

Growth, Yield and Chemical Composition of Peas (*Pisum sativum*) as Affected by Potassium Levels and Different Methods of Yeast Application

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were carried out at the Experimental farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University during 2008 and 2009 winter seasons. The aim of the current study was to investigate the effects of potassium levels (0, 24, 48, 72 kg k₂O /fed.), methods of yeast application (without, foliar and soil) on vegetative growth characters, green yield and its components and chemical constituents of green seeds of the new introduced pea cultivar "Balmoral". The results indicated that foliage fresh weight, foliage dry matter, no. of pods / plant, weight of pods / plant total yield (ton/ fed.), N, protein and K content in green seeds were significantly and positively affected by increasing potassium levels and the maximum promotion was detected at 48 kg k₂O / fed. and beyond this dose a significant reduction was detected in both growing seasons. It is clear that adding 48 kg k₂O / fed. showed maximum significant increase of 32% and 16% for total yield and 18% and 19% for green seed protein more than the control in the first and second seasons, respectively. Application of yeast extract either foliar or soil addition showed progressive increase for plant height, vegetative weight, number and weight of pods / plant, N%, protein content and total yield (ton/fed.) compared to control (without adding yeast). The highest green yield obtained by soil application of yeast extract (1.61 and 2.08 ton / fed.) in both studied seasons. Addition of 48 kg k₂O / fed combined with soil application of yeast extract gave the highest total yield / fed. 2.01 and 2.25 ton / fed. with the highest protein content of green seeds, in both growing seasons.

INTRODUCTION

Pea (*Pisum sativum*) which is commonly known in Egypt as "Besela" is a tender annual winter crop. It is one of the most important vegetable crops in Egypt which is consumed as a cooked green seeds. Peas is full of nutrition because its grain is cheap source and rich in protein content (27.8%), as well as, complex carbohydrates (42.65%), vitamins, minerals dietary fibers and antioxidant compounds (Urbano et al., 2003). Economically pea is a predominate export and cash crop in world trade and represents about 40% of the total trading in pulses for both fresh use and processing (Oram & Agcaolili, 1994). Increasing yield of pea in Egypt is highly recommended to meet the demand of human needs, so improve agricultural practices and cultivate high yielding cultivars is very important.

Bio stimulus like yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) is a microorganism with the objective of increasing its number and of accelerating certain microbial process to increase the availability of nutrients element in form which can be easily taken by plants without any pollution to the environment (Kraig and Hober 1980). It is used as a kind of bio fertilizers in soil fertilization or in foliar application on the shoot of vegetable crops (Barnett et al .1990). A great attention has been paid on the possibility of using natural and safety substances which are rich sources of phytohormones in order to improve plant growth, flowering and fruit setting. In this connection ,yeast have been reported to be rich source of phytohormones, amino acids, vitamins, enzymes and minerals (Barnett et al. 1990, and Glick 1995). Improving growth and productivity of Legume crops by application of active yeast extract were recorded by El Desuki and El Greadly 2006 .and Mahmoud et al .(2013) and Fathy and Farid (1996), (Amer 2004), El Tohamy and El Greatly (2007), Fawzy et al. (2010) and Nassar et al (2011) on legumes.

Potassium application is essential to obtain high yield, since it plays an important role in many processes in plant cells. It is often referred as the quality element for crop production due to its positive interaction with other nutrients (Usher wood, 1985) .It promotes synthesis of photosynthesis and transport to fruit and grains and enhances their conversion into starch, protein, vitamins (Mengel and Kirkby, 1997). Application of potassium also enhanced vegetation growth and increased pod yield in pea as reported by many investigators (Kanaujia et al .1997and 1998), Nadeem Akhtar et al 2003, Shafeek et al 2005. Thus plant nutrition is an important factor for obtaining higher yields of green pods, which need to be studied under local conditions as soil fertility varies greatly and response varies from cultivar to cultivar. Therefore the preset work was conducted to study the effect of various levels of potassium and compare the effect of soil and foliar application with yeast extract on growth, productivity and chemical composition of new introduced pea cultivar Balmoral grown for the first time under Alexandria environment.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were carried out during the two successive winter season of 2008 and 2009, respectively at the Experimental station Farm, faculty of Agriculture, Alexandria University to study the effect of different levels of potassium and methods of yeast application on growth, yield and quality of a new promising high yielding pea cultivar ; Balmoral which is late in maturation, its origin is England and it is grown for the first time under Alexandria condition. Soil physical and chemical properties of the experimental sites during winter season of 2008 and 2009 were presented in Table (1).

