NAA (50 ppm)	128.07	7.13	62.33	17.27	4.94	5.28	78.24	0.893
T <sub>21</sub>	D2 +Boron (100 ppm)	133.87	7.33	60.67	17.37	4.56	5.46	79.75	0.857
T <sub>22</sub>	D2 +Zinc (100 ppm)	131.17	7.57	63.00	17.30	4.85	5.43	78.37	0.877
T <sub>23</sub>	D2+Salicylic acid (1.0mM)+Boron (100 ppm)	132.27	7.47	62.00	21.70	5.30	5.47	80.56	0.887
T <sub>24</sub>	D2 +Salicylic acid(1.5mM) +Boron (100 ppm)	136.33	7.57	61.00	21.27	5.44	5.76	80.56	1.007
T <sub>25</sub>	D2 +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)	153.50	7.87	62.67	21.30	5.16	5.70	80.30	0.970
T <sub>26</sub>	D2 +Salicylic acid(1.5mM)+Zinc(100 ppm)	135.97	8.13	62.67	23.10	5.53	5.34	82.29	1.080
T <sub>27</sub>	D2 +NAA(25ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)	136.83	8.17	61.33	21.37	5.37	5.82	84.93	1.117
T <sub>28</sub>	D2 +NAA (50 ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)	139.30	8.13	62.67	22.63	5.57	6.10	87.73	1.120
T <sub>29</sub>	D2 +NAA(25ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	141.63	8.40	60.67	22.87	5.31	5.85	81.65	1.003
T <sub>30</sub>	D2 +NAA(50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	151.23	9.17	61.00	24.17	5.98	6.25	88.86	1.133
T <sub>31</sub>	D3+Control	121.20	7.27	60.33	13.90	4.45	4.36	68.28	0.490
T <sub>32</sub>	D3 +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)	125.87	7.37	59.33	14.00	4.59	4.27	73.58	0.590
T <sub>33</sub>	D3 +Salicylic acid (1.5mM)	126.83	7.60	59.33	15.20	4.81	4.38	70.32	0.540
T <sub>34</sub>	D3 +NAA (25 ppm)	122.20	7.93	59.33	13.97	4.52	4.43	69.56	0.560
T <sub>35</sub>	D3 +NAA (50 ppm)	125.33	7.87	57.00	14.50	4.93	4.58	71.03	0.610
T <sub>36</sub>	D3 +Boron (100 ppm)	127.83	7.60	56.67	15.43	5.15	4.63	70.38	0.680
T <sub>37</sub>	D3 +Zinc (100 ppm)	128.80	8.40	57.33	14.67	4.76	4.71	70.98	0.580
T <sub>38</sub>	D3+Salicylic acid (1.0mM)+Boron (100 ppm)	128.93	7.70	55.33	16.90	5.01	4.88	72.41	0.690
T <sub>39</sub>	D3+Salicylic acid(1.5mM)+Boron (100 ppm)	130.73	7.80	54.67	17.90	4.96	4.70	75.78	0.800
T <sub>40</sub>	D3 +Salicylic acid (1.0mM)+Zinc (100 ppm)	143.27	8.60	54.00	18.10	5.01	4.80	72.75	0.717
T <sub>41</sub>	D3 +Salicylic acid(1.5mM)+Zinc(100 ppm)	130.90	8.53	56.33	19.03	5.08	4.78	78.21	0.910
T <sub>42</sub>	D3 +NAA(25ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)	137.83	8.73	55.33	19.77	5.16	4.73	78.91	0.807
T <sub>43</sub>	D3 +NAA (50 ppm)+ Boron (100 ppm)	134.20	8.97	54.67	21.63	5.22	5.03	80.08	0.927
T <sub>44</sub>	D3 +NAA(25ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	137.63	8.83	54.00	19.77	5.03	5.05	73.95	0.730
T <sub>45</sub>	D3 +NAA(50 ppm)+ Zinc (100 ppm)	144.50	10.77	52.00	20.12	5.66	4.86	78.40	0.837
	SEm ±	3.74	0.26	1.55	1.27	0.17	0.20	2.49	0.04
	C.D. at 5% level	10.59	0.75	4.38	3.61	0.49	0.56	7.06	0.12

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