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Effect of decapitation on yield of greengram (*Vigna radiata* L.)

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An attempt was done to study the effect of decapitation on yield of greengram (*Vigna radiata* L.) at the Agronomy farm, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design with five treatments and four replications. In control treatment (T1), removal of apical portion of main stem (decapitation) was not practiced whereas in other treatments, decapitation was done at 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th weeks after planting (T2, T3, T4 and T5) respectively. The size of each plot was 70 cm x 90 cm. Greengram (cv. MI-5) seeds were planted at a spacing of 30 cm between rows and 10 cm within plants and other agronomic practices were done as recommended by Department of Agriculture. Number of days to 50% flowering, number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod and yield per plot were recorded. Data collected were statistically analyzed using analysis of variance and the significance of difference between means was estimated using Duncan's Multiple Range Test at 5% level. The results showed that 1st flowering appeared at 30 days after sowing in T1, T4 and T5 whereas in T2 and T3, it took longer period (34-37 days) however, all treatments showed 50% and 100% flowering within 4-15 days after appearance of 1st flower. There were significant differences ($P<0.05$) observed in number of pods per plant, number of seeds per pod and dry weight of pod per plant in T2 compared to other treatments except T3. T2 gave high yield (152.85 ± 14.89g per plot) among the treatments. In the present study, decapitation done at 3rd week after sowing (T2) is most effective practice to achieve higher yield of greengram in sandy regosol.

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