All treatments received the recommended dose of nitrogen (40kg N/fed.) as ammonium nitrate (33.5% N) which were added twice, 15 days after planting and 15 days after that . Phosphorus was applied as one dose at the time of bed preparation at 100kg/ fed. as superphosphate. The potassium fertilizer levels were 0, 24, 48 and 72 kg/ fed in the form of potassium sulphate (48% k₂O) and were applied, to each plot, in two halves the 1st one was applied at the time of initiation of flowering, while the 2nd was applied at the time of pods formation. All field practices were carried out as recommended for the studied crop in the vicinity.

Active dry yeast was dissolved in distilled water followed by adding sugar at ratio of 1:1 and kept overnight for activation and reproduction of yeast cells

to produce extract before application to the plant at the rate of 4g/L. The plants were treated with yeast extract in two different methods, the first was foliar application and the second was drench application (adding almost the same amount of yeast extract beside each plant root), in addition to control without yeast extract application. The plants were treated by these treatments two times during the crop life. The first application was after 30 days from planting and the second was two weeks later. The plants were sprayed or adding drench (soil application) with the same amount of extract /plant. The yeast solution contained protein 47.2%, arginine 2.6%, glycine 2.6%, histidine 1.4%, isolysin 2.9%, louicine 3.5%, lysine 3.8%, methionine systine 0.6%, phynyl alanine 3%, tyrosine 2.1%, threonine 2.6% ,tryptophan 0.5% and vitamin B 2.9% in addition to carbohydrates, fatty acids, hormones macro and micro elements in suitable balance (N.R.P.1997).

Seeds of peas were sown on 10 November 2008 in the first season and replicated on 5 November 2009 in the second one. Seeds were sown on one side of the ridge, 20 cm apart. A split plot design with four replications was used. The four different levels of potassium fertilizer used were 0, 24, 48, 72kg k₂O/fed. which were laid out in main plots while, the three methods of yeast application (without, foliar and soil) ,were distributed randomly in the sub-plots.

Table 1. Some physical and chemical characteristic of the experimental soils

Properties	Season 2008	Season 2009
Physical properties		
Clay %	46.1	39.6
Silt %	33.0	36.2
Sand %	20.9	24.2
Soil texture %	Clay loam	Clay loam
Chemical properties:		
*PH	8.2	8.4
**EC (dSm ⁻¹)	3.38	3.34
Soluble cations (meq/l):		
Ca ⁺⁺	4.8	3.9
Mg ⁺	1.9	3.5
K ⁺	18	20
Na	7.4	6.9
Soluble anions:		
CO ₃ ⁻	3.5	3.2
HCO ₃ ⁻	1.9	1.8
Cl ⁻	5.7	5.3
SO ₄ ⁻	3.3	2.4
Total N%	0.16	0.18
Available phosphorus (ppm)	31.5	31.8

*measured in 1:25 soil water suspension.

**measured in the water extract of saturation soil paste.

The plot area was 12.25 m² and included 5 rows (each was 3.5 m length and 70 cm width). Harvesting were done two times at first of march and two weeks later in both growing seasons.

Sampling and Analysis:

- a- Vegetative growth and plant yield: A random sample of 5 plants from each plot was taken at the first harvest time and the following characters were measured: plant height(cm), fresh weight of plant (gm), foliage dry matter %.
- b- Plant yield: yield of five randomly selected plants from each sub plot were obtained to determine, No of pods/ plant, weight of pods /plant (gm) and % of net green seeds / plant.
- c- Total yield: At harvest stage the mature pods of pea from each experimental plot were collected along the harvesting season, total yield was recorded as kg /plot then converted to ton /fed (1 fed. = 0.4 hectare).
- d- Pods quality: - random sample of 20 pods from each plot was taken and the physical properties (pod length (cm), pod diameter (cm), No of seeds / pod) and dry matter of green seeds %were recorded.
- e- Chemical constituents of green seeds: N%, P%, K ppm content were determined according to the methods mentioned by Black (1983), and Brown and Lilleland (1995). The protein percentages in green seeds were accounted by multiplying nitrogen content by 6.25. Starch (%) and sugar% content was measure according to Dubois et al (1956).

Statistical Analysis:

The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis of variance using Co- Stat Program and the means were compared by using revised LSD test at 5% level of significance according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980).

