

Impact of Irrigation Levels and Fertigation Frequency on Yield, Water and NPK Use Efficiencies of Safflower under New Valley Conditions

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Abstract:

Two field experiments were conducted at the Research Farm, Agricultural Research Station, El-Kharga, New Valley Governorate, Egypt, during 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons to study the impact of irrigation levels ($I_1=100\%$, $I_2=80\%$ and $I_3=60\%$ of potential evapotranspiration, ET_p) and fertigation frequency ($F_1=3$, $F_2=6$, $F_3=12$ and $F_4=18$ doses) on safflower crop. The experiments were laid out in randomized complete block design in strip-plot arrangement with three replicates. Results showed that the highest mean values of seed yield, oil yield and NPK use efficiency were recorded from drip irrigation at 100% of ET_p with number fertigation splitting to 12 equal doses. The increment percentage of seed yield due to I_1F_3 treatment over fertigation splitting 3 doses under the same irrigation treatment were 62.2% and 61.1%, 42.34% and 41.63% when using I_2F_4 treatment in both seasons, respectively as compared to 100% of ET_p with fertigation splitting 3 equal doses (I_1F_1). The highest mean values of water use efficiency were recorded from drip irrigation at 80% of ET_p with fertigation splitting 18 doses in both seasons. So, it is concluded that treated safflower plants with I_2F_4 to get economical yield and water use efficiency, respectively; therefore it may be saving 20% of irrigation water.

Keywords: Safflower, fertigation, New Valley, NPK, water use efficiency.

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Introduction:

Egypt faces severe shortage in vegetable oil production. However, the majority of local edible oil production comes from some crops cultivated in the old soils. Increasing oil production must depend on cultivation of non-conventional oil crops such as safflower in reclaimed or less fertile soils (Osman *et al.*, 2008). Egypt desert occupied about 96 % from the total area and the chance of growing of safflower in Nile Valley old soil is very limited because of the high competition with other crops. So, growing safflower in Egypt may become successful if it grown in reclaimed or less fertile soils. These soils are characterized by low water holding capacity, combined with the high infiltration rate make it imperative to follow a strict irrigation scheduling policy and to use an irrigation technique that delivers small amounts of water at relatively short intervals such as drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Also, safflower is tolerant to drought because it is adaptable to semi-arid and arid conditions; it has significant economic benefits.

In modern agriculture, both fertilization and irrigation are important management factors for controlling yield quantity and quality (Bar-Yosef, 1999). The method of application of fertilizer and irrigation water affects water and fertilizer use efficiency under arid and semi-arid conditions. Application of fertilizers with irrigation water (fertigation) has several advantages over traditional methods. Time and rate of fertilizer applied can be regulated precisely (Gurusamy *et al.*, 2011 and Kumar *et al.*, 2011). Application of water at the time of actual need through drip and irriga-

tion scheduling with right quantity of water to wet the effective root zone soil is the proper irrigation management system to save the precious water. As competition for water resources and the need for water conservation increases, adoption of drip fertigation system is a must in future. The balanced application of NPK fertilizer rates play a great deal in safflower production. Igbadun *et al.* (2006) showed that the crop yield response was very much dependent on the amount of water applied at different crop development stages than the overall seasonal water applied. This approach may save water with little or no negative impact on the final crop yield. In arid and semi-arid environments, both efficient use of available water and a higher yield and quality of safflower are in demand (Lovelli *et al.*, 2007 and Koutroubas *et al.*, 2008). The objective of this work was to investigate the impact of irrigation levels and number of fertigation doses on yield as well as water and NPK use efficiency of safflower under New Valley conditions.

Material and Methods:

Two field experiments were carried out during the two successive winter growth seasons of 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 at the Research Farm, Agricultural Research Station, El-Kharga, New Valley Governorate, Egypt, which is located around the point of 25° 27' 88.48" N latitude and 30° 32' 43.38" E longitudes and at 73 m altitude. This experiment was conducted to study the impact of irrigation levels and number of fertigation doses on yield as well as water and NPK use efficiency of safflower. Monthly meteorological data collected from El-Kharga Weather Station are show in Table (1).

