

EFFECT OF BORON, COPPER AND HUMIC ACID TREATMENTS ON VEGETATIVE GROWTH, YIELD AND STORABILITY OF JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE TUBERS

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ABSTRACT

These experiments were carried out during two successive summer seasons of 2013 and 2014 on Jerusalem artichoke cv. Feusa. The plants were grown at Kaha Vegetables Res. Farm, Hort. Res. Inst., Agric. Res. Centre, under clay loam soil with using surface irrigation system, to study the effect of boron , copper and humic acid on vegetative growth, yield and its components , chemical constituents and storability of Jerusalem artichoke tubers. The experiment including 9 treatments (foliar spray with 70 and 140 ppm boron, 50 and 100 ppm copper, 0.5 and 1 g/l humic acid as foliar application and 0.5 and 1 g/l humic acid as soil application beside of the control treatment (spraying with water). The experiment was arranged in a randomized complete block design with three replicates.

The obtained results showed that the highest value of plant height was recorded by the plants which for sprayed with 50 or 100 ppm copper . While the plants which sprayed with 140 ppm boron gave the highest number of main stems per plant. Application of humic acid 1 g/l as soil application increased dry weight of foliage, number of tubers, yield per plant and total yield per feddan. Moreover, sprayed plants with 140 ppm boron treated plants with 1 g/l humic acid as soil application produced more average tuber weight than the other tested treatments. Chemical composition (N, P, K, Total carbohydrates and inulin contents) of Jerusalem artichoke was significantly affected with application all treatments than control treatment. The results also confirmed that weight loss and decay percentage in Jerusalem artichoke tubers increased with prolongation of storage period.

In addition, the plants, which sprayed with copper or boron in both concentrations, gave the lowest values in weight loss and decay percentage in Jerusalem artichoke tubers during the storage period.

Conclusively, from the obtained data in this study, it can be recommended by using humic acid at soil for improve growth, number

of tubers, yield per plant and total yield. On the other hand, foliar application of boron on Jerusalem artichoke plants increased average tuber weight. Also, foliar spray with copper or boron helps to storage the tubers and low rate of weight loss and decay.

Key words: Jerusalem artichoke, boron, copper, humic acid, storability, weight loss and decay percentage.

INTRODUCTION

Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.) is grown primarily for its edible tubers. Unlike most tubers, its tubers store carbohydrates as a polymer of fructose molecules called fructans (inulin) instead of starch. Inulin is effective in preventing the risk of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (type 2), blood cholesterol and heart disease, as well as, enhancing immunity (Orafti, 2005). Since inulin represents 80–90% of total carbohydrate content of the Jerusalem artichoke tubers, it makes the plant of great interest as raw material for inulin and fructose processing. Comparing with potato and chicory, Jerusalem artichoke contains more than four times higher content of sulphur amino acids. Such a great amount of sulphur amino acids in Jerusalem artichoke helps in connecting it in diet with legumes seeds, which are poor in those amino acids. This can have a special meaning in the countries where bean is the main source of protein as Barta and Pátkai (2007) reported.

Thus, Jerusalem artichokes is currently an important crop for production of healthy food, however, a few studies were carried out on it specially in Egypt; as it, is still considered one of the non-traditional vegetable crop. Since our soils having low organic matter content and high soil pH levels; application of humic acid, B and Cu in addition to essential major elements can play a good role in increasing the yield of Jerusalem artichoke, and improve its quality, as well as, storage ability.

Regarding the effect of boron, it is important for metabolism and growth of higher plants through its effect on cell elongation and cell division, protein metabolism, tissue differentiation and membrane permeability (Marschner, 2013).

Puzina (2004) showed that using boric acid caused an increase in tuber potato size and weight by increasing of cell diameter in the tuber perimedullary zone. El-Dissoky and Abdel-Kadar (2013) and Jafari-Jood *et al.* (2013) showed that spraying of boron significantly improved growth parameters of potato plants (plant height, number of leaves per plant and shoot weight) of potato plant as compared with control. Moreover, Marie and Toma (2011) reported that foliar application of 1.0 kg / ha boron significantly increased a marketable yield with 61.8% and 66.3%, tuber weight per plant with 60% and 59.4%, number of tubers per plant with 21.869% and 22.967%, average tuber

weight with 33% and 31%; also increased starch content in potato tubers. Similar results reported by El-Dissoky and Abdel-Kadar (2013) who stated that a significant increases in potato uptake of N, P and K. However, in the two previous studies, the significance of increment of B concentration in tubers was differed in the two studies correlated with the location and the variety.

