



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; 11(9): 2006-2011
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www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 11-06-2022
Accepted: 26-08-2022

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Response of greater yam (*Dioscorea alata* L.) under different growing conditions for tuber growth, yield and quality

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Abstract

A field experiment was carried out, with a view to study the Response of Greater Yam (*Dioscorea alata* L.) to different growing conditions at Vegetable Research Scheme, Regional Horticultural Research Station of the Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat, India during 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. The experiment was conducted in Large Plot; analysis as CRD with factorial concept (FCRD) with three repetitions which included three growing conditions (G₁: Naturally Ventilated Poly house, G₂: Net house and G₃: Open field), three planting distance (D₁: 60 cm x 60 cm, D₂: 60 cm x 45 cm and D₃: 90 cm x 90 cm) and two varieties (V₁: Round type and V₂: Long type). The results revealed that higher values for growth characters namely, vine length at harvest and fresh weight tuber, yield characters viz., tuber girth, tuber length and tuber yield and quality characters like carbohydrate, starch and protein were found significant in Naturally Ventilated Poly house, Closer spacing 60 cm x 45 cm and Long type variety (V₁). Among from different interaction treatments G x D were found significant in growth, yield and quality characters.

Keywords: Greater yam, naturally ventilated poly house, net house, open field condition, long type and round type variety

Introduction

Greater yam is primarily used for human consumption in the tropical and sub tropical regions. The yam tubers are rich source of carbohydrates, protein and amino acid. Normally tubers are consumed as boiled, baked or fried vegetables. It is also useful for making chips, flakes and flour. Greater yam is basically a dioecious twining herbaceous vine. Stems are 10 m or more in length and freely branching above. It possesses four wings on the thick stem, which twines to the right. The petiole has also wings. Leaves are ovate, cordate, bigger and opposite in phylotaxy. Tubers are variable in shape but mostly cylindrical. The skin of the tuber is black and brown, whereas flesh is white, yellowish, or purplish. Each plant may produce 1 to 3 tubers. Its cultivars rarely flower. Flowers are small, occasional, male and female arising from leaf axils on separate plants (*i.e.* dioecious species), male flowers having panicle which is 30 cm long, female flowers having smaller spikes. Fruit is botanically a 3 parted capsule and seeds are winged (Chadha, 2002) [8].

Protected cultivation practices can be defined as a cropping technique wherein the micro climate surrounding the plant body is controlled partially or fully as per the requirement of crops grown during their period of growth. With the advancement in horticulture various types of protected cultivation practices suitable for a specific type of agro-climatic zone have emerged. Among these protective cultivation practices, poly green house, net house, shade house, plastic tunnel *etc.* are very useful for India. This technology can be adopted by the rural youth for more income per unit of land. The improvement in economy of farmers with the decreasing land holding is also possible through the protected cultivation by increasing production per unit area. The glut of vegetable during a short period of harvesting is also the problem in the country which can be minimized with the protected cultivation as harvesting period of crops under protected structures is longer. Recently many progressive farmers of Gujarat have started the cultivation of greater yam under protected conditions like Poly house, Net house *etc.* Keeping in view of farmers survey, this research was set up to find out better growing condition for greater yam growth and yield.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was undertaken at the Vegetable Research Scheme, Regional Horticultural Research Station of the Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat, India during 2015 -16 and 2016-17. The experiment was conducted in Large Plot; analysis as CRD with factorial concept (FCRD) with three repetition which included three growing conditions (G₁: Naturally Ventilated Poly house, G₂: Net house and G₃: Open field), three planting distance (D₁: 60 cm x 60 cm, D₂: 60 cm x 45 cm and D₃: 90 cm x 90 cm) and two varieties (V₁: Round type and V₂: Long type). The experiment was included 18 combinations namely, G₁D₁V₁; G₁D₁V₂; G₁D₂V₁; G₁D₂V₂; G₁D₃V₁; G₁D₃V₂; G₂D₁V₁; G₂D₁V₂; G₂D₂V₁; G₂D₂V₂; G₂D₃V₁; G₂D₃V₂; G₃D₁V₁; G₃D₁V₂; G₃D₂V₁; G₃D₂V₂; G₃D₃V₁ and G₃D₃V₂. The experiment was conducted on same location without changing the randomization for the successive year to access treatment effects. Tuber pieces of 200 g were used for planting material for both variety. The experimental growing conditions for all three locations were thoroughly prepared as our treatment includes different spacing treatments. The beds inside the poly house and net house were made symmetrical and levelling was done with the help of wooden plank. Cultural practices for three growing conditions (Naturally Ventilated Poly house, Net house and