Table 1: Average of monthly meteorological data of El-Kharga Agro-Metrological Station in 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons

Evaluation meager time	Temperature (°C)			RH%	Wind speed (m s ⁻¹)	Rain fall (mm)	Sun shine (hours)	Solar radiation (Mjm ⁻² .d ⁻¹)	E pan (mm day ⁻¹)
	max	min	mean						
2011/2012									
Nov.	26.1	11.6	19.0	43.7	4.20	0	8.5	16.0	6.88
Dec.	22.8	8.1	15.5	49.6	2.84	0	8.4	14.7	6.34
Jan.	20.3	4.9	12.8	49.7	2.08	0	8.8	15.9	5.31
Feb.	24.3	10.2	17.3	37.1	3.24	0	8.6	17.9	10.30
Mar.	26.6	11.2	19.4	33.2	3.40	0	9.9	22.1	11.11
Apr.	35.6	18.2	27.4	24.1	3.51	0	11.6	26.6	17.29
May	38.7	22.9	31.4	22.6	3.59	0	11.3	26.9	19.57
2012/2013									
Nov.	29.9	14.8	22.5	45.5	2.45	0	8.8	16.3	8.63
Dec.	23.5	9.2	16.2	50.7	2.30	0	8.2	14.5	6.18
Jan.	23.8	9.0	16.2	43.3	2.41	0	8.6	15.5	6.46
Feb.	25.9	10.0	18.0	38.1	2.62	0	9.5	18.9	8.13
Mar.	31.5	13.7	22.4	29.7	2.66	0	11.1	23.7	11.43
Apr.	32.9	16.3	24.9	26.5	3.07	0	11.2	26	14.26
May	39.9	23.5	32.2	20.6	3.60	0	11.6	27.4	20.78

The randomized complete block design using strip-plot with three replicates was adopted. Twelve treatments were used which included three irrigation levels ($I_1=100\%$, $I_2=80\%$ and $I_3=60\%$ of potential evapotranspiration, ET_p) and four fertigation splitting ($F_1=3$, $F_2=6$, $F_3=12$ and $F_4=18$ doses). The irrigation levels were laid in main plots while the fertilization frequency was arranged in sub plots. Safflower seeds (Giza-1 cultivar) were sown on 15th and 18th November in the first and second seasons, respectively. The physical and chemical properties of soil site and

irrigation water are given in Table (2).

After 30 days from sowing the seedlings were thinned one plant per hill. Drip irrigation system was set up of GR polyethylene pipe of 16 mm in diameter with auto emitters every 30 cm apart and 50 cm between the drip lines with flow rate of 4 liter per hour per dripper at pressure of 1.5 bars. Experimental plot area was 36 m² (20 m X 1.8 m). There was 1.20 and 1.80 m separation between each treatment and plot, respectively, in order to minimize water movement among different treatments.

Table 2: Some physical and chemical properties of a representative soil samples in the experimental site before sowing (0-30 cm depth) and chemical analysis of water properties at El-Kharga location in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons.

Soil Characteristic	2011/2012*	2012/2013*	Water properties	2011/2012*	2012/2013*
Sand (%)	90.53	90.65	EC (dS m ⁻¹)	0.46	0.51
Clay (%)	5.35	5.55	pH	6.76	6.65
Silt (%)	4.12	3.80	Soluble cations meq l ⁻¹		
Soil texture	Sandy	Sandy	Ca ⁺	0.92	1.19
Organic matter (%)	0.08	0.11	Mg ⁺⁺	1.06	1.26
Field capacity (%)	10.2	9.55	Na ⁺	1.31	1.38
EC (1:1 extract) (dSm ⁻¹)	0.63	0.67	K ⁺	1.04	1.25
pH (1:1 suspension)	7.68	7.68	Soluble anions meq l ⁻¹		
Total nitrogen (%)	0.003	0.003	CO ₃ ⁻² +HCO ₃ ⁻¹	1.95	2.15
Water saturation % (v/v)	22.5	22.1	Cl ⁻¹	1.65	1.63
Field capacity % (v/v)	10.2	9.55	SO ₄ ⁻²	0.73	1.3
Wilting point % (v/v)	4.9	4.3	SAR	1.32	1.25
Available water	5.3	5.25	Fe (ppm)	1.15	1.43
CaCO ₃ (%)	3.33	3.63	Mn (ppm)	0.10	0.10
NaHCO ₃ - P (mg kg ⁻¹)	8.01	8.49			
Exch. K (meq 100 g ⁻¹ soil)	0.12	0.14			

*Each value represents the mean of three replicates.

