

**B-72 : EFFECT OF PLANTING TIME OF TWO COWPEA VARIETIES
ON GROWTH AND YIELD PARAMETERS WHEN INTERCROPPED
WITH MAIZE**

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The effect of three planting times (simultaneously with maize,

7 days before and 7 days after planting of maize) of two Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L) Walpers) varieties (MI 35 and Bombay), intercropped with maize (*Zea maize* (L)) on growth and yield parameters of component crop was studied.

A field experiment which was conducted during Yala season 1990 (from mid April to end July) was arranged in a R.C.B. design with four replicates.

Results indicated that growth parameters (plant height and no. of leaves/plant) and yield parameters (ear length, ear diameter, ear weight and 100 seed weight) except dry matter yield of maize stover were not significantly affected by the different treatments. Maize which was planted one week after Bombay cowpea, gave significantly lower stover yield. But higher stover and grain yield of cowpea were obtained when cowpea was planted one week before maize. Bombay cowpea showed higher competitive ability than MI 35 when intercropped with maize while MI 35 gave higher grain yield than Bombay cowpea when it was planted one week before maize.

There was no interaction effect between cropping system and planting schedules.

According to the results, it is clear that yield advantages of cowpea could be obtained in a maize/cowpea intercropping system when cowpea variety, MI-35 is planted one week before maize.

