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EVALUATION OF COTTON (*GOSSYPIUM* SPP.) GERMPLASM FOR HEAT TOLERANCE UNDER NORMAL AND LATE PLANTING TIME

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ABSTRACT. The objective of this study was to determine cotton (*Gossypium* spp.) germplasm for heat tolerance under normal and late planting time. For this aiming 200 cotton genotypes and five check varieties (Gloria, SG 125, Flash, Ozbek 105 and Candia) were evaluated under two different temperature regimes and experiments were conducted according to the augmented design with four blocks. Field studies were carried out at the GAP International Agricultural Research and Training Center's experimental area in Diyarbakır, Turkey, in 2016 cotton growing season. In the study heat susceptibility index was used for discriminate to the genotypes for heat tolerance. Genotypes were classified into four groups based on the heat susceptibility index. The results of this study indicated that five cotton genotypes (TAM 139-17 ELS, CIM-240, Haridost,

MNH-990 and AzGR-11835) were in highly heat tolerant, 28 genotypes were found heat tolerant, 56 genotypes were in the moderately heat tolerant and other 120 genotypes were observed susceptible for heat tolerance. Based on the heat susceptibility index, five cotton genotypes can be used as parent for heat tolerance improvement in the cotton breeding program where high temperature is a limiting factor for seed cotton yield.

Keywords: cotton; abiotic stress; susceptibility; resistance; yield.

INTRODUCTION

High temperature stress is an important abiotic stress factor, which limiting plant growth and productivity worldwide is expected to increase in

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the future. High temperature stress causes some morphological, physiological, biochemical and molecular changes that adversely affect plant growth and yield (Liakatas *et al.*, 1998; Singh *et al.*, 2007; Yıldız and Terzioğlu, 2007; Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Bhattacharya, 2019). Heat stress usually occurs in conjunction with other environmental stresses such as drought and high light intensity that aggravate the impact in terms of low plant population per unit area, reduced fiber yield and quality of cotton fiber (Rahman, 2006; Khan *et al.*, 2008).

Cotton is a plant of warm climate origin, but it is damaged by extremely high temperatures during the growing period (Oosterhuis, 2002). The optimum temperature for cotton growth is reported to be between 20 to 30°C. (Reddy *et al.*, 1991). High temperature above 36°C affects plant growth and development, especially during the reproductive phase and effect pollination, fertilization and another physiological process. Indeed, higher temperatures affect all stages of growth and development of cotton, but the crop sensitivity to adverse temperatures seems to increase during reproductive development (Phillips, 2012). Reddy *et al.* (1991) revealed that cotton plants became less reproductive at 35/27°C and lost their reproductive ability at 40/32°C. High temperature stress can negatively affect the plant height, number of nodes and internodes and number of monopodial and sympodial branches (Roussopoulos *et al.*, 1998).

Excessively high temperatures can decrease other important traits, such as seed size, fibers per seed, and fiber length (Oosterhuis, 1999), boll number, boll retained and boll retention percentage (Hake and Silvertooth, 1990; Reddy *et al.*, 1992; Lokhande and Reddy, 2014) and boll size and maturation period (Reddy *et al.*, 1999; Zafar *et al.*, 2018), leaf area expansion or dry weight accumulation (Roussopoulos *et al.*, 1998), root and shoot development (Abro *et al.*, 2015; Farooq *et al.*, 2015). Wells and Stewart (2009) observed that the greatest stem elongation, leaf area expansion and dry weight accumulation was occurred at 30/22°C, with less growth at both lower and higher temperature regimes. On the other hand, Pettigrew (2008) reported that warm temperature regime was consistently 3% stronger than fiber in the control, but lint yield from the warm regime was 10% lower than that of control. Timing, duration and intensity of heat stress might affect the ability to screen for heat tolerance. The flowering time is the most sensitive period to high temperature on the cotton plant.