The irrigation treatments started at 30 days after emergence. All experimental units received equal amounts of water during germination (112 m³ fed.⁻¹). Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers were added according to the recommended doses of 45 kg N fed.⁻¹ as ammonium nitrate (33.5% N), 22.5 kg P₂O₅ fed.⁻¹ as phosphoric acid (85% P₂O₅) and

24 kg K fed.⁻¹ as potassium sulfate (48% K₂O) were applied through fertigation. The amounts of fertilizers were divided into 3, 6, 12 and 18 equal doses. These doses were given at 21, 15, 7 and 3 day intervals starting at 3rd week after planting. The amounts of NPK fertilizers used per each dose are shown in Table (3).

Table 3: The amounts of NPK fertilizers used per each dose

Fertigation treatments	Ammonium nitrate (Kg fed. ⁻¹)		Phosphoric acid (Kg fed. ⁻¹)		Potassium sulphate (Kg fed. ⁻¹)	
	Dose	Total	Dose	Total	Dose	Total
F ₁ (3 doses)	45.0	135	14.0	42	16.7	50
F ₂ (6 doses)	22.5	135	7.0	42	8.3	50
F ₃ (12 doses)	11.3	135	3.5	42	4.2	50
F ₄ (18 doses)	7.5	135	2.3	42	2.8	50

All cultural practices were followed as recommended for safflower crop through the two growing seasons. The amounts of irrigation water applied were measured by flow meter. The daily pan evaporation data

was used for scheduling irrigation. Irrigation treatments were given once in three days interval. Times and amounts of applied water at every irrigation treatment are presented in Table (4).

Table 4: The times and amounts of applied water at every irrigation treatment

	No. days	Irrig. interval	No. Irrig.	Network discharge (m ³ h ⁻¹)	Total applied water (m ³) period ¹			Operating time (minutes)		
					100% ET _p	80% ET _p	60% ET _p	100% ET _p	80% ET _{p2}	60% ET _p
2011/12										
At sowing	-	-	1	112	112.00	112.00	112.00	60	60	60
November	13	3	4	112	245.55	245.55	245.55	33	33	33
December	31	3	10	112	518.56	462.21	405.86	28	25	22
January	31	3	10	112	440.14	352.12	264.09	24	19	14
February	29	3	10	112	623.42	498.74	374.05	33	27	20
March	31	3	10	112	804.13	643.30	482.48	43	34	26
April	30	3	10	112	1137.64	910.11	682.58	61	49	37
Total					3881.44	3224.03	2566.61			
2012/13										
At sowing	-	-	1	112	112.00	112.00	112.00	60	60	60
November	10	3	3	112	205.24	205.24	205.24	27	27	27
December	31	3	10	112	518.75	478.83	438.90	28	26	24
January	31	3	10	112	603.17	482.54	361.90	32	26	19
February	28	3	10	112	631.36	505.09	378.82	34	27	20
March	31	3	10	112	904.61	723.69	542.77	48	39	29
April	30	3	10	112	994.56	795.65	596.73	53	43	32
Total					3969.69	3303.04	2636.36			

The pan was located near the experimental field. The following equation (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977) was used to calculate the potential evapotranspiration (ET_p):

$$ET_p = E_{pan} \times K_{pan}$$

Where:

E_{pan} = pan evaporation (mm/day)

K_{pan} = pan coefficient

The K_{pan} values were calculated using following equation according Allen *et al.* (1998):

$$K_p = 0.108 - 0.0286\mu_2 + 0.0422 \ln(\text{fet}) + 0.1434 \ln(\text{RH}_{\text{mean}}) - 0.000631 [\ln(\text{fet})]^2 \ln(\text{RH}_{\text{mean}})$$

RH_{mean} = average daily relative humidity [%] = (RH_{max} + RH_{min})/2

FET = fetch, distance of bare soil upwind of the evaporation pan (m)

u_2 = mean wind at 2-m height ($m\ s^{-1}$)

At harvest, samples of ten guarded plants from each plot were taken randomly in both seasons to measure the following characters: plant height (cm), number of branches, 100-seed weight (g) and seed yield ($kg\ fed.^{-1}$): was calculated from plot seed yield and convert to seed yield per $fed.^{-1}$. Seed oil percentage: It was estimated by soxhlet apparatus using petroleum ether (40-60°C) as solvent according to (A.O.A.C. 1995).

