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Effects of Soil Salinity on Cotton (G. hirsutum L.) at early stage of growth

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Abstract

The effects of soil salinity at the early stage of growth were studied on cotton Cv. Express. Four salinity levels were created artificially by the addition of saline solution in the soil. Observations were recorded on main stem height, number of leaves and biological yield. The effect of salinity was pronounced at all salinity levels and decreased the main stem height about 62% and biological yield 86.5% and EC_e 30 mmhos/cm compared to the check. A 50% biological yield reduction occured at EC_e 16.75 mmhos/cm. sodium, calcium, magnesium and chloride contents increased with salinity levels, while Potassium content behaved inversely to salinty.