

Original Research Article

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Studies on the Effect of Planting Dates on Growth, Yield Components and Quality of Red Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* f. *rubra*)

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ABSTRACT

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The investigation entitled “Studies on the effect of planting dates on growth, yield and quality of red cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* f. *rubra*)” was carried out in Rabi season 2018-2019 at Mango Research Station, Nuzvid, Krishna Dist. (A.P.). Study included three levels of planting dates (30th September, 15th and 30th October) each replicated thrice in FRBD. Planting dates significantly influenced the growth, yield and quality parameters at all the growth stages. Among all the treatments, significantly highest plant height (34.32 cm), plant spread (50.46 cm) and number of heading leaves per plant (21.49) recorded at final harvest. Among yield and yield attributing characters maximum head circumference (46.72 cm), head length (16.73 cm), head volume (859.58 cc), head compactness (0.51), head weight (551 g), head yield per plot (44.10 kg), Estimated yield (338.83q ha⁻¹) and dry matter production (11.24%) with minimum days to head initiation (47.01days) and head harvest (81.30days) were recorded by 15th October planting date (D₂) and the same was also maintained best quality with respect to anthocyanin content (118.83 mg/100g), ascorbic acid content (37.68 mg/100g) and TSS (8.54° Brix).

Introduction

Red cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* f. *rubra*) is also known as purple cabbage or red kraut. It is an important fancy and highly nutritive exotic vegetable. It belongs to the family brassicaceae and comes under the subgroup *rubra* of cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* L.). It is having chromosome number 2n=2X=18. Red cabbage is a native

crop in the Mediterranean region of Europe and now grows all over the world as a fresh market vegetable. Red cabbage synthesized and accumulated anthocyanin at all the developmental stages of vegetative growth (Yuan, 2009). It is a rich source of anthocyanin, proteins, fats and minerals like calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur etc. and vitamins viz. A, B₁, B₂ and C. Red cabbage distinguished by the presence of

exceptional health enhancing properties like anticancer properties due to the presence of Indole-3-Carbinol and many beneficial sensory traits, which has become more and more important in recent years (Wojciechowska *et al.*, 2007). In India, cabbage including red cabbage is cultivated in an area of 4.03 lakh hectares producing 91.92 lakh metric tonnes (NHB, 2019).

It is a cool season crop and widely grown in temperate and subtropical region of India. The transition from vegetative to reproductive growth is triggered by temperature. The optimum temperature for growth is 15-18°C. It can tolerate freezing temperatures but is less tolerant to high temperatures (More, 2006). Very few studies on the growth and yield of red cabbage have been carried out in our country. Therefore, the study of cultivation practices with respect to suitable planting dates is a pre-requisite for any new crop assessment to achieve more returns per unit area. Since, red cabbage crop has been introduced recently in our country there is a need to standardize the planting dates to suit the local conditions.

Materials and Methods

An investigation entitled “Studies on the effect of planting dates on growth, yield and quality of red cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata* f. *rubra*)” was carried out during *rabi* season, 2018-2019 at MRS, Nuzvid, Krishna district (A.P.). The location falls under Agro-climatic zone-10, east coastal plain and hills (Krishna-Godavari zone) with an average rainfall of 900 mm, located at an altitude of 34 m (112 feet) above mean sea level. The location is geographically situated at 16°83'N latitude and 81°5'E longitude. It experiences hot humid summer and mild winter climate. Study included three levels of planting dates (30th September, 15th and 30th October) each replicated thrice in FRBD. The observations

were recorded on various growth, yield and quality parameters.

The data obtained in respect to all the characters *viz.*, plant height (cm), plant spread (cm), number of heading leaves per plant, number of days to head initiation (days), number of days to head harvest (days), head circumference (cm), head length (cm), head volume (cc), head compactness, head weight (g), head yield per plot (kg), head yield per hectare (q), dry matter production (%), anthocyanine content (mg 100g⁻¹), ascorbic acid (mg 100g⁻¹) and TSS (° Brix) was subjected to the statistical analysis. The data were analyzed by the methods outlined by Panse and Sukhatme (1985) using the mean values of five random plants in each replication from all treatment to find out the significance of planting dates.