One of the most important and economic ways to overcome the negative effects of heat stress is to identify or develop heat-tolerant cotton cultivars (Sing *et al.*, 2007). Breeding temperature tolerant cultivars would be a sustainable and cheapest approach to get good produce under extreme temperature situation (Zafar *et al.*, 2018). Bibi (2006) observed that cotton plant

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started showing signs of stress between 35°C and 38°C and screened some cotton genotypes for heat tolerance and reported that Acala Maxxa, SG215 BR and DP 4444BG/RR were the most tolerant genotypes to high temperatures, and suggested use of wild germplasm and screening under controlled conditions for heat tolerance studies.

At present, the major constraint for identifying heat-tolerant cultivars is the lack of reliable screening tools. A better understanding of the possible impact of high-temperature stress on physiological, morphological, and yield processes would not only help in mitigating the adverse effects of high-temperature stress, but also in developing reliable field-screening tools (Sing *et al.*, 2007). One of these methods is to compare the genotypes by sowing at two different times for yield differences.

The present study was carried out to determine the effects of high temperature on seed cotton yield and also to assess the tolerance of 205 cotton genotypes to heat stresses based on heat susceptibility index.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field experiments were conducted during the 2016 cotton growing season at the GAP International Agricultural Research and Training Center (37°56'N Lat, 40°15'E Long and 677 m elevation) in Diyarbakir, Turkey. The climate in this region is semiarid with total annual precipitation of 549.1 mm (Anonymous, 2017). Long term climatical findings showed that there were 454 mm total

rainfall and 15.8°C average temperature in every year. The research soils are zonal soils, which are generally red-brown and included in the big soil group having a clayish nature, flat or about to be flat, having very small erosion and deep or medium deep. The soil samples were taken from 0-30 cm depth and analyzed at GAP International Agricultural Research Institute's laboratory and it had loamy structure, slightly alkali, limy and salty, poor in terms of organic matter and phosphorus and sufficient for potassium.

The genetic material used in this study consisted of 200 cotton genotypes and five control varieties (Gloria, SG 125, Flash, Ozbek 105 and Candia). Two field experiments were conducted under normal and high temperature stress conditions. By conducted two sowing time experiments, the plant's flowering period coincided with two different temperatures. The experiments were laid out in an augmented design with four blocks and formed from a total of 220 parcels (each block consisted of 50 genotypes and five controls).

Each plot consisted of 1 row with 12 m long and the distance between and within rows were 70 cm and 15 cm, respectively. Sowing was made with the machine under optimum sowing condition (timely sown, 29 April 2016), and high temperature stress condition was planted (late sown planting, 24 May 2016), all plots received 140 kg ha⁻¹ N and 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅. Half of the nitrogen and all phosphorus were applied at sowing time and the remaining N was given as ammonium nitrate (33%) at the squaring stage before the first irrigation. Recommended cultural practices, such as insect and weed control methods, were employed from sowing to harvesting of the cotton crop and furrow irrigation was applied at six times, in late planting time

irrigation was needed for seed germination for this reason irrigation was done just after sowing. Insects were applied two times for *Thrips tabaci* and *Empoasca* ssp. during the cotton vegetation period.

The plots were harvested twice by hand for yield determination on 27 September 2016 and second on 11 October 2016 in the first sowing time and 28 October 2016 and 15 November 2016 in the second sowing time and after completed harvesting seed cotton weight were weighed and calculated for seed cotton yield. To determine the severity of high temperature stress, the hobo instrument was placed in the experimental area and the temperature and humidity values were recorded hourly intervals (Fig. 1). As shown in the Fig. 1, it can be seen that in the Diyarbakir province temperature can reach at 55.5°C.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses of data were performed using the JMP 7.0.1 statistical software package program (SAS Institute, 2002), and the heat susceptibility index (HSI) was calculated with formula, as shown below, according to Ficher and Maurer (1978). The high temperature yield data and lower temperature yield data from the trials in this study were used in place of the genotypic mean values for yield under stress (Y) and potential yield under non-stress (Yp) variables, respectively, in the equations for the above indices. X and Xp are the mean yield of all genotypes per trial under stress and non-stress conditions. Higher HSI indicates greater susceptibility.

