EFFECT OF MULCHING ON MOISTURE CONSERVATION AND GROWTH OF MUNG (VIGNA RADIATA) UNDER RAINFED CONDITIONS

Mushtaq Ahmad Chaudhry and Faizullah*

ABSTRACT

In order to study the effect of mulching on moisture conservation and growth of mung (*Vigna radiata*), wheat straw was applied at the rate of two, four and six tonnes per hectare. It was revealed that mulch application had a significant effect on shoot length and weight, root length and weight, number of pods per plant and crop yield. However, the pod length, number of grains per pod and 1,000 grain weight were not affected significantly. There was a significant increase in the moisture content. It was further observed that moisture content at 15-30 cm depth was higher compared to 0-15 cm layer of soil and higher mulch rates (four to six tonnes ha^{-1}) delayed the crop maturity by about one week.