Humic acid applications led to significant increase in plant growth and crop yield as a result of the improvement of soil organic matter content (Hafez, 2003 and El-Desuki, 2004). Humic acid increased potato tuber yield and quality (Verlinden *et al.*, 2009, Mahmoud and Hafez, 2010 and Selim *et al.*, 2011). Also, soil application of humic acid to sweet potato enhanced plant growth characteristics, total and marketable yield, and tuber root quality, as well as, reduced the weight loss and decay percentages (El Sayed Hameda *et al.*, 2011).

As for Jerusalem artichoke, Eid (2013) stated that humic acid increased tuber yield, fresh and dry weight of shoot and enzymes activity.

In respect to copper, Cholewa (2008) revealed statistically significant increase in rapeseed yields with foliar of copper at 250 g/ ha and of the soil fertilization at 12 kg/ ha. for oil quality, the foliar and pre-sowing fertilization with copper at 8 and 12 kg/ ha led to a significant increase in the concentration of oil in seeds, a favorable tendency towards increased copper concentration in seeds. Foliar copper application produced a stronger effect on the concentration of this element and fat level in rape seed was more pronounced than soil Cu fertilization. Yao (2014) illustrated that, foliar spraying copper fertilizer significantly increased copper concentration in the pepper plant compared to spraying water.

Since tubers of Jerusalem artichoke have a thin and delicate skin and after harvest it permits rapid water loss (Danilcenko *et al.*, 2008).

Therefore, the current study aimed to investigate the effect of boron, copper and humic acid on yield and storability of Jerusalem artichoke under Egyptian condition.

MATERIAS AND METHODS

The field experiment was carried out at the Experimental Vegetable Res. Farm of Kaha, Kalyoubia Governorate, Egypt during the two successive seasons of 2013 & 2014 to study the effect of foliar spray with boron as boric acid (98% B) and copper as copper sulphate (98 % CuO) as well as humic acid foliar and soli application on growth, yield, tuber quality, chemical constituents and storability of Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus* L.) cv. Feusa.

The site is located at an altitude of 21.1 m above sea level, latitude 30°16' N and longitude 31°12' E. with clay loam soil in texture. Chemical and physical

Table 1. The physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil.

Physical Properties	Seasons		Chemical (available)	Seasons	
	2013	2014		2013	2014
Clay %	62.50	60.20	N	96.80	97.63
Silt %	17.80	20.40	P	5.55	4.68
Sand %	19.70	19.40	K	212.12	215.46
Texture class	Clay loam		pH (1- 2.5)	7.50	7.42

properties of the experimental soil are shown in Table 1. Soil chemical analysis was measured according to the procedures described by Jackson (1973).

Tubers were planted on 16th and 19th of April in both seasons, respectively. The experiment included nine treatments as follows:

T1=Boron 70 ppm (foliar application), T2=Boron 140 ppm (foliar application), T3=Copper 50 ppm (foliar application), T4=Copper 100 ppm (foliar application), T5= Humic acid 0.5 g/l (foliar application), T6= Humic acid 1 g/l (foliar application), T7= Humic acid 0.5 g/l (soil application), T8= Humic acid 1 g/l (soil application), and T9= Control (spraying plants with tap water). These treatments were arranged in a randomized complete block design with three replicates.

The source of boron as boric acid 98 %, copper as copper sulphate 98 % and humic acid was taken from the commercial fertile of Humikey 85 %, which containing (humic acid 85 %, Fulvic acid 5 % and Potassium humate 8 %).

The area of the experimental plot was 17.75 m² consisting of 5 ridges 5 m in length and 0.71 m in width whereas; one row was left without planting as a guard ridge between plots to avoid overlapping filtration and foliar sprayed. Tubers (seed tubers) were planted 50 cm apart. Jerusalem artichoke tubers were obtained from Hort. Res. Inst. Potato and Vegetatively Propagated Vegetables Res. Dep. Ministry of Agric., Dokki, Giza.

All treatments were applied two times at 114 and 144 days after planting in both seasons. All other cultural practices were applied according to the recommendation of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.

Data recorded:

1. Vegetative growth characters:

Vegetative growth characters were measured at 150 days after planting. Five plants from each treatment were chosen randomly to determine the average plant height, average number of main stems per plant, average number of lateral branches per plant, and foliage dry weight.

