

B-65: Foliar applied boron increase the final number of branches and pods of pot grown mung-bean plants

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Mung bean (*Phaseolus mungo* cv. Type 51) was grown to maturity in plastic pots containing 12 kg of red-yellow podzolic soils. Each pot received 2.5g urea, 9.8g concentrated superphosphate and 5.25g muriate of potash as a basal dressing. Boron was applied as boric acid (- B: 0 ppm: + B: 1 ppm, 5 ppm and 10 ppm). Two split boric acid applications were given to plants, the first a pre-flowering application the second a post flowering application 3 weeks and 5 weeks after planting. The phenology as well as yield parameters such as no. of branches and pods, seed number per pod, total number of seed weight per plant were determined.

A 10 ppm foliar boron application produced slight leaf marginal necrosis. The phenological development of plants such as time taken for flowering, blooming and appearance of pods were not affected by the B levels used. Among the yield parameters, the number of branches and the number of pods were significantly higher in plants treated with B as compared with plants grown at a 0 ppm B level. The rest of the parameters showed a tendency to increase with B application. Among the various B levels tested, a 5 ppm B application produced the best performance.