RESULTS

A. Vegetative growth characters.

The effect of Potassium levels application on vegetative growth characters showed that plant height was not affected by potassium levels while potassium had significant effect on foliage weight and foliage dry matter % which were significantly increased with linear increase in applied k₂O fertilizer (table 2). Maximum foliage weight and foliage dry matter % were recorded by using 48kg k₂O/ fed. beyond this, significant reduction was measured in both season.

Concerning the effect of different methods of yeast application the data indicated that both soil and foliar yeast application significantly increased plant height, foliage weight and foliage dry matter. The lowest values for all the previous character were obtained in control treatment (without yeast application). However, there were no significant difference between soil and foliar yeast application as shown in both growing season, except for foliage dry matter in the second season which no significant differences were detected between the studied treatment.

Table (2) showed also the effect of interaction between treatments. The results indicated that the foliage plant weight and foliage dry matter were significantly affected by the interaction between potassium levels and methods of yeast application. However, plant height was not significantly affected. These results are true in both growing seasons. The highest level for foliage plant weight and foliage dry matter were recorded with adding 48kg k₂O fed. combined with using soil application of yeast extract.

B. Yield and its components

Data presented in Table(3) showed that the statistical analysis of the obtained data revealed significant differences between different potassium levels in relation to productivity of pea plant ,No of pods / plant and total yield/ faddan. However, the results showed that, potassium. treatment did not significantly affect pod length, pod diameter, No of seeds / pod and %of net seed weight/ plant. whereas, all Potassium doses produced significantly greater total yield/ fed. as compared with control. However, potassium at 48kg k₂O/fed. statistically out yielded the other potassium treatments by producing 1.7ton /fed .and 1.86 ton/fed. in first and second seasons, respectively and beyond this dose a significant reduction was observed. Regarding the effects of potassium on pod weight and number / plant; the results followed the same pattern of significance and presented the same picture as total yield /fed.

For the effect of different methods of yeast application, the data illustrated in Table (3) showed that almost both methods of yeast application caused significant increase in yield and its components compared with control plants with exception of pod diameter and pod length which there difference did not reach the significance level. The data also revealed that the highest significant means in yield parameters appeared in plant treated with soil application of yeast extract in relation to No of pods /plant, weight of pods /plant, green seed/plant and total yield fed.

Table 2. vegetative growth characters of pea plants as affected by potassium level, methods of yeast application and their interaction during the two successive seasons of 2008 and 2009.

Treatments	plant height cm		Foliage plant weight gm		Foliage dry matter %		
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Potassium levels (kg k ₂ o / fed.)							
0	64.85a	66.38a	31.48c	29.56c	14.57 ^b	14.08 ^c	
24	57.44a	59.55a	37.51b	41.81a	15.46 ^c	14.9 ^c	
48	60.05a	62.94a	44.21a	43.83a	16.7 ^A	16.1 ^A	
72	63.66a	64.55a	38.93db	34.17b	16.13 ^B	15.51 ^B	
methods of Yeast application							
without	55.22b	57.29b	31.87b	31.81b	15.6 ^B	15.05 ^A	
Foliar	66.45a	69.12a	39.48a	38.2ab	15.89 ^a	15.31 ^A	
soil	62.83ab	63.66ab	42.75a	42.03a	15.65 ^{ab}	15.08 ^A	
Potassium levels x methods of yeast application							
0	Without	57.22ab	59.16ab	32.0cd	30.0cd	13.78 ^E	14.28 ^E
	Foliar	70.66a	72.66a	34.8cd	32.76b-d	14.46 ^{ef}	14.90 ^f
	soil	66.66ab	67.33ab	27.66d	25.93d	14.0 ^g	14.51 ^g
24	without	47.83b	50.16b	28.9d	26.9d	14.87 ^e	15.42 ^e
	Foliar	64.16ab	66.16ab	39.3bc	36.1a	14.91 ^{de}	15.45 ^e
	soil	60.33ab	62.33ab	44.33ab	42.43a-c	14.91 ^{de}	15.51 ^e
48	without	54.16ab	56.16ab	38.53bc	43.63a-c	16.07 ^{ab}	16.67 ^b
	Foliar	60.0ab	64.66ab	45.16ab	45.16ab	16.33 ^a	16.43 ^a
	soil	66.0ab	68.0ab	48.13a	46.7a	15.91 ^{bc}	16.49 ^{bc}
72	without	61.66ab	63.6ab	28.06d	26.66d	15.47 ^{cd}	16.03 ^d
	Foliar	71.0a	73.0a	38.66bc	34.16d	15.55 ^{bc}	16.92 ^c
	soil	58.33ab	57.0ab	50.06a	41.76bc	15.5 ^{bc}	16.07 ^d

