

## **The study of off-season planting date of three onion cultivars in the north of Khouzestan province**

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in order to investigate the effect of early planting date on bulb production of three onion cultivars an experiment was conducted at Dezful Agricultural Education center in 1999. The design of the experiment was a split plot in the randomized complete block with 4 replications. The main plots were consisted of 5 levels of planting dates ( 1, 11, 21 and 31 August) in Khoremabad Agricultural Research Center. In order to produce onion early seedlings, the seedlings were transported from Khoremabad to Dezful and replanted (70 days latter). Control treatment (12 October) was sowing in seed direct planting in Dezful region. The subplots were three onion cultivars ( Ringer Grano, *Primavara* and *Savana Sweet*).

Results of tde experiment indicated that planting date and cultivar affect bulb and total yield, number of branches with flower and bulb diameter. Maximum and minimum of bulb diameter, total yield, leaves number and leaves weight in harvest time were obtained in the first and fourth planting dates, but the highest bulb weight was obtained in third and control planting times and the lowest bulb weight was found in the first and fourth sowing times. In the first and second planting times emergence of branches with flower was more than other sowing dates and least branch flowering was obtained with *control* treatment. Ringer Grano and *Savana Sweet* cultivars had the highest and lowest branch flowering respectively.