Heat susceptibility index (HSI):

$$(1-Y/Yp) / (1-X / Xp) \quad (1)$$

Y: Seed cotton yield of genotype in a stress environment; Yp: Seed cotton yield of genotype in a stress free environment;

X: Mean Y of all genotypes; Xp: Mean Yp of all genotypes.

In this formula: HSI = < 0.50 = Highly tolerant; HSI = 0.51-0.75 = Heat tolerant; HSI = 0.76-1.00 = Moderate heat tolerant; HSI = > 1.00 = Heat susceptible.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to Augmented experimental design, the results of the seed cotton yield of the genotypes obtained from an experiment carried out in two different sowing times under field conditions are shown in the Table 1. As can be seen, the seed cotton yield of late planting time decreased. The comparative yield values of two sowing time of 205 cotton genotypes (200 lines + five check varieties) can be seen in Fig. 1.

Seed cotton yield of normal sowing time genotypes changed from 969.70 kg ha⁻¹ to 5911.90 kg ha⁻¹. The highest yield obtained from B-557 (5911.90 kg ha⁻¹), while the lowest yield obtained from Giza 7 line (969.70 kg ha⁻¹) under normal planting time. At normal sowing time among five control varieties the highest seed cotton yield obtained from Ozbek 105 (4714.30 kg ha⁻¹), while the lowest yield obtained from SG 125 (2398.90 kg ha⁻¹).

Seed cotton yield of late sowing time genotypes changed from 344.60 kg ha⁻¹ to 3316.10 kg ha⁻¹. The highest yield obtained from Haridost (3316.10 kg ha⁻¹), while the lowest yield obtained from Acala 3080 line (344.60 kg ha⁻¹) under late planting time. At late sowing time among, five control varieties the highest seed

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cotton yield obtained from Ozbek 105 (2094.00 kg ha⁻¹), while the lowest yield obtained from Candia (755.80 kg ha⁻¹). High seed cotton yield of a genotype

under late sown condition indicated the presence of genes for heat tolerance.

Table 1 - Seed cotton yield of genotypes under normal and late planting time

	Normal planting time (kg ha ⁻¹)	Late planting time (kg ha ⁻¹)
The highest line	5911.90	3316.10
The lowest line	969.70	344.60
Mean of lines	3284.80	1063.00
The highest control	4714.30	2094.00
The lowest control	2398.90	755.80
Mean of controls	3176.00	1112.10
General mean	3282.36	1167.99
CV (%)	12.31	31.66
LSD (0.05)	123.73 *	ns

ns: non significant; * and **, significantly different from zero at $p \leq 0.05$ and $p \leq 0.01$, respectively.