Open field) were maintained same for two seasons.

For recording different field observations, five plants of greater yam from each net plot area were selected randomly in the beginning and tagged with the labels. Vine length was measured from base of the plant to tip of the main shoot with the help of meter tape at final harvest and fresh weight of tuber recorded immediately after harvest. Tuber girth and length were measured with measuring tape. The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis as per Panse and Sukhatme (1967) [16].

Carbohydrate and protein content was estimated using Lowry's method as described by Sadasivam and Manickam (1996) [25]. For measuring starch content 0.5 gram of yam tuber sample was chopped and ground finely in ice cold water. The filtrate was kept in icebath such that starch settles down. The filtrate was decanted and washings were given and the residue was washed with alcohol and ether to obtain pure residue of starch.

$$\text{Starch \%} = \frac{C \times V \times 100 \times 0.9}{1000 \times V_1 \times W}$$

Results and Discussion

Main Effect: Results of main effect is shown in table no 1.

Table 1: Effect of growing condition, spacing and variety on growth, yield and quality of greater yam.

Treatments	Character							
	Vine length (m) at harvest	Fresh weight of tuber (g)	Tuber girth (cm)	Tuber length (cm)	Tuber yield 1000 m ² (kg)	Carbohydrate content (%)	Starch content (%)	Protein content (%)
Growing conditions (G)								
G ₁ (Poly house)	9.05	1678.21	28.28	22.02	2553.88	19.63	33.50	1.37
G ₂ (Net house)	7.28	1355.04	24.49	17.12	2213.77	17.22	30.94	1.25
G ₃ (Open field)	4.75	893.37	20.56	16.87	1655.29	15.33	30.04	1.21
S.Em. ±	0.12	22.14	0.30	0.43	29.71	0.30	0.30	0.02
C.D. _{0.05} (G)	0.33	62.49	0.85	1.22	83.83	0.85	0.84	0.06
Planting distance (D)								
D ₁ (60 cm x 60 cm)	6.08	1135.75	23.92	18.26	2120.66	17.80	31.64	1.21
D ₂ (60 cm x 45 cm)	8.04	1493.54	21.47	18.11	2810.79	18.37	32.23	1.35
D ₃ (90 cm x 90 cm)	6.96	1297.33	27.94	19.65	1491.50	16.02	30.60	1.27
S.Em. ±	0.12	22.00	0.30	0.43	29.83	0.30	0.30	0.02
C.D. _{0.05} (D)	0.33	62.08	0.86	1.22	84.20	0.85	0.84	0.06
Variety (V)								
V ₁ (Round type)	6.79	1266.56	27.23	11.86	1670.69	15.73	30.22	1.20
V ₂ (Long type)	7.26	1351.19	21.65	25.48	2611.27	19.05	32.76	1.35
S.Em. ±	0.13	18.05	0.25	0.36	70.03	0.25	0.25	0.02
C.D. _{0.05} (V)	0.39	50.96	0.69	1.00	NS	0.70	0.69	0.05

Effect of growing conditions

Different growing conditions were significantly influenced vine length (m). Significantly higher vine length (9.05 m) was noted with naturally ventilated poly house (G₁) while significantly lower vine length (4.75 m) was observed in open field condition (G₃). This might be due to the use of ultraviolet stabilized plastic film, which allowed filtered light inside the Naturally Ventilated Poly house as compared to other growing conditions. The reduction of vine length of greater yam under open field condition was might be due to non control of light radiation, such results of higher growth rate under greenhouse conditions have been reported by Nimje *et al.* (1990) [13], Bhatnagar *et al.* (1990) [4], Naik (2005) [12] and Bai and Sudha (2015) [3] in capsicum, where as Papadopoulos and Ormrod (1991) [18] in tomato.