2. Yield and its components:

Yield determinations were recorded at harvesting time on 30th November and 5th December in the first and second seasons respectively. It included number of produced tuber roots per plant, average tuber weight (g), tuber yield per plant (kg) and total yield (ton/fed.).

3. Chemical constituents:

- Dry matter percentage: it was determined in 100 grams of a random tuber roots.
- Total carbohydrates were determined colorimetrically as gram of glucose/100g dry weight of tubers roots according the methods described by James (1995).
- Total nitrogen was determined according the method described by Koch and Mc Meckin (1924) using micro-kjeldahl apparatus, while phosphorus content was determined according to Troug and Meyer (1939); furthermore, potassium percentage was determined by using Flame photometer according to Brown and lilleland (1946).
- Tuber inulin concentration was determinate according to (Winton and Winton, 1958).

Storage experiment:

Jerusalem artichoke tubers were harvested on 15 November and then transported immediately to the laboratory of postharvest, Horticulture Research Institute. Tubers were sorted out and all the defected tubers were discarded and then packed in perforated bags (15 μ m) thickness. Three replicates were prepared for each treatment in addition to control; each replicate weighed approximately (2.50) kg, and placed in carton boxes (30 x 20 x 10cm). All treatments were stored at (3 °C) degree and RH 90-95 %. Complete randomized design was adopted. All replicates were examined every month for weight loss and decay percentage, until 3 months (90 days).

The following data were recorded

- 1.Weight loss percentage was estimated according to the following equation: $\text{Weight loss \%} = \frac{\text{initial tuber weight} - \text{tuber weight at sampling date}}{\text{initial tuber weight}} * 100$.
- 2.Decay percentage was estimated as the number of decayed tubers / total count of tubers x 100.

Statistical analysis:

Recorded data were subjected to the statistical analysis of variance according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980), and means separation were done according to LSD at 5% level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Vegetative growth parameters:

Results shown in Table (2) revealed that all treatments had a positive effect on vegetative growth parameters (plant height, number of main stems/plant, number of lateral branches/plant and foliage dry weight / plant) of Jerusalem artichoke plants in the two tested growing seasons. As regard to plant height, the maximum values were detected for spraying copper (50 or 100 ppm), as well as foliar application of boron at 140 ppm without any significant between them. These increments were significant as compared to the control in both season. The same data presented in Table (2) indicate that foliar spray of boron concentration at 140 ppm gave the highest number of main stems per plant in the two investigated seasons. This results was significant comparing only with humic acid soil addition at 0.5 g/L in the first season while, it was significant with compared to all treatments in the second season except the soil addition of humic acid at 1cm/L. This positive effect of B application may be attributed to B roles in cell wall synthesis, cell division, cell development, auxin metabolism as mentioned by Mengel and Kirkby (1978). These results are in agreement with those obtained by El-Dissoky and Abdel-Kadar (2013) and Jafari-Jood *et al.*, (2013). Moreover, results in Table (2) show that spraying of copper at 100 ppm significantly increased the number of lateral branches compared to the control in the two tested seasons. However, all treatments; except soil application of humic acid at 0.5g/L, proved to be significantly effective in increasing the lateral branches number in the second season. Improvement of plant growth resulted from copper foliar spray could be due its importance for cell wall lignification; as lignification weakened lead to wilting (impaired water transport) characteristics of distortion of young leaves, bending and twisting of stems and twigs in cereals and vice versa as reported by Graham (1983).

Data presented in Table (2) clearly indicate that soil application of humic acid (soil application) at 1 g/L appeared superiority in foliage dry weight formation per plant. Significant decrement in foliage dry weight per plant was exhibited for the control treatment all over the all tested treatments in the two investigated seasons. These presented results are in accordance with those obtained by (Hafez, 2003 and El-Desuki, 2004).

Regarding the effect of different treatments on foliage dry weight, the data in the same Table show that, the plants which treated with humic acid at 1 g/l as soil application significantly increased foliage dry weight / plant in both seasons without significant differences with boron at 140 ppm in the first season only.

