

Early Spring Side-Dressing of Winter Wheat in the Conditions of the Ordinary Chernozem

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ABSTRACT

The article presents data on the study of various forms, doses and methods of application of fertilizers used in the early spring for feeding winter wheat grown in arid conditions of the Central Ciscaucasus. During the 10-year period of study of optimization ways of winter wheat fertilization, we have not revealed a significant difference in the effectiveness of the root fertilization and surface fertilization of winter wheat in early spring period. In years with sufficient moisture supply, the highest yield was observed in options with root fertilization of the winter wheat. We recommend the optimal dose of nitrogen for early spring fertilizing of winter wheat in arid conditions of ordinary chernozems to be equal to 35 kg r.a. (rate application), which provides the maximum gain in yield of winter wheat of the studied varieties by 16.3% and 17.4%, respectively.

Keywords: ordinary black soil, fertilization system, nitrogen fertilizing, fertility, winter wheat, fertilization methods, forms of fertilizer.

INTRODUCTION

In terms of crop productivity, grain varieties have great potential, which can be successfully implemented in the case of the development of an optimal system of plant nutrition based on theoretical studies, revealing the essence of the processes of formation of maximum yields of high-quality products. Optimal nitrogen fertilization is of paramount importance for the cultivation of winter crops¹. In the field conditions, plants do not absorb 30-50% of nitrogen in the year of application of nitrogen fertilizer. Just 25-45% of nitrogen from the most common nitrogen fertilizers is fixed in the soil in the organic form, while 10-30% is lost. Nitrogen utilization coefficient by plants from different nitrogen fertilizers applied before sowing turned out to be almost similar. However, the amount of nitrogen fixed in the soil in the organic form is greater, and its losses are correspondingly less from ammonium, ammonia fertilizers, and urea as compared to that from saltpeter. The loss of fertilizer nitrogen due to leaching of highly mobile soil-bound nitrates is usually low - less than 5% (usually 1-3%) of the applied quantity. Soil nitrogen, the mobilization of which is enhanced by the application of mineral fertilizers, is washed up more essentially. Thus, with the existing scale of application and average losses (20% of the applied nitrogen fertilizers), at least 2 million tons of nitrogen, the most important element of plant nutrition, is annually lost from the soil just in our country. Therefore, the regular and timely application of nitrogen at the right time gives a good opportunity for potential yield of crops with high quality of grain. Fulfillment of the optimal requirements for fertilizing is the key to the maximum

yield of winter crops². The effectiveness of fractional application of nitrogen for winter crops has been established in many experiments. However, there is evidence in the literature concerning the advantage of a single-use nitrogen application. The analysis of the results of field experiments has shown that the positive effect of fractional nitrogen application is observed in the conditions of positive response of varieties to nitrogen fertilizers. If the variety has not responded to nitrogen fertilizer, this means that transferring part of the fertilizer to side-dressing was not effective. The effectiveness of side-dressing depends on the type of weather. The analysis of data allows concluding that at normal (sufficient) and excessive moistening of both autumn and spring-summer period in the conditions of nonchernozem zone, spring side-dressing is more effective. The efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers at the main application and spring side-dressing is sharply reduced (by 2 times or more) at a lack of precipitation in summer. The average efficiency of nitrogen application in the amount of 50% of the dose at the main fertilization of soil, and 50% of the dose in spring side-dressing of soil is close to the effectiveness of spring side-dressing except for dry autumn (when the effect of fractional application is higher)^{3, 4}. The natural factor determines the efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers in various soil and climatic zones, while the accumulation of mineral forms of nitrogen in the soil is due to the reserves of nutrients and moisture conditions during the growing season of grain crops⁵. The role of nitrogen side-dressing of soil increases significantly in conditions of normal moisture supply and especially when irrigating⁶. Side-

dressing of winter cereals is the main and mandatory technique in the technology of winter crops' cultivation. At that fully justified selection of methods and timing of application of doses, types and forms of fertilizers taking into account agrotechnical factors increases their agroecological efficiency⁷⁻⁹. Thus, the recommendations for the application of spring nitrogen side-dressing of winter crops should be strictly differentiated by soil and climatic conditions, and the annual application doses should be adjusted to the moisture conditions.

Materials and Methods.

The studies were conducted during the period from 2008 to 2017 in the arid area of the Stavropol Territory in the conditions of ordinary chernozems. The research objects were two varieties of winter wheat, namely Esaul and Nota, as well as various doses and methods of nitrogen fertilizers' application at early spring side-dressing. The field method was used in the course of scientific experiment. Winter wheat cultivation technology was the one generally accepted for this agro-climatic zone.

