

Investigation on the inheritance of earliness in watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*)

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In this study, 3 combinations of three open pollinated cultivars; an early one (Sugr baby), medium early (Crimson Sweet) and late one (Halep Karasi) were used for crossing. In each combination, means and variance for the parents (P1 and P2), F1, F2 and backcross generations (F1×P1 and F1×P2) were used to estimate the various gene effects and heritabilities of "sowing-emergence", "emergence-anthesis", "anthesis-maturity" and "sowing-first harvest" characteristics which indicate the earliness.

Estimated gene effects on earliness factors showed that earliness was controlled by dominant and additive gene effects, but additive gene effect was more important than dominants. Inheritance degree of earliness was also high.