Table 2. Effect of some treatments on plant growth of Jerusalem artichoke plant after 150 days from planting, during 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	Number of main stem/ plant	Number of lateral branches/ plant	Foliage dry weight (g/plant)
<i>First season</i>				
T1	247.33	6.3	62.67	512.47
T2	251.33	7.7	67.67	552.78
T3	252.33	5.67	61.67	450.25
T4	255.00	6.33	69.67	470.42
T5	221.00	6.00	54.33	478.43
T6	231.33	7.33	61.33	550.18
T7	218.00	5.00	53.00	513.96
T8	229.67	7.00	59.00	554.24
T9	203.67	5.67	48.67	412.14
L.S.D. at 5% significant level	27.30	2.64	20.39	4.10
<i>Second season</i>				
T1	237.33	6.67	58.33	450.42
T2	245.33	8.33	63.67	498.14
T3	246.33	6.00	56.67	424.02
T4	250.67	6.67	66.67	465.48
T5	217.00	6.00	50.00	442.96
T6	231.00	6.33	54.33	514.56
T7	208.67	5.67	48.00	452.84
T8	228.00	7.33	53.00	562.45
T9	199.33	5.33	44.67	408.54
L.S.D. at 5% level	18.61	1.48	4.24	4.51

T1= Boron (70 ppm, foliar) T2= Boron (140 ppm, foliar) T3= Copper (50 ppm, foliar)
T4= Copper (100 ppm, foliar) T5= Humic acid (0.5g/L, foliar) T6= Humic acid (1g/L, foliar)
T7= Humic acid (0.5 g/L, soil) T8= Humic acid (1g/L, soil) T9= Spraying with tap water (Control)

In addition, effects of humic acid containing fertilizers on plant yield and nutrient uptake depend on humic acid concentration, application type and plant species (Chen and Aviad, 1990).

Boron is important for metabolism and growth of higher plants in cell elongation and cell division, protein metabolisms, tissue differentiation, membrane permeability, pollen germination and pollen tube growth (Marschner, 2013).

Yield and its components at harvest time:

Regarding the total yield and its components at harvest time, soil application of humic acid was positively effective. In this concern, the highest total yield per plant and number of tubers/ plant were recorded when treated plants with humic acid at 1 g/l as soil application in both

season and without significant differences between foliar spray of boron at 140 ppm regarding yield/ plant in the first season While control treatment recorded the lowest yield / plant in both seasons.

The increment in yield might be due to the stimulation of plant growth by humic acid through increasing cell division, as well as optimization uptake of nutrients and water (Chen *et al.*, 2004). Also, Humic acid applications led to significant increase in soil organic matter content and improve plant growth and crop yield (Erik *et al.*, 2000; Hartwigson and Evans, 2000; Hafez, 2003; El-Desuki, 2004). Moreover, humic acid stimulate the soil microorganisms (Qualls, 2004). Furthermore, Abd-El-Kareem (2007) reported that bean plants treated with humic acid induced resistance against root rot and *Alternaria* leaf spot in addition to increase bean yield under field conditions. Previous studies revealed that humic acid increased tuber yield of Jerusalem artichoke (Eid, 2013). Furthermore, boron increased potato tuber yield by 17.39 % (El-Dissoky and Abdel-Kadar, 2013).

According to Reisenauer *et al.* (1973) Boron is also probably more important than any other micronutrients in obtaining high quality and crop yields. They revealed that for soils that having low organic matter content and high soil pH levels, application of B in addition to essential major elements can play a good role in increasing the yield of potato.

Regarding the average tuber weight, the same data illustrated in Table (3) clearly indicate that foliar spray of humic acid at 1 g/l produced more average tuber weight in both seasons without any significant differences between the plants which sprayed with boron at 140 ppm in the second season . These results were in agreement with those reported by El-Dissoky and Abdel-Kadar (2013) who found that average weight of tubers increased at foliar spray of 60 mg/ l boron.

As for the effect of different treatments on total yield , the data in indicated that, there were significant differences between the most tested treatments and control treatment in both seasons (Table 3). The highest total yield/ feddan (15.107 and 16.132 ton/fed.) were recorded by the plants which received humic acid at 1 g/l as soil application in the 1st and 2nd seasons, respectively , followed by the plants which received 1g/l as foliar application (14.773 and 15.662 ton/fed.) in the 1st and 2nd seasons, respectively. While, the lowest values of total yield/fed. were recorded with the plants received water only (8.471 and 11.626 ton/fed.) . The relative increases in total yield regarding the application of humic acid at 1 g/l as soil application were about (77 and 39 %) followed by the treated plants with humic acid at 1 g/l as foliar spray (74 and 35%) than control treatment