Effects of different growing conditions were significantly affected on fresh weight of tuber (g) at harvest. Significantly

higher fresh weight of tuber (1678.21 g) was observed in G₁ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house). While, significantly lower fresh weight (893.37 g) of tuber was recorded in G₃ (Open field condition). This might be due to the greater yam had higher yield under Naturally Ventilated Poly house due to light compensation for higher photosynthesis and control solar injury by controlling ultraviolet radiation. This positively influenced the morpho-phenological and physiological events of greater yam plants. It was concluded that the better growth, development and yield of greater yam was achieved under Naturally Ventilated Poly house due to optimum utilization of solar energy. Similar results were reported by Naik (2005) [12] and Biradar *et al.* (2014) [5] in capsicum, Rajesekar *et al.* (2013) [21] and Rana *et al.*, (2015) [23] in tomato.

Significantly higher tuber girth (28.28 cm) was found in G₁ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house) and significantly lower

tuber girth (20.56 cm) was noted with treatment G₃ (Open field condition). Tuber length (22.02 cm) was also observed significantly higher with G₁ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house). While, significantly lower tuber length (16.87 cm) was noted with G₃ (Open field). Naturally Ventilated Poly house (G₁) recorded significantly higher tuber yield 1000 m⁻² (2553.88 kg). Significantly lower yield 1000 m⁻² (1655.29 kg) was observed with G₃ (Open field).

All these yield attributing parameters of greater yam were significantly higher with Naturally Ventilated Poly house as compared to Net house and Open field. This might be due to the translocation of more photosynthesis from source to sink and also favourable microclimate that prevailed in the Naturally Ventilated Poly house throughout the crop growth period. Greater yam had higher yield under Naturally Ventilated Poly house due to light compensation for higher photosynthesis and control solar injury due to filtered solar radiation. This positively influenced the morpho-phenological and physiological events of greater yam vines. It was concluded that the better growth, development and yield of greater yam was achieved under Naturally Ventilated Poly house due to optimum utilization of solar energy. The results corroborate with the findings of Naik (2005) [12] in capsicum, Parvej *et al.* (2010) [20] in tomato and Brahma *et al.* (2012) [6] in capsicum.

Quality parameters of greater yam *viz.*, carbohydrate (19.63%), starch (33.50%), and protein (1.37%) were recorded significantly higher in Naturally Ventilated Poly house followed by Net house compared to Open field, because solar radiation energy is one of the most important environmental factors required for plant quality. To develop biosynthetic pathway of secondary metabolism depends on any plants in given environment that achieving quality of wavelength, duration and quantity of solar radiation. Higher quality of greater yam tuber under protected structures might be due to better climatic condition and ultraviolet radiation impact under protected structures, similar results reported by Biradar *et al.* (2014) [5] in capsicum.

Effect of spacing

From different planting distances, significantly higher vine length (8.04 m) were recorded with closer spacing 60 cm x 45 cm (D₂) as compared to wider spacing 60 cm x 60 cm (D₁) and 90 cm x 90 cm (D₃). This might be due to the great competition for space and light thereby forcing the plants to grow taller. The short and stout plants were produced at wider spacing because of availability of more growth space where in plants were able to exploit more nutrients from the soil and light sources. Similar increase in growth rate at closer spacing were noticed and reported by Rajewar *et al.* (1981) [22] in tomato, Papadopoulos and Ormrod (1991) [18] in tomato, Narayan *et al.* (2017) [14] in cherry tomato and Stoffella and Bryan (1988) [29] in capsicum.