Results and Discussion

Growth parameters

Plant height (cm), plant spread (cm) and number of heading leaves per plant

It was observed that significantly highest plant height (32.32 cm), plant spread (50.46 cm) and number of heading leaves per plant (21.49) was observed by 15th October planting. However, the minimum plant height (26.95 cm), plant spread (38.37 cm) and number of heading leaves per plant (17.26) was recorded with the 30th September planting (Table 1). These above results are indicating the influence of planting dates on all growth parameters. The fluctuation in temperature was the main reason for increase and decrease in growth parameters in red cabbage might be due to favourable climatic conditions available during growth period. Similar results under different climatic conditions were reported in broccoli (Getachew *et al.*, 2016 and Kanase *et al.*, 2018) for plant height; With respect to

plant spread (cm), similar results were observed in broccoli (Vinod *et al.*, 2017; Kanase *et al.*, 2018), whereas the results were in line with findings by Ullah *et al.*, 2013 in cabbage for number of heading leaves per plant.

Number of days taken to head initiation and head harvest (days)

The minimum number of days taken to head initiation (47.01 days) and number of days taken to harvest (81.30 days) was recorded with 15th October planting which was significantly superior to 30th October planting with 53.19 and 90.95 days to head initiation and harvest, respectively. Whereas the maximum number of days taken to head initiation (59.77 days) and number of days taken to head harvest (101.22 days) was recorded with 30th September planting (Table. 1). Significantly minimum number of days to head initiation and harvest was might be due to favourable climatic conditions available during growth period which enhanced early head initiation and head harvest. The increase in number of days to head initiation and head harvest might be due to the fluctuation and high temperatures prevailing during growth period which resulted in delayed head formation. These findings are in accordance with broccoli (Vipul *et al.*, 2017 and Kanase *et al.*, 2018).

Yield and yield attributing parameters

Head circumference (cm) and head length (cm)

Significantly superior head circumference (46.72 cm) and head length (16.73 cm) was recorded with 15th October planting, followed by 30th October planting date (D₃) with (41.04 cm) and head length (14.79 cm), whereas the minimum head circumference (35.27 cm) and

head length (11.18 cm) was recorded with 30th September planting (Table 2). These variations might be due to the favorable climatic conditions prevailing during the head formation stage. The results were in collaboration with findings obtained in cabbage (Lavanya *et al.*, 2014) and broccoli (Shapla *et al.*, 2014) for head circumference, whereas, in cabbage (Singh *et al.*, 2010), Broccoli (Abd, 2008; Vinod *et al.*, 2017) for head length.

Head volume (cc) and Head compactness

It was observed that head volume and head compactness differed significantly with planting dates in red cabbage. The highest head volume (859.58 cc) and head compactness (0.53) was recorded with 15th October, whereas the minimum head volume (810.41 cc) and head compactness (0.83) was recorded with 30th September planting (Table. 2). The increase in metabolites production due to favourable climate condition attributed to increase in plant growth, it might also be influenced the increase in head volume and compactness. Similar results have been reviled in cabbage by Abed *et al.*, (2015) and in broccoli by Kanase *et al.*, (2018) for head volume with respect to head compactness, Similar findings have been reported by Singh *et al.*, (2010) in cabbage and by Abd (2008) in broccoli.

Head weight (g), head yield per plot (kg/12.87m²)

The data on head weight and head yield per plot revealed significant differences among different planting dates. Significantly higher head weight (551 g) and head yield per plot (44.10 kg) was recorded with 15th October planting, whereas the 30th September planting recorded lowest head weight (447 g) and head yield per plot (35.74 kg) (Table 3).

Table.1 Effect of planting dates on growth parameters of red cabbage

Treatment	Plant height (cm) at final harvest	Plant spread (cm) at final harvest	No. of heading leaves plant ⁻¹	No. of days to head initiation (days)	No. of days to head harvest (days)
D1: 30 th September	26.95	38.37	17.26	59.77	101.22
D2: 15 th October	33.32	50.46	21.49	47.01	81.30
D3: 30 th October	30.18	44.54	19.09	53.19	90.95
SEm±	0.898	1.792	0.240	0.712	2.950
CD @ 5%	2.651	5.289	0.708	2.102	8.708