Results and Discussion

The formation of maximum yield of winter wheat of good quality is possible only when the developed complex of agricultural enterprises contributes to the successful course of all vital processes in plants. The proximity of nitrogen fertilizers to seeds in many cases can reduce the yield. Therefore, one can count on a stable positive effect of row application of nitrogen fertilizers only with respect to nonacid soils containing phosphorus in the amount sufficient for the plant which is in need of nitrogen fertilizer.

To obtain high yields of winter wheat, it is necessary to create such conditions for the plant, under which the assimilation surface would reach optimal sizes and retain it for a long time under the condition of high photosynthetic activity. This is possible due to the activation of nitrogen nutrition of winter wheat. On average, over a 10-year period no significant difference in the methods of nitrogen fertilizer application in early spring side-dressing was revealed. Accordingly, both root and surface application methods are quite effective at growing winter wheat in arid conditions on ordinary chernozems of the Stavropol Territory.

Table 1. The Effect Of Nitrogen Fertilizers' Doses And Methods Of Their Application On The Yield (T/Ha) Of Winter Wheat Varieties (Esaul Variety) In The Arid Zone Of The Stavropol Territory (2008-2017)

Fertilizer application method	Proportion of nitrogen kg/ha, r.a.	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Surface fertilization	0	3.41	3.2	3.17	3.48	3.15	3.87	4.0	3.85	3.52	3.75
	17.5	3.78	3.48	3.54	4.12	3.4	4.12	4.21	4.02	3.91	4.01
	35	3.92	3.61	3.78	4.31	4.2	4.51	4.73	4.84	4.73	4.89
	51.5	3.99	3.54	3.78	4.22	4.15	4.71	4.99	5.03	4.95	5.15
	69	3.8	3.41	3.92	4.30	4.1	5.09	5.49	5.67	5.15	5.25
Root fertilization	0	3.48	3.12	3.15	3.4	3.25	3.69	3.91	4.01	3.61	3.58
	17.5	3.88	3.47	3.69	4.0	3.51	4.0	4.35	4.26	4.18	4.19
	35	4.01	3.71	3.68	4.21	4.27	4.39	4.67	4.99	4.69	4.77
	51.5	3.92	3.61	3.63	4.17	4.21	4.66	4.89	5.2	4.95	5.11
	69	3.8	3.49	3.57	4.28	4.14	5.01	5.53	5.57	5.1	5.13

Nota variety had similar results in the studied 10-year period. In this regard we consider it sufficient to provide yield data for just Esaul variety (Table 1). In the options with the highest dose of nitrogen we observed certain depression in wheat growth and development, which in turn slightly reduced the yield. In the early period of plant formation, when the first three leaves appeared, the assimilating apparatus of plants was relatively poorly developed and its general synthetic activity was insignificant. Therefore, the plant needs small doses of nitrogen. Enhanced nitrogen nutrition during this period results in inhibition of growth and development of both roots and aboveground plant organs. Therefore, for better growth and development of plants, in the initial period, it is necessary to provide an enhanced phosphorus and moderate nitrogen nutrition. The effect of nitrogen fertilizer application methods on the yield of winter wheat of Esaul variety in the arid

zone of the Stavropol Territory for the period 2008-2017 has been ambiguous over the research period. At that, the best results were obtained in sufficiently wet years at the options of root application of nitrogen nutrition. Stating the data obtained, we can clearly trace a direct dependence of grain yield on the dose of nitrogen fertilizer used in early spring soil fertilization. Table 2 shows the average yield in Esaul and Nota varieties. The yield of Nota variety was by 0.38 t/ha (surface method) and 0.36 t/ha (root method) higher than that of Esaul variety, taken as a control. On the soil fertilization options, differences between the varieties' productivity depending on fertilizer doses were also noted. The highest rates of productivity were achieved when applying nitrogen at a dose of 35 kg/ha in Esaul variety regardless of the method of fertilizer application, amounting to 4.35 t/ha and 4.33 t/ha, respectively. The influence of nitrogen nutrition on the quality of winter wheat grain

is of great interest. Early spring side-dressing has direct influence on the quality composition of the grain. The development of optimal nutrition of winter wheat of intense varieties is a quite urgent task for

farmers of the arid zone of the Stavropol Territory. We have revealed a positive effect of nitrogen side-dressing on the quality of winter wheat grain.