Significantly higher fresh weight of tuber (1493.54 g) were observed with closer spacing 60 cm x 45 cm (D₁). This could be due to increased uptake of more nutrients and build up of sufficient photosynthesis enabling the increase in size of tubers (length and width), ultimately resulted in the higher tuber weight. The results are in conformity with the findings of Sulikeri *et al.* (1973) [31] and Randhawa *et al.* (1975) [24] in tomato, Singh and Naik (1990) [28] in capsicum.

Significantly higher tuber girth and tuber length (27.94 cm and 19.65 cm) was observed with wider spacing D₃ (90 cm x

90 cm) while lowest tuber girth was observed with closer spacing D₂ (60 cm x 45 cm). Tuber yield 1000 m⁻² (2810.79 kg) was found significantly higher in closer spacing 60 cm x 45 cm (D₁). This might be due to higher plant population per unit area, greater crop biomass and increased availability of total assimilates for distribution to tuber which intern helps to increase harvest index. Similar results were obtained by Sulikeri *et al.* (1973) [31], Randhawa *et al.* (1975) [24], Streck *et al.* (1996) [30], Papadopoulos and Pararajasingham (1997) [19], Sandri *et al.* (2002) [28], Ogbomo and Egharevba (2009) [15], Agarwal and Zakwan (2011) [1] in tomato, Ahmed (1984) [2], Granges and Leger (1989) [10], Singh and Naik (1990) [28], Savic *et al.* (1992) [27] as well as Choudhary and Singh (2006) [9] in capsicum.

Effect of variety: V₂ (Long type) was significant in vine length (7.26 m) and fresh weight of tuber (1351.19 g). Superiority of V₂ (Long type) over V₁ (Round type) might be due to its greater genetic build up mechanism and capacity for accumulation of more photosynthesis that favoured higher growth attributes as compared to Round type variety.

Tuber girth (27.23 cm), tuber length (25.48 cm) and tuber yield 1000 m⁻² (2611.27 kg) were significantly affected by two different varieties of greater yam. Significantly these all characters regarding greater yam were higher with Long type variety (V₂) as compared to Round type variety (V₁). This could be due to high uptake of nutrients and build up of sufficient photosynthesis enabling the increase in size of tuber (girth and length), resulting in the increased tuber weight and volume in Long type variety of greater yam. Similar findings were recorded by Buitelaar and Janse (1987) [7] in tomato and Mohomedien *et al.* (1991) [11] in cucumber.

Quality parameters *viz.*, carbohydrate (19.05%), starch (32.76%) and protein (1.35%) found significantly higher in Long type variety (V₂). Significantly higher quality of all these parameters are recorded in Long type variety (V₂) as compared to Round type variety (V₁) because of congeal effect, better environmental condition which turns achieving higher growth and yield under this variety which may also responsible for better quality.

Interaction Effect: Results of interaction effect is shown in table no 2.

Growth characters

Interaction effect due to G x D showed significant effect on vine length and fresh weight of tuber while interaction effect of G x V, D x V and G x D x V remained non significant.

Significantly higher vine length (m) and fresh weight of tuber (g) (10.06 and 1862.87 respectively) was recorded with G₁D₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x 60 cm x 45 cm) and significantly lower vine length (m) and fresh weight of tuber (g) (4.18 and 789.50 respectively) was recorded with G₃D₁ (Open field x 60 cm x 60 cm). This might be due to congenial climatic condition under naturally ventilated poly house, as well as great competition for space and light thereby forcing the plants to grow taller. Plant can effectively use light interception which ultimately increased photosynthetic rate, ultimately increased growth of plant. Similar results was obtained by Biradar *et al.* (2014) [5] in capsicum.