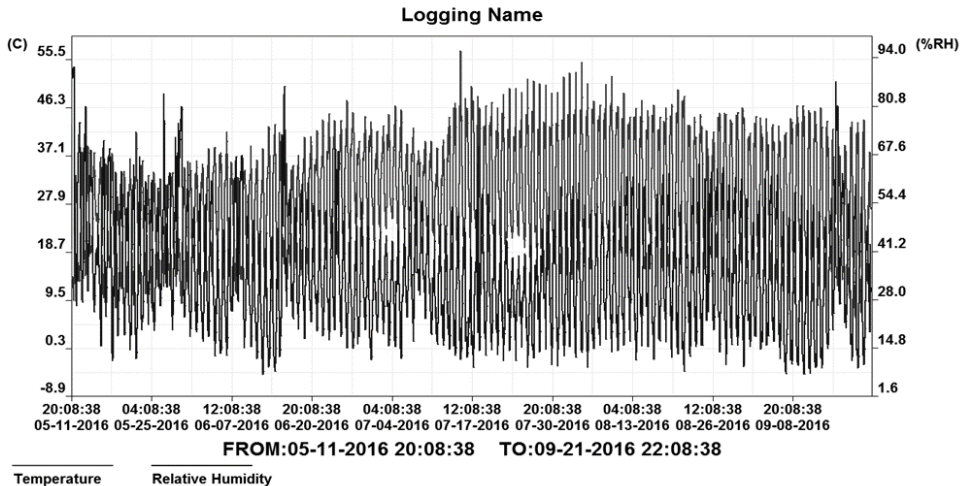


Figure 1 - Meteorological data on daily minimum, maximum temperature and relative humidity

When the general mean of the experiment is examined, it is seen that the seed cotton yield is 3282.36 kg ha⁻¹ at normal sowing time and 1167.99 kg ha⁻¹ at late sowing time. The one month difference in sowing time led to a 35.58% reduction in average

yield values (Table 1). Similar findings have been revealed by Pettigrew (2008), who previously reported that lint yield from the warm regime was 10% lower than that of the control and yield reduction was primarily caused by a 6% smaller boll

mass, with 7% fewer seed produced per boll in the warm regime. Negative correlations between high temperature and cotton yield reported by Oosterhuis (1999), Oosterhuis (2011) and Zahid *et al.* (2016).

Cotton genotypes in the experiment were classified according to high temperature stress sensitivity index according to the seed cotton yield values under normal and late sowing conditions and four different groups were formed. It was determined that five cotton genotypes (TAM139-17ELS, CIM-240, Haridost, MNH-990 and AzGR-11835) showed a highly significant tolerance to high temperature stress and their high temperature sensitivity index values were less than 0.50.

Among the genotypes, 28 cotton genotypes were tolerant to high temperature stress (TAM 04 WB 33S, TAM B147-21-ELS, TAM B182-33-ELS, Acala Okra VA2-4, Acala Tex, Deltapine 14, AzGR-7711, Mex 123, Taaskent, Tex 2382, Darmi, Helius, NIAB-111-1, Ujchi 2 Uzbek, Viky (ES-20021), Ziroatkar-68, BH-118, CIM-506, CRI5-134, Malmal-MNH-786, Korina, MNH-786 7, MNH-814, Shahbaz, Rantos, Frego Cluster and Giza 7). High temperature sensitivity index values of these genotypes ranged from 0.51 to 0.75.

It was seen that from the *Table 2*, 52 genotypes were found to be moderately tolerant to high temperature stress. Ozbek 110 control variety was also included in this group (*Table 2*). High temperature sensitivity index values of genotypes

in this group ranged between 0.76-1.00. Cotton genotypes in this group (TAM 87-G3-27, TAM 94 L 25, TAM A 106-16 ELS, TAM C147-42-ELS, TAM C66-26-ELS, Acala-1064, Acala 1-13-3 -1, Acala 1517-70, Acala 1517-91, Acala 29, Acala 442, Acala Cluster, Acala Morell, Acala Okra, Deltapine 15, Deltapine 15A, Deltapine 714 GN, Deltapine 905, Dpl-5540-85-subokra, Giza 59, TAMCOT SPHINX, Karnak 55, New MexicanAcala, Stoneville 213, Stoneville 256-315, Stoneville 2B, Stoneville-3202, Stoneville 5A, Tadla 25, Tex 843, Eva, Ligur, Mehigon, NIAB 777, NIAB 874, MNH 493, Sugdion-2, AzGR-3775, Ziroatkar-81, 173/994, CIM-401, CIM-70, CRI5-342, FH 142, NIAB-KIRN, Acala Nakad, Alba Acala 70, Samos, Nova, AzGR-11468, AGC 85, Özbek105 (Control 4) can be said to have moderate tolerance to high temperature.

