

## **Effects of drought stress on seedlings of some Iranian almond populations**

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Seedlings of some Iranian almond populations were subjected to drought stress treatments. Seeds, collected from different almond growing regions (East Azarbaijan, Khorasan, Chahar-Mahal and Bakhtiari, and Kerman), were sowed in black polyethylene bags containing a light medium and after some growth the stress treatments were applied using the withholding water technique.

Analysis of data showed that, increasing irrigation intervals results in *reduction of leaf area, shoot length, shoot and root dry weight, leaf water potential and relative water content*. Populations were also showing interaction for increase of shoot dry weight with different irrigation regimes. This might be useful for improving the drought stress tolerance of almond in breeding programs.