Yield Characters

Interaction between different treatments *viz.*, for tuber girth G

x D, D x V and G x D x V while for tuber length, G x V, D x V and G x D x V and for tuber yield 1000 kg m⁻² G x D, G x V, D x V and G x D x V interactions were found significant. Treatment combination G₁D₃ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Planting distance 90 cm x 90 cm) D₃V₁ (Planting distance 90 cm x 90 cm x Round type) and G₁D₃V₁ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Planting distance 90 cm x 90 cm x Long type) was recorded significantly higher tuber girth (cm) (31.96, 31.57 and 36.99 cm; respectively). This may be due to wider spacing in naturally ventilated growing condition provide much more effective in longer type greater yam variety. Similar observations were recorded by Biradar *et al.*

(2014) [5] in capsicum.

G₁V₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Long type) recorded significantly higher tuber length (cm), D₃V₂ (Planting distance 90 cm x 90 cm X Long type) and G₁D₃V₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Planting distance 90 cm x 90 cm x Long type) was found significantly higher tuber length in pooled analysis (30.52 cm, 27.29 cm and 34.15 cm; respectively). This may be attributed to the favourable climatic conditions that prevailed under naturally ventilated poly house, leading to higher vegetative growth and congenial climate for long type variety of greater yam and better space available in wider spacing.

Table 2: Interaction of growing condition, spacing and variety on growth, yield and quality of greater yam.

Treatments	Character							
	Vine length (m)at harvest	Fresh weight of tuber (g)	Tuber girth (cm)	Tuber length (cm)	Tuber yield 1000 m ⁻²	Carbohydrate content (%)	Starch content (%)	Protein content (%)
G ₁ D ₁	7.78	1447.37	26.60	21.41	2632.81	19.95	33.39	1.23
G ₁ D ₂	10.06	1862.87	26.28	21.29	3088.71	22.45	35.52	1.48
G ₁ D ₃	9.30	1724.37	31.96	23.35	1940.12	16.51	31.59	1.40
G ₂ D ₁	6.26	1170.37	24.34	17.03	2203.59	18.36	31.56	1.22
G ₂ D ₂	8.54	1585.87	21.39	16.41	2944.74	17.15	31.02	1.33
G ₂ D ₃	7.02	1308.87	27.72	17.93	1492.98	16.15	30.24	1.20
G ₃ D ₁	4.18	789.50	20.81	16.32	1525.55	15.09	29.97	1.16
G ₃ D ₂	5.50	1031.87	16.74	16.63	2398.91	15.51	30.17	1.25
G ₃ D ₃	4.56	858.75	24.13	17.66	1041.41	15.39	29.98	1.21
S.Em. ±	0.20	37.54	0.52	0.74	73.21	0.61	0.51	0.03
C.D. _{0.05}	0.56	105.89	1.46	NS	209.97	1.76	1.44	0.08
G ₁ V ₁	8.86	1643.59	31.64	13.52	1946.65	18.24	32.06	1.27
G ₁ V ₂	9.24	1712.83	24.92	30.52	3161.10	21.03	34.94	1.47
G ₂ V ₁	7.09	1320.42	27.03	11.90	1721.63	15.48	29.89	1.19
G ₂ V ₂	7.47	1389.67	21.93	23.13	2705.91	18.96	31.99	1.31
G ₃ V ₁	4.43	835.66	23.02	10.95	1343.79	13.49	28.71	1.13
G ₃ V ₂	5.06	951.08	18.09	22.79	1966.79	17.17	31.37	1.29
S.Em. ±	0.14	25.71	0.42	0.81	59.77	0.42	0.92	0.03
C.D. _{0.05}	NS	NS	NS	2.33	171.44	NS	NS	NS
D ₁ V ₁	5.82	1089.58	26.74	11.30	1672.60	15.81	29.69	1.15
D ₁ V ₂	6.33	1181.92	21.10	25.21	2568.70	17.40	30.92	1.26
D ₂ V ₁	7.85	1458.92	23.40	12.28	2088.55	14.00	30.05	1.26
D ₂ V ₂	8.23	1528.17	19.55	23.94	3533.02	19.79	33.59	1.44
D ₃ V ₁	6.71	1251.17	31.57	12.00	1250.93	19.34	33.55	1.18
D ₃ V ₂	7.21	1343.50	24.30	27.29	1732.08	18.03	31.16	1.36
S.Em. ±	0.16	31.05	0.52	0.70	59.77	0.42	0.42	0.03
C.D. _{0.05}	NS	NS	1.50	2.03	171.44	1.20	1.19	NS
G ₁ D ₁ V ₁	7.59	1412.75	29.07	12.56	2106.89	18.01	31.06	1.19
G ₁ D ₁ V ₂	7.97	1482.00	24.13	30.27	3158.72	21.87	35.71	1.28
G ₁ D ₂ V ₁	9.87	1828.25	28.85	15.43	2140.30	21.65	33.62	1.34
G ₁ D ₂ V ₂	10.25	1897.50	23.71	27.14	4037.12	23.25	37.42	1.62
G ₁ D ₃ V ₁	9.11	1689.75	36.99	12.55	1592.77	15.03	31.50	1.28
G ₁ D ₃ V ₂	9.49	1759.00	26.93	34.15	2287.47	17.97	31.67	1.52
G ₂ D ₁ V ₁	6.07	1135.75	27.59	11.06	1772.31	16.14	29.54	1.19
G ₂ D ₁ V ₂	6.46	1205.00	21.09	23.00	2634.88	20.58	33.57	1.25
G ₂ D ₂ V ₁	8.35	1551.25	22.63	10.90	2123.91	15.60	30.09	1.26
G ₂ D ₂ V ₂	8.73	1620.50	20.16	21.92	3765.56	18.70	31.97	1.40
G ₂ D ₃ V ₁	6.83	1274.25	30.90	11.39	1268.68	14.71	30.06	1.13
G ₂ D ₃ V ₂	7.21	1343.50	24.55	24.46	1717.28	17.59	30.42	1.27
G ₃ D ₁ V ₁	3.80	720.25	23.54	10.27	1138.60	13.27	28.47	1.07
G ₃ D ₁ V ₂	4.56	858.75	18.07	22.36	1912.51	16.91	31.48	1.26
G ₃ D ₂ V ₁	5.32	997.25	18.71	10.50	2001.43	14.95	29.08	1.19
G ₃ D ₂ V ₂	5.69	1066.50	14.78	22.76	2796.38	16.07	31.26	1.31
G ₃ D ₃ V ₁	4.18	789.50	26.82	12.07	891.33	12.25	28.59	1.13
G ₃ D ₃ V ₂	4.94	928.00	21.45	23.25	1191.49	18.53	31.38	1.29
S.Em. ±	0.28	53.07	0.75	1.05	103.53	0.73	0.72	0.04
C.D. _{0.05}	NS	NS	2.11	2.97	296.94	NS	NS	NS