Values followed by the same letter didn't significantly differ using revised LSD test at 0.05 level of significance

Table 3. Total green pods yield and its component of pea plants as affected by potassium levels, methods of yeast application and their interaction during the two successive seasons of 2008 and 2009

Treatments	No of pods/plant		Weight of pods/plant gm		% of net seeds /plant		Pod length cm		Pod Diameter cm		No of seed/pod		Total yield ton/ fed.		
	2008	2009	2008 ¹	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008 ¹	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	
Potassium levels(kg k ₂ o / fed.)															
0	12.0b	15.61b	58.0b	89.6b	44.66a	45.18a	7.67a	6.76a	0.97a	0.98a	6.27a	6.01a	1.32b	1.59ab	
24	11.14b	18.19ab	52.31c	95.13b	48.11a	44.05a	7.17a	6.82a	0.92a	0.93a	6.56a	5.75a	1.26b	1.87a	
48	15.16a	18.65a	77.12c	104.37a	45.66a	45.42a	7.88a	7.13a	0.97a	0.98a	6.67a	6.31a	1.7a	1.86a	
72	13.86b	15.85ab	58.89b	83.72b	44.44a	45.21a	7.45a	7.3a	0.95a	0.94a	6.71a	6.37a	1.35b	1.53b	
methods of Yeast application															
Without	10.79b	13.79b	57.03b	69.63c	45.5a	44.13a	7.49a	7.09a	0.97a	0.98a	6.55a	6.27a	1.22c	1.28c	
Foliar	12.53ab	17.82a	61.06ab	93.81b	45.25a	47.22a	7.63a	6.96a	0.94a	0.9a	6.43a	6.07a	1.4b	1.77b	
soil	13.42a	19.61a	66.64a	116.17a	46.41a	47.3a	7.5a	6.95a	0.95a	0.96a	6.69a	5.99a	1.61a	2.08a	
Potassium levels x methods of yeast application															
0	without	11.36bc	11.55d	55.96b-d	56f	42c	44.89a-c	7.36b-d	7.16a-c	0.94a-c	0.97ab	6.26ab	6.26ab	1.05e	1.07e
	Foliar	13.17ab	19.76b	61.23bc	96.33b-d	45.66a-c	44.45a-c	7.8a-c	7bc	0.91c	0.92b	6.5ab	6.0ab	1.39b-d	1.62b-d
	soil	11.48bc	16.24bc	56.8b-d	116.46ab	46.33a-c	46.18a-c	7.86ab	6.13d	0.98a-c	0.99ab	6.93ab	5.7ab	1.53bc	2.1a
24	without	9.94bc	17.36b	43.19d	82.53c-e	48.33ab	45.97a-c	7d	6.83bc	0.93a-c	0.95ab	5.8b	5.56b	1.17de	1.57cd
	Foliar	10.99bc	17.45b	52.91cd	94.26b-d	47.33a-c	50.34ab	7.66e-d	6.73cd	0.9c	0.91b	6.46ab	5.93ab	1.24c-e	1.99ab
	Soil	12.49a-c	19.77b	60.83b-d	108.6b	48.66a	50.86a	6.86d	6.9bc	0.93a-c	0.94ab	6.5ab	5.77ab	1.38b-e	2.06a
48	without	8.13c	13.1cd	60.37b-d	64.1ef	48.66a	40.66c	8.4a	7.36bc	1.01ab	1.00ab	6.5ab	6.13ab	1.17de	1.22de
	Foliar	11.21bc	17.97b	58.88b-d	110b	42.66bc	47.54ab	7.6a-d	6.9bc	0.98a-c	0.97ab	7.0a	6.63a	1.37b-e	2.09a
	Soil	17.01a	24.11a	91.52a	138.96a	45.66bc	48.05ab	7.66e-d	7.13a-c	1.02a-c	1.04a	6.5ab	6.16ab	2.01a	2.25a
72	Without	13.74ab	13.16cd	48.6bc	75.83d-f	43a-c	44.97a-c	7.2b-d	7bc	0.91a-c	0.92b	6.36ab	6.63a	1.49b-d	1.28de
	Foliar	14.74ab	16.15bc	71.24b	74.66d-f	45.33a-c	46.53-c	7.46b-d	7.33a-c	0.99a-c	0.97ab	6.93a	6.16ab	1.6b	1.4de
	soil	12.69a-c	17.51b	57.44b-d	100.66bc	45a-c	44.13bc	7.63a-d	7.66a	1 ^a	0.93b	6.83ab	6.33ab	1.51bc	1.92a-c