Table 3. Effect of some treatments on yield and its components at harvest time during 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Treatment groups	Yield/plant (kg)	Number of tubers /plant	Average tuber weight (g)	Total yield / fed. (ton)	Relative increases in total yield (%)	Dry matter (%)
<i>First Season</i>						
T1	1.856	60.87	29.087	11.690		17.32
T2	2.120	54.73	35.637	13.813		22.29
T3	1.480	55.46	26.733	11.453		21.35
T4	1.863	63.12	29.610	13.160		20.45
T5	1.766	70.41	26.813	13.257		20.63
T6	1.830	59.97	38.650	14.773		22.11
T7	1.924	67.52	29.090	13.577		21.71
T8	2.122	71.09	28.943	15.017		22.47
T9	1.303	60.66	27.750	8.473		23.15
L.S.D. at 5% significant level	0.135	1.01	1.79	1.831		1.29
<i>Second Season</i>						
T1	2.660	72.47	32.470	14.821		16.01
T2	2.980	59.27	46.630	15.488		24.09
T3	2.300	60.87	37.787	13.606		21.89
T4	2.710	75.40	34.960	15.005		19.06
T5	2.350	79.93	33.330	15.384		20.9
T6	2.630	65.13	46.607	15.662		23.93
T7	2.730	77.20	35.233	15.432		22.47
T8	3.120	108.50	31.663	16.132		24.39
T9	2.060	65.67	32.280	11.626		26.67
L.S.D. at 5% level	0.084	1.28	1.20	0.877		1.89

T1= Boron (70 ppm, foliar) T2= Boron (140 ppm, foliar) T3= Copper (50 ppm, foliar)
T4= Copper (100 ppm, foliar) T5= Humic acid (0.5g/L, foliar) T6= Humic acid (1g/L, foliar)
T7= Humic acid (0.5 g/L, soil) T8= Humic acid (1g/L, soil) T9= Spraying with tap water (Control)

in the 1st and 2nd seasons, respectively.

Dry matter percentage resulted from foliar boron application at 70 ppm was significantly the lowest value in the two tested seasons (Table 3). Control treatment had the highest dry matter percentage followed by each of boron foliar spray at 140 ppm, Humic acid spray at 1 g/L and soil humic acid application at 1 g/L with no significant difference among them in the first season. The increase in dry matter percentage in control treatment of Jerusalem artichoke tubers might be attributed to reduction in moisture content. Bari *et al.*, (2001) showed that application of 1.1 kg B/ha from borax increased potato yield, number of tubers/ha, as well as, fresh and dry weight of tubers yield. Humic acid stimulation plant growth through increasing cell division, as well as, optimized uptake of nutrients and water (Chen *et al.*, 2004). Moreover, humic acid stimulated the soil microorganisms (Qualls, 2004).

Furthermore, these findings are in agreement with those of Puzina (2004) and Marie and Toma (2011).

Chemical composition of Jerusalem artichoke:

Chemical composition percentages of Jerusalem artichoke tubers were calculated as dry weight (Table 4). Data showed that, chemical composition of N, P, K, total carbohydrates and inulin contents were positively affected with all tested treatments compared to the control. In this concern, generally, the maximum increments of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium were detected for soil addition of humic acid at 1 g/L or with sprayed plants with 140 ppm boron in most cases at both growing seasons. The same results were recorded by El-Shabrawy *et al.* (2010) who found that nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium contents were significantly influenced by soil application of humic acid. These results may support the suggestion of the stimulatory effect of humic acid on root growth and its uptake of nutrients (Liu *et al.*, 1998; Zhang *et al.*, 2003; Awad and El-Ghamry 2007). In this connection, humic acid stimulated capacity of action exchange as well as cell permeability of capillaries, leading to increase nutrient availability, enable better uptake of nutrients and act as plant growth promoters (O'Donnell, 1973; Malcolm and Vaughan, 1979).

Data also, show clearly that all treatments, *i.e.*, boron, copper and humic acid enhanced boron in tubers, while spraying Jerusalem artichoke plants with boron gave the highest significant increase in boron content of the tubers compared to the other treatments in both growing seasons.

Concerning the effect of spraying Jerusalem artichoke plants with copper, data in Table (4) emphasized that copper spray significantly increased copper concentration in tubers compared to other treatments in both growing seasons, in generally, the lowest values were obtained when spraying Jerusalem artichoke plants by tap water (control treatment). In this respect, Yao (2014) stated that copper concentration increased significantly when foliar application with copper was used in pepper plants.