Tuber yield 1000 m² (kg) was found significant with G₁D₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Planting distance 60 cm x 45 cm), G₁V₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Long Variety), D₂V₂ (Planting distance 60 cm x 45 cm x Long type) and with G₁D₂V₂ (Naturally Ventilated Poly house x Planting distance 60 cm x 45 cm x Long type) obtained significantly higher yield 1000 m²(kg) (3088.71, 3161.10, 3533.02 and 4037.12 respectively). This might be due to better climatic condition in naturally ventilated poly house and higher plant population in closer spacing and genetic build up and suitability of long type variety. Similar finding was recorded by Papadopoulos and Ormrod (1988) ^[17] in tomato.

Quality Characters

Results on quality parameters of greater yam viz., carbohydrate (%), starch content (%) and protein content (%) were showed significant effect due to different interaction (G x D and D x V) where it shows non significant effect in G x V and G x D x V interaction. These significant effects were due to congeal effect of better climatic condition which turns into higher photosynthetic active radiation with respect to growing condition (Naturally Ventilated poly house), planting distance (60 cm x 45 cm) and variety (Long type).

Conclusion

Apart from the research results of two years of experiment, it was concluded that higher growth, yield attributes and quality of greater yam was recorded with Naturally Ventilated Poly house as compared to Net house and Open field.

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