Values followed by the same letter didn't significantly differ using revised lsd test at 0.05 level of significance

Table 4. chemical constituents in green seeds of pea plants as affected by potassium levels, methods of yeast application and their interaction during the two successive seasons of 2008 and 2009

Treatments	% seeds dry weight			P%	Kppm	Protein%			sugar %		starch%				
	2008	2009	2008 ¹			2008 ²	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009		
Potassium level (kgK ₂ O/ fed.)															
0	25.9ab	26.78ab	1.38c	1.37c	0.63a	0.64a	166.11c	175.2c	8.66b	8.56c	8.11c	7.3c	4.67a	5.48a	
24	24.63b	25.33b	1.47c	1.46c	0.61ab	0.62a	215.55b	224.5b	1.07 b	10.60b	9.51a	8.7a	4.58a	5.39a	
48	26.83a	27.59a	1.64b	1.62b	0.53b	0.52b	287.22a	296a	10.29a	10.15b	8.56b	7.74b	4.42a	5.23a	
72	24.33b	25.77ab	1.79a	1.78a	0.53b	0.51b	287.77a	301.2a	11.11a	11.02a	8.33b	7.52b	3.63b	4.84b	
methods of Yeast application															
without	23.8b	24.5b	1.42b	1.41b	0.59a	0.58a	221.15b	230.7b	8.89b	8.78b	8.27c	7.46c	4.27a	5.08a	
Foliar	25.81a	26.92a	1.68a	1.67a	0.57a	0.56a	246.8b	245.7b	10.32a	10.21a	9.04a	8.23a	4.3a	5.1a	
Soil	26.87a	27.69a	1.62a	1.61a	0.56a	0.55a	254.16a	263.1a	10.13a	10.05a	8.63b	7.82b	4.4a	5.2a	
Potassium levels x methods of yeast application															
0	without	24.33b-d	25b-d	1.56b-e	1.55bc	0.65b	0.66b	143.3h	152.2h	9.74b-e	9.63b-e	7.85f	7.04f	5a	5.81a
	Foliar	26.7b	27.7ab	1.21g	1.2d	0.75a	0.76a	180gh	189.2fg	7.63g	7.52g	8.26d-f	7.45d-f	4.66ab	5.47ab
	Soil	26.66b	27.66ab	1.38e-g	1.37cd	0.51e	0.52c	175gh	183.1fg	8.61e-g	8.50e-g	8.22d-f	7.41d-f	4.35a-c	5.16a-c
24	Without	23cd	24cd	1.67a-d	1.66a-c	0.47e	0.48d	197.5fg	206.7cf	9.96a-e	9.85a-e	8.7cd	7.91cd	4.2a-c	4.91a-c
	Foliar	26b	27b	1.27fg	1.26d	0.59b-d	0.61b	227.5d-f	216.4cf	7.93fg	7.82fg	9.68ab	8.87ab	4.53a-c	5.34a-c
	Soil	24b-d	25b-d	1.44c-f	1.43c	0.76a	.060b	221.6ef	230.8de	9.33c-f	9.22c-f	10.15a	9.34a	5.02a	5.83a
48	Without	25.16bc	26.16bc	1.71a-c	1.71ab	0.61bc	0.75a	265cd	274.3c	10.71a-d	10.60a-d	8.65c-e	7.84c-e	4.35a-c	5.16a-c
	Foliar	25.16bc	26.16bc	1.46d-g	1.45c	0.49e	0.51c	288.3bc	297.4b	9.13d-g	9.02d-g	9.14bc	8.33bc	4.51a-c	5.32a-c
	Soil	30.16a	30.44a	1.76ab	1.75ab	0.5e	0.48d	310ab	319bb	11.03ab	10.92ab	8.16d	7.35d-f	4.4a-c	5.21a-c
72	without	21.83d	22.83d	1.78ab	1.77ab	0.52de	0.50c	280bc	289.5bc	10.2a-c	10.80a-c	7.9f	7.18f	3.55bc	4.36bc
	Foliar	25.4bc	26.83bc	1.75ab	1.76ab	0.55c-e	0.51c	251.6c-e	280.4bc	10.92a-c	10.74a-c	9.1bc	8.31bc	3.5c	4.31c
	soil	26.66b	27.66ab	1.85a	1.82a	0.53c-e	0.54bc	33.0a	339.2a	11.55a	11.44a	8ef	7.2ef	3.85bc	4.66bc

Values followed by the same letter didn't significantly differ using revised lsd test at 0.05 level of significance

The highest value of total yield /Fed. were amounted 1.61 and 2.08 ton/ fad for the first and second seasons respectively. whereas, the lowest value were recorded with the corresponding untreated plants with yeast extract.