Table.2 Effect of planting dates on yield attributing parameters of red cabbage

Treatment	Head circumference (cm)	Head length (cm)	Head volume (cc)	Head compactness
D1: 30 th September	35.27	11.18	810.41	0.83
D2: 15 th October	46.72	16.73	859.58	0.53
D3: 30 th October	41.04	14.79	835.41	0.58
SEm±	1.420	0.334	6.669	0.035
CD @ 5%	4.192	0.985	19.685	0.101

Table.3 Effect of planting dates on yield parameters of red cabbage

Treatment	Head weight (g)	Head yield plot ⁻¹ (kg/12.87m ²)	Estimated yield per hectare (q)	Dry matter production (%)
D1: 30 th September	447	35.74	277.70	9.51
D2: 15 th October	551	44.10	338.83	11.24
D3: 30 th October	495	39.62	307.84	10.38
SEm±	9.071	0.725	5.358	0.025
CD @ 5%	26.604	2.140	15.815	0.073

Table.4 Effect of planting dates on quality parameters of red cabbage

Treatment	Anthocyanin content (mg/100g)	Ascorbic acid content (mg/100g)	TSS (°Brix)
D1: 30 th September	108.91	35.52	7.52
D2: 15 th October	118.83	37.68	8.54
D3: 30 th October	113.66	36.51	8.02
SEm±	0.244	0.501	0.048
CD @ 5%	0.719	1.479	0.141

The favourable climatic conditions prevailing during head formation stage might be attributed to above variations in results. Results of head weight were in line with findings Vipul *et al.*, 2017; Kanase *et al.*, 2018 in broccoli. With respect to head yield per plot, Similar results found in red cabbage (Maria and Krzysztof, 2012) and broccoli (Shapla *et al.*, 2014; Vipul *et al.*, 2017; Vinod *et al.*, 2017; Kanase *et al.*, 2018).

Estimated yield per hectare (q) and dry matter production (%)

Significantly higher yield per hectare (338.83 q) and dry matter production (11.24%) was recorded with 15th October planting, whereas the crop planted on 30th September recorded the lowest estimated yield per hectare (277.70 q) and dry matter production (9.51%) (Table 3). From the above results, it was clear that estimated yield per hectare were significantly affected by planting dates.

The better results were due to the favourable conditions that prevailed during crop growth period and due to optimum level of nitrogen supplied to the crop. Similar findings have been reported in red cabbage (Maria and Krzysztof, 2012), cabbage (Singh *et al.*, 2010; Abed *et al.*, 2015), broccoli (Shapla *et al.*, 2014; Kanase *et al.*, 2018). With regarding dry matter production (%), similar results were obtained by Abed *et al.*, 2015 in cabbage and Shapla *et al.*, 2014, Vinod *et al.*, 2017 in broccoli.

Quality parameters

Anthocyanin content (mg/100g), Ascorbic acid content (mg/100g) and TSS (^oBrix)

With regarding quality parameters like anthocyanin content (118.83 mg/100g), ascorbic acid content (37.68 mg/100g) and TSS (8.54^oBrix) were recorded higher in 15th

October planting date (D₂) compared to all other planting dates. The lowest values for quality parameters were recorded with 30th September planting date (D₁) (Table 4). These results are in conformity with red cabbage (Manasa *et al.*, 2017 and Patel *et al.*, 2017) and broccoli (Vinod *et al.*, 2017; Vipul *et al.*, 2017 and Kanase *et al.*, 2018).

Based on the results obtained in the present investigation, it can be concluded that 15th October planting date proved to be best for getting higher growth, yield, quality and economic returns in red cabbage for coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Significantly higher values were recorded with vegetative parameters like plant height, plant spread and number of leaves. High number of leaves leads to maximum photosynthetic activity and thereby facilitates better translocation of food material to economic parts.

This might have resulted in obtaining higher values with yield parameters like volume of head, head circumference, head weight, yield per plot, yield per hector and dry matter production with the above treatment (D₂) and the same was also maintained best quality with respect to anthocyanin content, ascorbic acid content and TSS.

Planting on 30th September planting date (D₁) recorded the lowest values for vegetative and yield parameters. The crop transplanted on 30th September planting date (D₁) received very high temperature and high humidity which are not conducive for red cabbage. The adverse climatic conditions like higher temperature and relative humidity during the crop growth period restricted the photosynthetic activity and translocation of food materials that might have resulted in poor vegetative growth leading to lesser yields and quality with the above treatment (D₁).

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