- Oil yield ($kg\ fed.^{-1}$): was calculated as following equation:

$$Oil\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1}) = \frac{Oil\% \times seed\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}{100}$$

Water and fertilizers use efficiencies:

-Water use efficiency ($kg\ seed/m^3$)

$$WUE\ (kg\ m^{-3}) = \frac{Seed\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}{Consumptive\ water\ use\ (m^3\ fed.^{-1})}$$

Fertilizers use efficiency: were calculated according to Vijayakumar *et al.* (2010) as follows:

-Nitrogen use efficiency ($kg\ seed/kg\ N$)

$$NUE = \frac{Seed\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}{Nitrogen\ applied\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}$$

-Phosphorus use efficiency ($kg\ seed/kg\ P_2O_5$)

$$PUE = \frac{Seed\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}{Phosphorus\ applied\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}$$

-Potassium use efficiency ($kg\ seed/kg\ K_2O$)

$$KUE = \frac{Seed\ yield\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}{Potassium\ applied\ (kg\ fed.^{-1})}$$

Actual crop evapotranspiration (ET_c)

Actual crop evapotranspiration under different treatments was measured directly by measuring changes in soil water content using Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR), model Trase System1 6050 X I in 0.15 m

depth intervals down to 0.60 m. Actual crop evapotranspiration for any period will be determined according to Israelson and Hansen, 1962 as follows:

$$ET_c = \sum_{i=1}^{n-4} (\theta_2 - \theta_1) / 100$$

Where: ET_c = Actual crop evapotranspiration

n = number of layers

θ_1 = soil moisture % before irrigation (v/v)

θ_2 = soil moisture % 24 h after irrigation (v/v)

Statistical analysis:

The results were statistically analyzed according to Gomez and Gomez (1984), using the computer MSTAT.C statistical analysis package by Freed *et al.* (1989). The least significant differences (L.S.D.) probability level of 5% was manually calculated compare the differences among means.

Results and Discussion:

Effect of irrigation levels

Data presented in Table (5) show that irrigation levels had a significant effect on all studied traits except oil % in both seasons. Moreover, no significant difference was found between I₁ (100% ET_p) and I₂ (80% ET_p) for plant height, number of branches, 100-seed weight (g), seed yield ($kg\ fed.^{-1}$) and oil yield ($kg\ fed.^{-1}$) in both seasons. This means that can save 20% irrigation water consequently, decreasing water with draw cost or using the saved quantity to cultivating another area. This might be due to the optimum soil moisture required by safflower plants. Among the three irrigation treatments, irrigation at 100% of ET_p registered the highest values of plant height (117.3 and 117 cm), number of branches (6.48 and 7.45), 100-seed

weight (6.81 and 7.17 g), oil yield (425.02 and 464.70 kg fed.⁻¹) and seed yield (1392.0 and 1460.1 kg fed.⁻¹) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Ghamarnia and Sepehri (2010) reported that maximum seed and oil yields were achieved for treatments 100% ET_p. Also, the results in Table (6) show that irrigation levels had a significant effect on water, N, P and K use efficiency, while it was no significant difference between I₁ and I₂ for these traits. Among the three irrigation treatments, irrigation at 80% of ET_p registered the highest mean values of water use efficiency (0.47 and 0.49 kg m⁻³), where the highest NUE (30.93 and 32.45 kg seed kg⁻¹ N applied), PUE (61.87 and 64.89 kg seed kg⁻¹ P applied) and KUE (58.0 and 60.84 kg seed kg⁻¹ K applied) were recorded in irrigation at 100% of ET_p (I₁) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Movahhedy-Dehnavy *et al.* (2004) found that there was a decrease in seed yield, total biomass, number of capitula per plant and plant height each growing season by withholding irrigation at various growth stages at all treatment combinations, especially when water deficit stress was imposed at the flowering stage. The results were similar to the findings with Lovelli *et al.* (2007), Esendala *et al.* (2008), Istanbuluoglu *et al.* (2009), Eslam *et al.* (2010), Eslam (2011) and Orange and Ebadi (2012).

