# **Response of Kenaf Variety, HC-583** to Different Sowing Dates

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## SUMMARY

A field experiment to study the response of Kenaf variety, HC-583 to 6 sowing dates (April 1, 16, May, 1, 16 and June 1, 16) was conducted in a replicated randomised block design at the Field Research Station of the Regional Research laboratory, Jammu during the year 1977. Results indicated highly significant difference in plant height in April 1 and April 16 sowings and significant differences in basal diameter of stalk in April 16 sowing. However, the differences in dry yield of stalk between various sowing dates were not significant. Therefore, sowing of this crop earlier to the last sowing date i.e. June 16 is not recommended.

## **INTRODUDTION**

In earlier publications (1,2) we discussed about the introduction and performance of several indigenous and exotic Kenaf varieties in Jammu and recommended the cultivation of HC-583 variety of Kenaf under the agro-climatic conditions prevailing in Jammu. In order to exploit the yield potential of this variety, a knowledge of the optimum sowing date is essential. It was, therefore, considered necessary to conduct an experiment to study the response of this variety to different sowing dates.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The experiment, comprising of 6 sowing dates (April 1, 16, May 1, 16 and June 1, 16) and 6 replications was laid in a randomised block design at the Field Research Station of the Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu during the year 1977. The experimental site was sandy loam in texture (sand 49.5%, silt, 31%, clay 14.5%) and poor in organic matter as well as available nutrients (organic carbon 0.33%, available  $P_{g}O_{5}$  15.6 kg/ha, available  $K_{2}O$  115 kg/ha) and pH 7.8. The next plot size was 72 m<sup>2</sup>. A basal dose of 40 kg N/ha in the form of urea, 40 kg  $P_{2}O_{5}$ /ha in the form of single superphosphate and 40 kg  $K_{2}O$ /ha in the form of muriate of potash was applied in the field before sowing. Seed was sown a 15 kg/ha in lines, 40 cm apart and the plant to plant distance was maintained at about 20 cm by thinning the crop after a fortnight of sowing to ensure uniformity of the crop. The crop was irrigated at fortnightly interval. Harvesting was carried out in mid-November, when the plants were in full bloom.

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## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Data on plant height, basal diameter and dry yield of stalk, as affected by sowing dates, are given in Table-I.

TABLE–I. SHOWING THE EFFECT OF TIME OF SOWING ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF KENAF VARIETY, HC–583 DURING THE YEAR 1977

Time of sowing	Plant height (cm)	Basal dia- meter of stalk (mm)	Dry yield of Stalk (Q/ha)
April 1	348,42**	16.31	83.66
April 16	345.59**	17.31*	85.50
May 1	315.22	15.13	72.00
May 16	307.59	15.08	72.00
June 1	286.76	14.08	69.00
June 16	272.51	14.70	70.27
S.Em +	16.26	0.88	10.42
C.D. at 5%	47.36	2.58	30.35
C.D. at 1%	64.07	3.49	41.06

\*Significant

**\*\*Highly significant** 

#### **PLANT HEIGHT**

As can be seen in the Table, there was progressive decrease in plant height as the sowing date was shifted from April 1 to June 16. April 1 and April 16 sowings gave highly significant differences over June 16 sowing, but between April 1 and April 16 sowings, the differences were not significance. The maximum increase in plant height in April 1 and April 16 sowings were 75.91 cm and 73.08 cm respectively moreover June 16 sowinng.

## BASAL DIAMETER OF STALK

Though there was progressive decrease in plant height as the sowing date was shifted from April 1 to June 16, there was, however, no progressive decrease in basal diameter of stalk with the shifting of the sowing dates. Contrary to plant height, which gave maximum height in April 1 sowing and minimum height in June 16 sowing, the maximum basal diameter of 17.31 mm was recorded in April 16 sowing and the minimum basal diameter of 14.08 mm in June sowing. The difference in basal diameter of stalk between April 16 and June sowing were significant, the increase being 22.81% more in April 6 sowing over June 1 sowing.

## DRY YIELD OF STALK

Like the basal diameter, the dry yield of stalk also did not decrease progressively with the shifting of the sowing date from April 1 to June 16. Like the basal diameter again, April 16 sowing recorded maximum dry yield of stalk and June 1 sowing recorded minimum dry yield of stalk but unlike the basal diameter the differences in dry yield of stalk between various sowing dates were not significant, though the increase in dry yield of stalk was 23.91% more in April 16 sowing over June 1 sowing.

As the differences in the dry yield of stalk between various sowing dates were not significant, it is, therefore no use sowing this crop earlier to the last sowing date i.e. June 16.

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