

Effect of different cover types on the production period and yield of watermelons

R. Onsinejad¹ and K. Abak²

1. Dept. of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Guilan University, Rasht.

2. Dept. of Horticulture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Cukurova, Adana, Turkey.

Effect of different cover types on the plant growth and development period (sowing-emergence, emergence-anthesis, anthesis-maturity and sowing-first harvest) and on yield of watermelon were investigated.

In this study 6 hybrids and 4 open pollinated cultivars were grown in glasshouse, high tunnel, low tunnel and in open field. Sowing times were 7th of December for glasshouse, 11th of January for high tunnel, 4th February for low tunnel, and 15th of March for open field growing. Plants were prepared in glasshouse for all treatments. Results of the trials have shown that there were significant effects of different cover types on growing and developing periods and yield. The highest yield was obtained from high tunnels whereas the lowest yield was obtained from open field.

Times for sowing - emergence, emergence-anthesis, anthesis-maturity and sowing-first harvest was the largest in glasshouse whereas it was the shortest in open field. High and low tunnels were found between glasshouse and openfield. However first harvests were realised at the end of April in glasshouse, middle of May in high tunnel, end of May in low tunnel and end of July in open field.

There were significant differences between the cultivars from the point of plant growth and development periods as well as for yield.