Effect of fertigation frequency splitting

Fertigation frequency splitting had a significant effect on all studied traits (Table 5). The third fertigation frequency splitting F₃ (12 equal doses) was superior over the other fertigation frequency splitting in most studied traits. As well as, the differ-

ences between F₃ (12 equal doses) and F₄ (18 equal doses) were insignificant. So, it can use F₃ fertigation frequency splitting to achieve economical yield without significant decreases. Application of F₃ fertigation frequency splitting recoded the highest values of 100-seed weight, seed yield, oil% and oil yield. The highest yield might be due to the application of optimum fertilizer time that required by the crop.

On the other hand, data in Table 6 show that fertigation frequency splitting had a significant effect on water, N, P and K use efficiency. The highest water use efficiency (0.49 and 0.51 kg m⁻³), Nitrogen use efficiency (28.76 and 30.20 kg seed kg⁻¹ N applied), Phosphours use efficiency (57.51 and 60.39 kg seed kg⁻¹ P applied) and Potassium use efficiency (53.92 and 56.62 kg seed kg⁻¹ K applied) were recorded in F₃ in first and second seasons, respectively. Also, the results show that there is no significant difference between F₃ and F₄ in this respect. Das and Ghosh (1993) reported that fertilizer nitrogen doses significantly affected the yield and yield components up to the 60 kg N ha⁻¹ dose as an optimum dose. Nimje (1991) found that the water use efficiency was increased by nitrogen application. Murat and Yildirim (2004) found that the different nitrogen fertilizer doses had a significant effect on both seed and oil yields of safflower in both years, but not on the oil%. Ahmed *et al.* (1985) found that various doses of nitrogen (60 kg fed.⁻¹) had a significant positive effects on the plant height, the number of branches, the flowering percentage, the seed yield, the 1000 seed number and protein content in seeds of safflower. This combination indi-

cating that the balanced of primary nutrients has more advantages than their imbalanced application, this balance caused to the vigor of vegetative growth of safflower plants and increases synthetic materials in different parts of plant and consequently yield and its components. These results matched those obtained by El-Nakhlawy (1991), Patil and Patil (1998) and Ali and Osman (2004).

Effect of interaction between irrigation levels and fertigation frequency splitting

Results in Table (5) show that irrigation level and frequency splitting fertilizer significantly influenced all studied traits except oil% in both seasons. The maximum mean values of plant height (141.0 and 138.0 cm), number of branches plant⁻¹ (7.6 and 8.6) were observed in drip irrigation at 100% of ET_p (I₁) with fertigation splitting into 12 equal doses (F₃) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Whereas the shortest plant (58.0 and 43.0 cm) and the minimum number of branches plant⁻¹ (3.8 and 4.3) were recorded in drip irrigation at 60% of ET_p with fertigation splitting into 6 equal doses (F₂) in the first and second seasons, respectively. The improved growth characters in 100% of ET_p and 12 equal doses (I₁F₃) might be due to optimum availability of nutrients through better fertilizer distribution in the root zone of the plants which was enhanced by the presence of adequate moisture in the soil. Also, data in Table 6 reveal that the influence of irrigation and fertigation frequency splitting reflected on the yield parameters of safflower in both seasons. The maximum mean values of the studied characters were recorded from drip irrigation at 100% of ET_p with fertigation splitting into

12 equal doses (I₁F₃) treatment. The increment percentages of seed yield due to I₁F₃ treatment over I₁F₁ treatment were 62.2 and 61.1%; while, it were 42.34% and 41.63% when using I₂F₄ treatment in both seasons, respectively. The results could be attributed to positive effect of irrigation and fertigation frequency splitting through application of water and fertilization in the suitable time to plant required. The lowest values of mentioned yield parameters were observed in drip irrigation at 60% of ET_p with fertigation splitting 3 equal doses which was inferior to all the other combinations.

The reason for the lowest values of studied parameters may be due to lesser uptake of nutrients by plants under low soil moisture (drip irrigation at 60% ET_p) even though the applied fertilizer was high. The influences of irrigation and fertigation splitting on safflower water use efficiency (WUE) were shown in Table (6). The highest WUE of 0.63 and 0.65 kg m⁻³ were recorded in drip irrigation at 80% of ET_p with fertigation splitting 18 equal doses (I₂F₄). This result may be related to the reduction in the water consumptive use with F₄ (18 equal doses) compared to other treatments.