It was seen that 120 genotypes, which made up the majority of the experiment, were sensitive to high temperature stress. It was determined that Gloria, SG 125, Flash and Candia control varieties were included in this group. High temperature sensitivity of genotypes in this group was found to be greater than 1.00.

Many researchers tested different cotton varieties against for high temperature, some of these studies were carried out under field conditions and others under controlled conditions. Ashraf *et al.*, (1994) screened response of five cotton cultivars of cotton (*Gossypium*

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hirsutum L.) B-557, CIM-70, MNH-93, NIAB-78 and S-12 to high temperature stress and assessed at germination and a later growth stage under controlled environmental conditions and they reported that all

five cultivars did not germinate at 50°C, B-557 and MNH-93 had relatively higher percentage germination at 40°C than the other cultivars.

Table 3 - Classification of genotypes according to their sensitivity to high temperature

Highly heat tolerant	Heat tolerant	Moderately heat tolerant	Heat susceptible	
TAM 139-17 ELS	TAM 04 WB 33S	TAM 87-G3-27	TAM 01 E 22	Tex 1216
CIM-240	TAM B147-21-ELS	TAM 94 L 25	TAM C 155-22 ELS	Tex 2167
Haridost	TAM B182-33-ELS	TAM A 106-16 ELS	TAM C66-16- ELS	Tex 844
MNH-990	Acala Okra VA2-4	TAM C147-42- ELS	TAM C66-266- ELS	Tex 1389
AzGR-11835	Acala Tex Deltapine 14	TAM C66-26-ELS Acala-1064	Acala 1517C Acala 1517 D	Tex 1412 Tex 1416
	AzGR-7711	Acala 1-13-3-1	Acala 1517 SR2 – vert	Tex 2383
	Mex 123	Acala 1517-70	Tropikal 225	Tex 2700
	Taaskent	Acala 1517-91	Acala 3080	Acala
	Tex 2382	Acala 29	Acala 32	Africa E5 (20025)
	Darmi	Acala 442	Acala 44	Agala Sindou
	Heliuss	Acala Cluster	Acala-44-WR	Arrota- 129
	NIAB 111	Acala Morell	Acala 4-42	Avesto
	Ujchi 2 Uzbek	Acala Okra	Acala 51	Bulgar 6396
	Viky (ES-20021)	Deltapine 15	Acala 8	Bulgar 73
	Ziroatkar-68	Deltapine 15A	Acala Glandless	Campu
	BH-118	Deltapine 714 GN	Acala Harper	Carolina Queen
	CIM-506	Deltapine 905	Acala MexicanLindless	Cascot L7
	CRI5-134	Dpl-5540-85-subokra	Acala N 28-5	Deltapine 20
	Malmal-MNH-786	Giza 59	Acala Nunn's	Deltapine 50
	Korina	TAMCOT SPHINX	Acala Shafter Station	Deltapine 565
	MNH-786	Karnak 55	Acala SJ1	Deltapine-5816
	MNH-814	New MexicanAcala	Acala SS-2280	Europa