Table 2. The Effect Of Nitrogen Fertilizer Doses And Methods Of Their Application On The Average Yield (T/Ha) Of Winter Wheat Varieties In The Arid Zone Of The Stavropol Territory (2008-2017)

Nitrogen doses kg/har.a.,	Fertilizer application method,		, LSD ₀₅ = 0.92
	surface	root	
Esaul variety			
0	3.54	3.52	3.25
17.5	3.85	3.95	3.64
35	4.35	4.33	3.78
51.5	4.45	4.43	3.74
69	4.61	4.56	3.71
, LSD ₀₅ = 0.58	3.62	3.62	LSD ₀₅ = 0.16 S, % = 4.2
Nota variety			
Nitrogen doses kg/ha r.a.,	Fertilizer application method,		, LSD ₀₅ = 0.66
	surface	root	
0	3.92	3.88	3.62
17.5	4.17	4.22	3.95
35	4.70	4.75	4.25
51.5	5.14	5.07	4.27
69	5.15	5.06	4.21
, LSD ₀₅ = 0.58	4.05	4.07	LSD ₀₅ = 0.12 S, % = 4.8

Further increase in the dose of nitrogen led to an insignificant increase in the yield of winter wheat grain and was within the error of experiment. The quality of winter wheat grain increased depending on the nitrogen dose. The content of crude gluten in the grain of Esaul winter wheat variety at surface and root application of fertilizers compared to the control increased by 1.1-4.2%. Vitreousness and protein increased by 6-14% and 0.5-1.3%, respectively. In the options of application of ammonium nitrate in

doses of 35, 51.5, and 70 kg/ha r. a., grain corresponded to the second class (Table. 3). The content of crude gluten in grain of Nota winter wheat variety at surface and root application of fertilizer increased by 0.3% and 3.9%, respectively, compared to the control. Fertilizers also had positive effect on the grain's vitreousness and protein content, the difference with the control was 1.1-12.6% and 0.2-1.2%, respectively. Grain quality of Nota variety was worse than that of Esaul variety.

Table 3. The Effect Of Nitrogen Fertilizer Doses And Methods Of Application On The Quality Of Esaul Variety Of Winter Wheat Grain (2008-2017)

Nitrogen doses, kg/ha r.a.	Method of fertilizer application							
	Surface application				Root application			
	Crude gluten, %	Vitreousness, %	Protein, %	Gluten deformation index	Crude gluten, %	Vitreousness, %	Protein, %	Gluten deformation index
1. Control FB ¹ N12P52	22.1	58	12.9	86	22.6	60	13.2	89
2. FBN 17	23.2	62	13.4	74	24.3	64	13.6	70
3. FBN 35	26.4	72	13.6	66	27.1	69	13.8	68
4. FB 51.5	27.8	74	14.3	63	28.3	74	14.2	57
5. FB N 69	28.2	70	14.4	58	28.9	74	14.5	60

¹FB –fertilizer background

Application methods of nitrogen fertilizers had no significant impact on the quality of winter wheat varieties. Similar data were obtained forNota variety (Table 4).

Table 4. The Effect Of Nitrogen Fertilizer Doses And Methods Of Application On The Quality Of Nota Variety Of Winter Wheat Grain (2008-2017)

Nitrogen doses, kg/ha r.a.	Method of fertilizer application							
	Surface application				Surface application			
	Crude gluten, %	Vitreousness, %	Protein, %	Gluten deformation index	Crude gluten, %	Vitreousness, %	Protein, %	Gluten deformation index
1. Control FB ¹ N12P52	20.1	57	10.9	96	20.6	59	11.1	92
2. FBN 17	21.0	64	11.3	84	20.9	63	11.4	81
3. FBN 35	22.4	66	11.5	66	22.8	66	11.7	67
4. FB 51.5	23.5	70	11.8	60	24.1	74	12.0	60
5. FB N 69	24.4	71	12.0	70	25.0	72	12.3	58

¹FB – fertilizer background

Studied doses and methods of nitrogen fertilizers' application had positive impact on the formation of the crop structure, productivity, and quality of winter wheat grain. The maximum yield of Esaul variety of winter wheat was 4.47 t/ha, while that of Nota variety was 4.79 t/ha. These indicators were achieved at the surface application method which provided a dose of nitrogen equal to 69 kg/ha r.a.

Conclusion.

Thus, the studied methods of nitrogen fertilizer application had no significant impact on the productivity of winter wheat in the arid conditions of the Stavropol Territory, while the advantage of the root method of fertilizer application was not statistically valid compared to the surface method of applying mineral fertilizers for early spring side-dressing. During the 10-year period of study of fertilizers' optimization ways with respect to winter wheat, we have not revealed a significant difference in the efficiency of root and surface application methods when carrying out early spring side-dressing. In years with sufficient moisture supply, the highest yield was observed in options with root fertilization of the winter wheat. We recommend the optimal dose of nitrogen for early spring fertilizing of winter wheat in arid conditions of ordinary chernozems to be equal to 35 kg r.a., which provides the maximum gain in yield of winter wheat of the studied varieties by 16.3% and 17.4%, respectively.

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