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Study on effect of plant growth regulators and boron on quality attributes of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* MILL.)

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Abstract

The field experiment was conducted during *Rabi* season of 2017-18 at the Horticulture Research cum Instructional farm, BTC CARS, Bilaspur (C.G.). The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) replicated thrice including ten treatments viz., treatments T₁ (control), T₂ (GA₃ @ 50 ppm), T₃ (GA₃ @ 75 ppm), T₄ (NAA @ 75 ppm), T₅ (NAA @ 100 ppm) T₆ (Boron @ 75 ppm), T₇ (GA₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm), T₈ (GA₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm), T₉ (NAA @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) and T₁₀ (NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm). The significantly Maximum total soluble solid (5.06 %) was recorded in (T₁₀), while, the minimum total soluble solid (3.53 %) was observed in (T₁). The highest ascorbic acid recorded (30.00 mg/100 g) in (T₈), whereas, lowest ascorbic acid observed by (T₁). And Lowest percentage of acidity (0.45 %) was recorded in (T₁₀) and highest percentage of acidity (0.60 %) was observed in (T₁).

Keywords: GA₃, NAA, boron, and Tomato

Introduction

Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* MILL.) is one of the most important solanaceous vegetable crop grown throughout the world because of its wider adaptability, high yielding potential and suitability for various uses in fresh as well as processed food industries. In world, it ranks second in importance after potato, but tops in the list of processed vegetables. Tomato being a moderate nutritional crop is considered as good source of potassium, folate, vitamin E, soluble and insoluble dietary fibers, vitamin A, C including calcium and carotene.

In India, tomato is grown on an area of 0.79 million hectare with an annual production of 17.39 million tonnes (Anon. 2015) [2]. In Chhattisgarh, tomato is being cultivated in area of 52.89 thousand hectare and production of 868.60 thousand tonnes with a productivity of 15.89 tonne /ha (Anon. 2015) [2]. It is cultivated in almost all districts of Chhattisgarh viz., Raigarh, Durg, Jashpur, Sarguja, Jagdalpur, Bemetra, Balodabazar, Kabirdham, Raipur, Kondagaon, Mungeli, Balod, Bilaspur, Surajpur & Rajnandgaon.

Tomato juice has become an exceedingly popular appetizer and beverage. The well ripe tomato (per100 g of edible portion) contains water (94.1%), energy (23calories), calcium (1.0 g), magnesium (7.0 mg), vitamin A (1000 IU), ascorbic acid (22 mg), thiamine (0.09 mg), riboflavin (0.03 mg) and niacin (0.8 mg) (Davies and Hobes, 1981). It is also a very good source of income for small and marginal farmers and also contributes to the nutrition of the consumer.

Plant growth regulators and micronutrients are an important part of plants and affect their physiology in several ways. Micronutrients and plant growth regulators together play an important role. They help in both vegetative and reproductive growth and are indispensable for the product of foliage flowers, fruits and seeds. Studies have revealed the beneficial effect of plant growth regulators and micronutrients has increased the growth, yield, total acids and total soluble solids. (Saha, 2009) [9].

Material and Methods

1. Total soluble solids

A hand refractometer was used for direct determination of total soluble solids TSS (0° Brix) from fresh juice of fully ripened fruits. Mean of at least 5 samples, read directly from a Brix scale superimposed over the refractive index scale.

2. Ascorbic acid

Ascorbic acid content in tomato at 120 DAT was estimated by using 2, 6-dichlorophenol indophenol titration method.

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Reagents

1. Metaphosphoric acid (HPO₃) 3%.
2. Dye solution: sodium salt of 2,6-dichlorophenol indophenols (52 mg) was dissolved in 150 ml of hot glass distilled water containing 42 mg of sodium bicarbonate and the solution was left for cooling and diluted to 200 ml by using distilled water. Dye solution was kept in refrigerator before use.
3. Stock standard solution: Ascorbic acid (100 mg) was dissolved in 100 ml of 4 per cent oxalic acid solution in a standard flask to a concentration of 1 mg per ml.
4. Working standard: Stock solution (10 ml) was diluted to 100 ml 4 percent oxalic acid to get a concentration of 100 mg per ml.

Procedure

The working standard (5ml), 10 ml of 4 per cent oxalic acid was added and titrated against the dye till the appearance of pink colour. Fresh fruit sample (5 g) was blended/ extracted with 4 per cent oxalic acid and the volume was made up to with 4 per cent oxalic acid and was filtered through Whatman No. 42 filter paper. From the extract, 5 ml of aliquot was taken and 4 per cent oxalic (10 ml) was added and titrated against dye. From the titree values obtained the acid content was calculated by the following formula and expressed as mg of Ascorbic acid per 100 g of fruits.

$$\text{Amount of Ascorbic acid (mg per 100 g sample)} = \frac{\text{Titre} \times \text{Dye Factor} \times \text{Volume made up} \times 100}{\text{Volume of filtrate taken} \times \text{Weight or volume of sample taken}}$$

3. Acidity

Dissolve a known volume or weight of sample in a tomato of distilled water. From this, take an aliquot and titrate with 0.1 N NaOH using phenolphthalein as indicator. The end-point is denoted by the appearance of pink colour.

$$\% \text{ Acid} = \frac{\text{Titre} \times \text{Normality of alkali} \times \text{meq wt. of acid} \times 100}{\text{Wt. or volume of sample}}$$

Results and Discussion

1. Total soluble solids (°Brix)

Total soluble solids (T.S.S.), The quality of solids dissolved in the liquid part of tomato, were observed to be increased after treatment with NAA, GA₃ and Boron. The result on T.S.S. has been presented in the Table no. 1.