Storage experiment:

1. Weight loss percentage:

Data in Figure (1) show clearly that percentage of weight loss in Jerusalem artichoke tubers increased with prolonging storage period in both seasons.

The decrease in fresh weight of Jerusalem artichoke tubers might be attributed to the loss in moisture through transpiration and loss in dry matter content through respiration (Wills *et al.*, 1981).

Table 4. Effect of some treatments on N, P, K, total carbohydrates, inulin, copper and boron contents during 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Treatment groups	N %	P %	K %	Total carbohydrates %	Inulin (%)	Copper (mg/kg D.W)	Boron (mg/kg D.W)
<i>First Season</i>							
T1	1.122	0.341	2.950	49.540	20.087	14.771	7.970
T2	1.411	0.356	3.120	50.607	28.433	15.627	9.413
T3	1.320	0.314	3.025	48.897	16.120	16.608	6.260
T4	1.631	0.327	2.900	49.083	17.563	17.305	6.843
T5	1.111	0.308	2.660	50.053	16.930	15.486	6.205
T6	1.520	0.324	2.890	50.153	18.647	16.430	6.282
T7	1.320	0.338	2.765	49.760	18.463	14.248	6.846
T8	1.712	0.382	3.238	50.220	19.093	15.009	7.645
T9	1.079	0.279	2.555	48.313	13.600	12.024	6.073
L.S.D. at 5% level	0.05	0.067	0.275	1.195	0.739	0.360	0.022
<i>Second Season</i>							
T1	1.868	0.320	2.905	50.703	26.480	15.667	8.341
T2	1.986	0.331	3.045	52.610	30.177	17.207	10.017
T3	1.948	0.340	3.025	46.300	15.940	19.190	7.150
T4	2.125	0.338	3.065	46.427	23.330	20.357	7.217
T5	1.911	0.310	3.065	48.903	21.167	15.253	6.407
T6	2.055	0.342	3.125	48.380	25.757	16.347	6.433
T7	1.985	0.344	2.910	49.237	23.600	14.373	7.117
T8	2.131	0.390	3.120	49.740	26.300	16.333	8.211
T9	1.616	0.266	2.810	44.193	15.040	13.463	6.402
L.S.D. at 5% level	0.005	0.056	0.234	4.817	0.893	0.442	0.074

T1= Boron (70 ppm, foliar) T2= Boron (140 ppm, foliar) T3= Copper (50 ppm, foliar)
 T4= Copper (100 ppm, foliar) T5= Humic acid (0.5g/L, foliar) T6= Humic acid (1g/L, foliar)
 T7= Humic acid (0.5 g/L, soil) T8= Humic acid (1g/L, soil) T9= Spraying with tap water(Control)

Regarding the effect of treatments, foliar copper spray surpasses the other treatments in minimizing tubers weight loss percentage during storage (T3 and T4).

2. Decay percentage:

A gradually and continuous increase in percentage of decay was noticed till the end of storage period in both seasons (Figure 2). While, foliar spray of copper gave the lowest values in weight loss and decay percentage in Jerusalem artichoke tubers during the storage period in both seasons. These results are in harmony with those obtained by El-Zohiri and Youssef (2015) who demonstrated that boron foliar application on Jerusalem artichoke plants caused the lowest weight loss and decay percentage of tubers.

