

FODDER YIELD AND COMPOSITION OF BERSEEM (*TRIFOLIUM ALEXANDRINUM* L.) AS INFLUENCED BY PHOSPHORUS AND ZINC APPLICATION

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ABSTRACT

Chemical analysis of soils and associated berseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum* L.) plants sampled during the month of March from several places of central Punjab showed the possibility of P and Zn deficiency in soil to the extent of 50 and 69% respectively, while the associated plant samples contained inadequate P and Zn to the extent of 31% each. Application of phosphatic fertilizer (SSP) to berseem grown in the field increased P content in plants and the fresh fodder yield significantly over control. Low P dose applied through fertigation resulted in equivalent fodder yield and improved agronomic and P fertilizer efficiencies compared to higher P dose applied as broadcast at sowing. Addition of Zn along with SSP also increased the fresh fodder yield and Zn concentration in plants at all the four cuttings obtained. Rate of P application decreased Zn and Cu concentration but not of Mn in plants. The concentration of minerals in berseem plants at different cuttings may be regarded as marginal for the farm animals except that of Mn.