Vijayakumar *et al.* (2010) mentioned that the highest WUE was observed in I₂F₃ (Drip irrigation at 75% of pan evaporation (PE) with fertigation at 75% of recommended N and K) whereas the least WUE was recorded in I₁F₁ (Drip irrigation at 100% of (PE) with fertigation at 125% of recommended N and K) on the same crop. These findings are in conformity with those obtained by Manal El-Tantawy *et al.* (2007) on maize and Abdel-Mawgoud *et al.*

(2009) on sunflower. Data illustrated in Table (6) focus that irrigation and fertigation splitting had a significant effect on N, P and K use efficiency in the two growing seasons. Increased nitrogen use efficiency (NUE), phosphorus (PUE) and potassium use efficiency (KUE) with the decreased level of fertilizer doses were observed. The highest NUE (40.20 and 42.04 kg seed kg⁻¹ N applied), PUE (80.40 and 84.40 kg seed kg⁻¹ P applied) and KUE (75.38 and 78.82 kg seed kg⁻¹ K applied) were recorded in I₁F₃ in the first and second seasons, respectively. As the fertilizer doses increased, the Phosphorus use efficiency (FUE) increased when there was less yield difference. Similar findings were observed by Singhandhupe *et al.* (2003), Hongal and Nooli (2007) and Badr and Abou

El-Yaized (2007). Safflower has fairly good resistance to soil salinity and drought stress conditions and can be cultivated in dry and semi arid areas (Ali and Mahmoud, 2012).

Conclusion:

Higher mean values of seed yield, oil yield and NPK use efficiency were recorded by using from drip irrigation at 100% of ET_p with splitting fertilizer into 12 equal doses with non-significantly differences as compared to 80% of ET_p. The highest water use efficiency was recorded in drip irrigation at 80% of ET_p with splitting fertilizer into 18 equal doses. So, it is concluded that treated safflower plants with I₂F₄ to get highest yield and water use efficiency, respectively; therefore this may be saving 20% irrigation water.

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تأثير الري وعدد جرعات الأسمدة المضافة مع ماء الري على محصول القرطم و كفاءة استخدام الماء والنيروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم تحت ظروف الوادى الجديد
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الملخص:

أجريت تجربتين حقليتين بمزرعة محطة البحوث الزراعيه بالخارجه - الوادى الجديد خلال موسمى الزراعة ٢٠١٢/٢٠١١ و ٢٠١٣/٢٠١٢ لدراسة تأثير الري وعدد جرعات التسميد مع ماء الري على محصول القرطم وكذلك كفاءة استخدام الماء و كفاءة استخدام النيروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم تحت ظروف الوادى الجديد حيث استخدمت القطاعات الكامله العشوائيه بتصميم الشرائح المنشقة فى ثلاث مكررات. أستعمل فى هذه التجربه ثلاث مستويات للرى (١٠٠ و ٨٠ و ٦٠% من بخر الوعاء) مع تقسيم أسمدة NPK الموصى بها إلى جرعات متساوية وهى ٣ و ٦ و ١٢ و ١٨ وإضافتها من خلال مياه الري تحت ظروف الري بالتنقيط.

أوضحت النتائج أن أعلى قيم لصفة ارتفاع النباتات وعدد الفروع ووزن ١٠٠ بذرة ومحصول البذور ومحصول الزيت وكفاءة استخدام الأسمدة كانت راجعة إلى معاملة الري عند ١٠٠% من بخر الوعاء وتقسيم الأسمدة إلى ١٢ جرعة تحت نظام الري بالتنقيط. حيث أدت هذه المعاملة إلى زيادة محصول البذور بمقدار ٦٢,٢% و ٦١,١%. بينما أدت معاملة الري عند ٨٠% من بخر الوعاء وتقسيم الأسمدة إلى ١٨ جرعة إلى زيادة قدرها ٤٢,٣٤% و ٤١,٦٣% بالمقارنة بمعاملة الري عند ١٠٠% من بخر الوعاء وتقسيم الأسمدة ٣ جرعات لكلا الموسمين على التوالي. سجلت أعلى قيمة لكفاءة استخدام مياه الري في معاملة الري عند استخدام ٨٠% من بخر الوعاء والتسميد بعدد ١٨ جرعة ولهذا فانه باستخدام هذه المعاملة يمكن الحصول على محصول على من القرطم مع أعلى كفاءة لاستخدام مياه الري وبالتالي توفير ٢٠% من مياه الري.