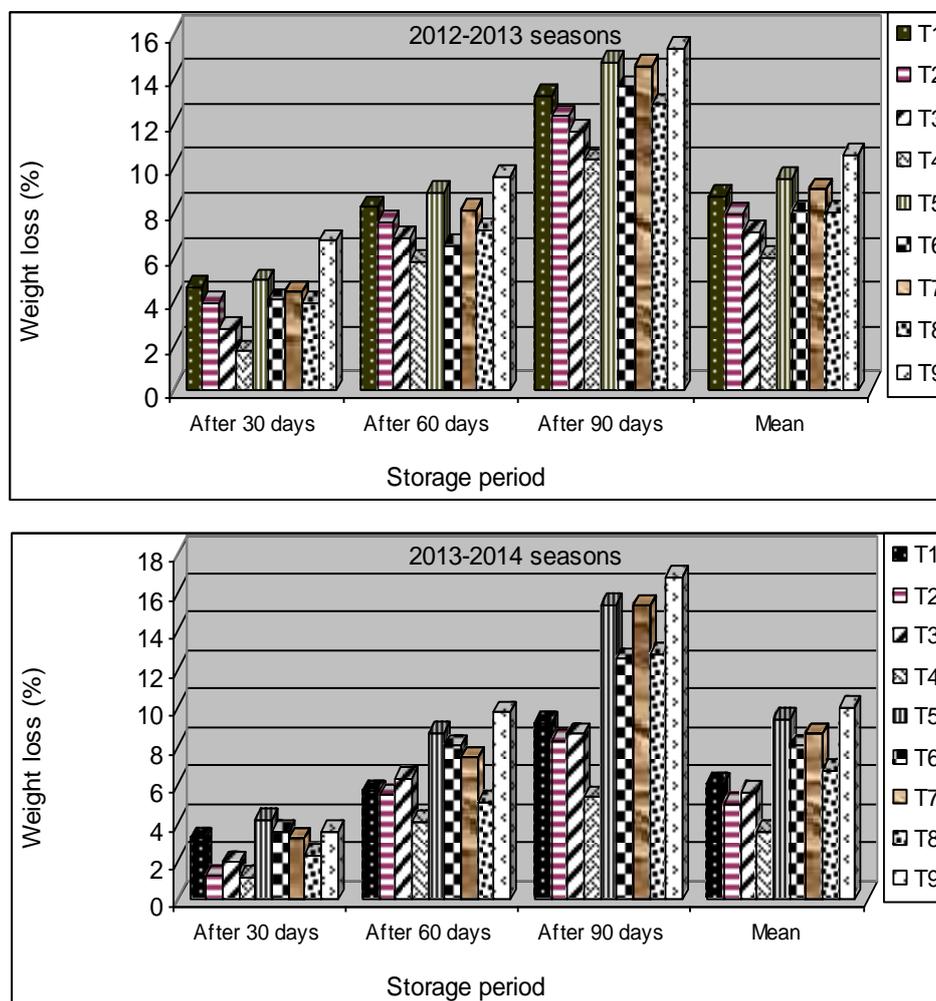


Figure 1. Effect of treatments on weight losses percentage of Jerusalem artichoke tubers in two growing seasons.

The decay could be due to the continuous chemical and biochemical changes happened in vegetable and fruits such as moisture concentration and transformation of complex compounds to simple forms of more liability to fungal infection such as solid protection to the soluble pectin form (Wills *et al.*, 1981). Moreover, increasing cell wall and rising the capability of cells to resist wilting (Graham, 1983). Furthermore, Mortvedt *et al.* (1991) stated that in Cu deficient soil, root Cu concentrations are low and that such roots are sensitive to fungal and bacterial attack.