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Shazbaz	Stoneville 213	Acala Young's	Fibermax 819
Rantos	Stoneville 256-315	Acala 55-5	Fibermax 832
Frego Cluster	Stoneville 2B	Aden	Giza 70
Giza 7	Stoneville-3202	Auborn 56	Giza 75
AzGR-11836	Stoneville 5A	Deltapine 12	Tonia
	Tadla 25	Crumpled	NIAB 78
	Tex 843	Brown Egyptian	NIAB 846
	Eva	Deltapine 120	Penta
	Ligur	Deltapine 25	Sivon
	Mehigon	Deltapine 26	Sarbon
	NIAB 777	Deltapine 41	Stonoville 474
	NIAB 874	Deltapine 45 Vert	Stonoville 506
	MNH 493	Deltapine 50	AZGR-11839
	Sugdiyön-2	Deltapine 61	Sure Grow-125
	AzGR-3775	Deltapine 62	Zeta 2
	Ziroatkar-81	Deltapine 80	Ziroatkar-64
	173/994	Deltapine SR-4	B557
	CIM-401	Deltapine SR-5	Marvi
	CIM-70	Deltapine Staple	NIAB-111-1
	CRI5-342	Earlipima	NIA-UFAQ
	FH 142	Giza 45	AGDAŞ 3
	NIAB-KIRN	Giza 83	Sadori
	Acala Nakad	Hopicala Vert	Sindh-1
	Alba Acala 70	Stoneville 014	Sohni
	Samos	Mex 122	VH 260
	Nova	Mex 68	Aboriginal 79
	AzGR-11468	Mex 106	AzGR-11834
	AGC 85	Mex 102	NIBGE-2
	Özbek105 (Control 4)	Stoneville 256	Ağdaş 7
		Stoneville 3	Ağdaş 6
		Stoneville 508	Ağdaş 17
		Stoneville 618 BBR	AGC 208
		Stoneville 62	AGC 375
		Stoneville 731 N	Gloria (Control 1)
		Stoneville 108 SR	SG125 (Control 2)
		Stoneville 504	Flash (Control 3)
		Tex 1152	Candia (Control 5)

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Abro *et al.* (2015) studied 58 newly evolved cotton genotypes to heat stresses under field conditions and two different temperature regimes based on agronomic and physiological characteristics and they used heat tolerance index. Authors revealed that 17 genotypes (NIA-80, NIA-81, NIA-83, NIA-84, NIA-M-30, NIA-M31, NIA-HM-48, NIA-HM-327, NIA-H-32, NIA-HM-2-1, NIA-Bt1, NIA-Bt2, NIA-Perkh, CRIS-342, CRIS-134, NIAB-111-1) and check variety Sadori indicated a high level of heat tolerance at both (heat-stressed and non-stressed) temperature regimes. Zhang *et al.* (2016) also studied some cotton cultivars for heat tolerance and reported that VH 260 and MNH 456 cotton variety as heat tolerant and ST 213 and ST 4288 as heat susceptible. Singh *et al.* (2018) revealed using on the cumulative heat stress response index (CHSRI) classified five cotton cultivars as heat tolerant (UA 48, MON11R124B2R2, MON11R112B2R2, PHY36WRF and PX532211WRF), while 18 and 15 cotton cultivars as intermediate and heat-sensitive. Salman *et al.* (2019) studied 80 accessions of cotton for heat tolerance using relative cell injury (RCI) and they reported that FH-142 and VH-282 as desirable parents for utilization breeding programs for the development of heat tolerant germplasm.

The varieties observed in this study were planted in two different sowing times under field conditions and it was ensured that the varieties encountered different temperature

degrees at flowering periods and yield performance of these varieties was compared. The tolerance of varieties against high temperature was determined by using only the heat tolerance index. The data obtained from this study is thought to be important for cotton breeding studies.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study, genotypic differences determined for the heat tolerance based on the seed cotton yield in two different sowing times. Late planting time resulted in decreased seed cotton yield and an average 35% yield decreases observed. It was determined that 120 of 205 genotypes were sensitive to temperature, 52 genotypes were found moderately heat tolerant, 28 genotypes were found heat tolerant and five genotypes (TAM 139-17 ELS, CIM-240, Haridost, MNH-990 and AzGR-11835) were found highly heat tolerant. These five cotton genotypes can be used as parent for heat tolerance improvement in the cotton breeding program where high temperature is a limiting factor for seed cotton yield. Among the control varieties, only Ozbek 105 control variety exhibited high temperature tolerance, the others were found sensitive. The results of this study were obtained from the results of a one-year field trials, the responses of genotypes may not be performing very well and may not be the same everywhere. However, in this study large genetic material screened and

during the cotton growing period high temperature reached $>50^{\circ}\text{C}$ and significant yield reduction occurred.

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