The best result was observed at NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm (T₁₀) which leads to the 5.06 °Brix T.S.S. and significantly at par with T₈ (GA₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) 4.80°Brix T.S.S. and T₉ (NAA @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) 4.66°Brix. in compare to 3.53°Brix of control (T₁).

Among various treatments of plant growth regulators and Boron, NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm obtained maximum T.S.S. (5.06°Brix). This result was in agreement with Meena (2008) [5], Singh *et al.* (2011) [11], Naz *et al.* (2012) [6], Kumar *et al.* (2014) [4], Ranjeet *et al.* (2014) [8] and Verma *et al.* (2014) [12].

2. Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)

The data pertaining to ascorbic acid as increased the different levels of plant growth regulators and Boron has been presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Effect of plant growth regulator and boron Total soluble solids of tomato

Treatment	Treatment details	T.S.S. (°Brix)
T ₁	Control	3.53
T ₂	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm	3.73
T ₃	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm	4.06
T ₄	NAA @ 75 ppm	4.20
T ₅	NAA @ 100 ppm	4.26
T ₆	Boron @ 75 ppm	4.06
T ₇	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	4.30
T ₈	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	4.80
T ₉	NAA @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	4.66
T ₁₀	NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	5.06
SEm±		0.14
CD (P=0.05)		0.43

Table 2: Effect of plant growth regulator and boron Ascorbic acid of tomato.

Treatment	Treatment details	Ascorbic acid (mg/100g)
T ₁	Control	25.33
T ₂	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm	27.00
T ₃	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm	27.00
T ₄	NAA @ 75 ppm	27.00
T ₅	NAA @ 100 ppm	26.00
T ₆	Boron @ 75 ppm	26.33
T ₇	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	29.33
T ₈	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	30.00
T ₉	NAA @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	29.00
T ₁₀	NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	29.00
SEm±		0.80
CD (P=0.05)		2.40

Upon perusal of the data (Table 4.15), it was observed that maximum ascorbic acid (30.00 mg/100g) with treatment GA₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm (T₈), that was resemble to the T₇ (GA₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) 29.33 mg/100g, T₁₀ (NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) 29.00 mg/100g and T₉ (NAA @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) 29.00 mg/100g. The minimum ascorbic acid was recorded from T₁ (control) 25.33 mg/100g.

Among various treatments of plant growth regulators and Boron, GA₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm gave maximum ascorbic acid (30.00 mg/100g). As GA₃ increased proteins, soluble carbohydrates, ascorbic acid, starch and Beta-carotene in the tomato (Graham and Ballesteros 2005). This result was in agreement with Akhtar *et al.* (1996) [1], Meena (2008) [5], Singh *et al.* (2011) [11] and Kumar *et al.* (2014) [4].

3. Acidity (%)

The data pertaining to acidity (%) as affected by various level of plant growth regulators and Boron has been presented in Table 3. presented in Table 4.16 revealed that acidity was significantly affected by various treatments of plant growth regulators and Boron. Significantly the lowest percentage of acidity (0.45%) was recorded by NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm (T₁₀). And this at par with T₈ (GA₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) (0.48%), T₉ (NAA @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm) (0.48%), T₇ (GA₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm), T₅ (NAA @ 100 ppm) (0.52%) and T₄ (NAA @ 50 ppm) (0.52%). The maximum percentage of acidity was recorded (0.60%) was the treatment T₁ (control). (2012), Ranjeet *et al.* (2014) [8] and Verma *et al.* (Among various treatments of plant growth regulators and Boron, NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron

@ 75 ppm gave minimum acidity (0.45 %). This result was in agreement to Patel *et al.* 2014.

Table 3: Effect of plant growth regulator and boron on Acidity of tomato

Treatment	Treatment details	Acidity (%)
T ₁	Control	0.60
T ₂	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm	0.58
T ₃	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm	0.55
T ₄	NAA @ 75 ppm	0.52
T ₅	NAA @ 100 ppm	0.52
T ₆	Boron @ 75 ppm	0.58
T ₇	GA ₃ @ 50 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	0.50
T ₈	GA ₃ @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	0.48
T ₉	NAA @ 75 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	0.48
T ₁₀	NAA @ 100 ppm + Boron @ 75 ppm	0.45
SEm±		0.03
CD (P=0.05)		0.07

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