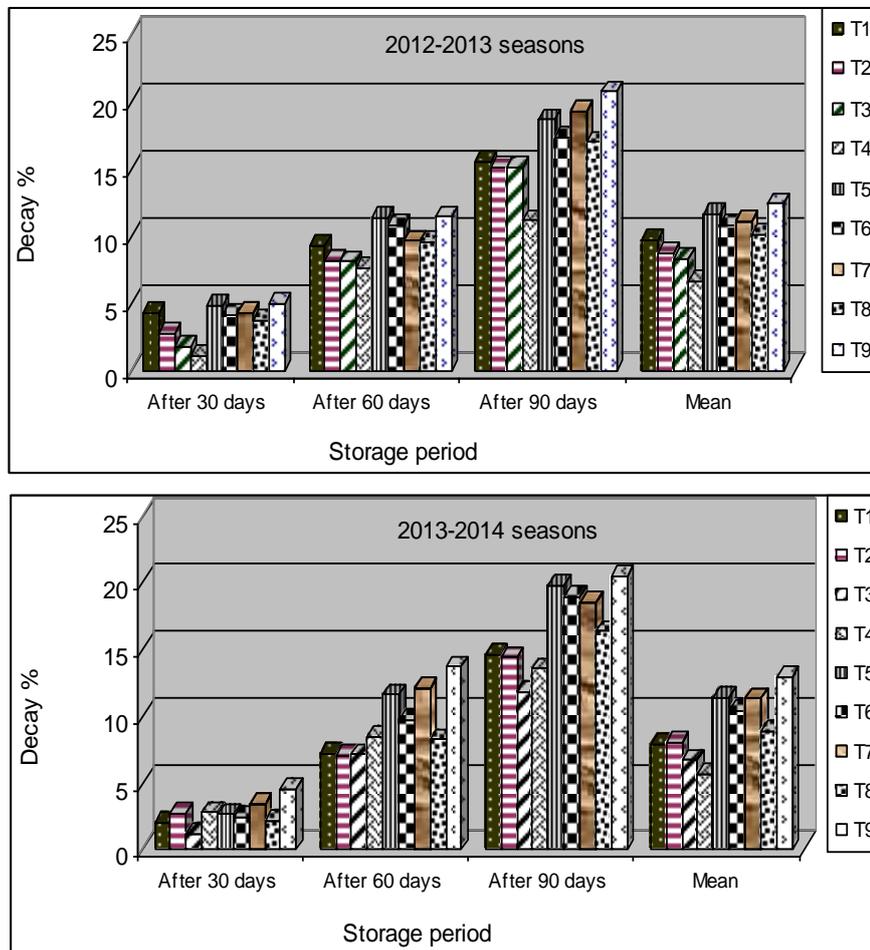


Figure 2. Effect of treatments on decay percentage of Jerusalem artichoke tubers in two growing seasons

Conclusively, from the obtained data in this study, it can be recommended by using humic acid at soil for improve growth, number of tubers, yield per plant and total yield. On the other hand, foliar application of boron on Jerusalem artichoke plants increased average tuber weight. Also, foliar spray with copper or boron helps to storage the tubers and low rate of weight loss and decay.

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تأثير المعاملة بالبورون والنحاس وحامض الهيوميك على النمو الخضري والمحصول والقدرة التخزينية لدرنات الطرطوفة

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أجريت تجربة حقلية خلال موسمين متتاليين (٢٠١٣ و ٢٠١٤) على نباتات الطرطوفة صنف فيوزا حيث زرعت النباتات في المزرعة البحثية للخضر بقها- التابعة لمعهد بحوث البساتين – مركز البحوث الزراعية لدراسة تأثير المعاملة بكل من البورون والنحاس وحمض الهيوميك بمعدل اضافة عن طريق الرش ، و اضافة ارضية) بالاضافة الى معاملة الكونترول (الرش بالماء) علي النمو الخضري والمحصول ومكوناته والمحتوى الكيماوي للدرنات و فترات التخزين. اشتملت التجربة على ٩ معاملات هي الرش بالبورون بتركيز (٧٠ ، ١٤٠ جزء في المليون)، النحاس بتركيز (٥٠ ، ١٠٠ جزء في المليون) ، حمض الهيوميك بتركيز (٠.٥ ، ١ جم / لتر)، وكذلك الاضافة الارضية بحمض الهيوميك بتركيز (٠.٥ ، ١ جم / لتر) ، بالضافة الى معاملة الكونترول (الرش بالماء) . وقد صممت التجربة بنظام القطاعات الكاملة العشوائية في ثلاث مكررات. وقد اوضحت النتائج أن الرش بالنحاس بتركيز ٥٠ و ١٠٠ جزء في المليون أدى إلى زيادة ارتفاع النباتات مقارنة بباقي المعاملات بينما الرش الورقي بالبورون بتركيز ١٤٠ جزء في المليون أعطى أكثر عدد للسيقان الرئيسية للنبات. كما أظهرت النتائج أن الإستخدام الأرضي لحمض الهيوميك حسن النمو فأعطى أعلى قيمة لوزن النبات الجاف (للمو الخضري)، كما أدى لزيادة معنوية في عدد الدرناات للنبات ومحصول الدرناات للنبات والكلي للقدان. بينما أدى الرش الورقي بالبورون بتركيز ١٤٠ جزء في المليون وحمض الهيوميك بتركيز ١ جم/لتر إلى زيادة متوسط وزن الدرناات في كلا الموسمين. ومن ناحية أخرى فقد تأثر المحتوى الكيماوي للدرناات (النتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم والكاربوهيدرات الكلية والأنثولين والبورون والنحاس) تأثيراً معنوياً بكل المعاملات المستخدمة مقارنة بالكنترول. كما أن المعاملات أدت إلى خفض نسبة الفقد في الوزن والإصابات المرضية وكان أكثرهم تأثيراً رش النباتات بالنحاس بتركيز ٥٠ و ١٠٠ جزء في المليون او البورون بالتركيزين ايضا (٧٠ ، ١٤٠ جزء في المليون) أثناء النمو. ولوحظ ايضا زيادة نسبة الفقد في الوزن والإصابات المرضية للدرناات بزيادة فترة التخزين.