Data in table (3) show the effect of interaction between potassium level and method of yeast application on yield and its component of pea. The data indicated the presence of significant effect on all yield characters of pea plants. The highest value of total yield as ton /fed. was obtained with pea plants fertilized with 48kg k_2O /fed combined with soil application of yeast in both seasons. On the other hand, the lowest values were recorded with control (without yeast application) plants in both studied seasons. The same trend of results were found for No of pods /plant, weight of pods /plant, pod diameter where, 24kg k_2O /fed combined with soil application of yeast gave the highest values for green seeds / plants.

C. Chemical constitution in green seeds:-

Data in table (4) showed the effect of potassium level on the chemical constitutions of pea green seeds. Results indicated that N%, K ppm and % protein contents were gradually and significantly increased by increasing the level of potassium used up to 72 kg k_2O /fed . whereas, P, dry matter contents and starch were slightly decreased by increasing potassium levels. For %sugar content the highest was obtained by using 24kg k_2O / fed. These results are true in both growing season.

Concerning, application of yeast by different methods resulted showed significant increase in Nitrogen, K, protein sugar and dry matter content as compared with control treatment. The maximum values were obtained in plants treated with soil application where the differences between the two treatments were insignificant. On the other hand, concerning P and starch the difference between the two methods of yeast were not high enough to be significant. These findings are true in both studied seasons.

For the effect of interaction between the two studied factors, the data showed significant potassium effect on all studied characters except % starch content. The highest value of N, k and protein were obtained with pea plants supplied with the highest Potassium level of 72 kg k_2O / fed. combined with soil application with yeast, whereas, the highest values record of starch appeared in plants treated with yeast as soil application and 48kg k_2O /fed. Meanwhile, seed dry matter, P and sugar contents ,showed no clear trend in that respect.

DISCUSSIONS

The increments of vegetative growth characters of pea plants and improving green pods yield and pod quality by increasing the level of potassium used in this study might be attributed to that soil analysis showed a low available K concentration Table (1). Therefore, soil application with K probably increased soil exchange K and consequently ,enhanced the translocation of K to the plants. Potassium also functions as co-factor or activator of several enzymes involved in protein and carbohydrate metabolism (Evans and Wildes 1971) beside its role in ionic and osmotic regulation. The results are in harmony with those reported by Kanaujia et al.(1999). Jamadagni and Birari (1994) who reported that the extent of variation in yield of cow pea due to K was greater than due to P .Many researchers reported the importance of potassium in different crops like Ezzat and khalil (2005). Siquira et al (1985)and Romer and lehne (2004) who found that insufficient K supply to legumes may reduce their N_2 fixation capacity; consequently the total yield may also reduce.

In addition the improving of vegetative growth characters of pea plants, pods yield and pods quality by using yeast extract application may be due to that, yeast extract are natural component safe, and not pollutant contain many of the nutrient elements and cytokines (Castelfranco and Beale 1983). Yeast contain also a considerable amounts of amino acids, minerals, carbohydrates enzymes and vitamins B1, 2, 3, 12 (Spencer et al 1983) and (Khedr and Farid 2000)

The soil application of yeast gave a higher values for vegetative and pod yield characters of peas in this study may be due that, yeast could also act as a good source for bio fertilizer to enrich rhizosphere with important yeast residuals,

The importance of yeast extract application on vegetative growth characters and pod yield of pea plant as a foliar supplement were reported by many researchers like mahmoud et al (2013), Eldesouki and El Geredly (2006). In addition, several studies indicated that plant root growth may be directly or indirectly enhanced by yeast in the rhizosphere (Agamy et al. 2013) and (Cloete et al 2009).

It can be concluded that applying potassium to peas plants at the rate of 48kg K_2O /fed. combined with yeast extract as a soil application improve the vegetative growth of pea plants and gave the highest yield potential with quality as well as, nutritive value of pea green seeds.

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