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Deying Zhang
Ministry of Agriculture, China

Yuxia Zhang
Inner Mongolia University of Nationalities, China

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Effect of saline-alkali stress on seed germination involving grain Amaranth

Zhang Deying¹ Zhang Yuxia²

¹Centre of Supervision and Inspection of Forage and Turf Seed Quality, Ministry of Agriculture, China, 010020, Hohhot. E-mail: zhdy62@163.com

²Inner Mongolia University of Nationalities, Tongliao, 028042, China. E-mail: yuxiazhang685@163.com

Key words : grain amaranth, seed germination, saline-alkali stress

Introduction The stage of seed germination is very sensitive to salt. Amaranth seeds were treated with mixing salt solutions to evaluate the influence of saline-alkali stress on the germination of amaranth seed, compare the ability of saline-alkali resistance of different varieties of grain amaranth and provide theoretical bases to cultivation and selection of seed resisting saline-alkali stress in drought and saline-alkali areas of north.

Material and methods Red amaranth 112, red amaranth 104 and wild amaranth were used in the experiment. Five different salt concentrations made by mixing NaCl, Na₂SO₄, NaHCO₃ and Na₂CO₃ with the ratio of 1:1:1:1 were designed, each with three replicates. Each of culture dish put 100 amaranth seeds and injected seven milliliter of treatment solution. The condition of germination: temperature of germination was 25°C, light intensity was 4000lx and the time of light was 12h/d. The number of germination was counted after 24h culturing and recorded every 12h. After germination, 10 plants was selected from each treatment to measure the length of radicle and hypocotyl.

Results From Table 1 we can see that different concentration of treatments significantly affected seed germination of grain amaranth. Germination vigour, length of radicle, vigor index and germination index of three varieties of grain amaranth decreased with the increase of salt concentration, the order of decreasing was that red amaranth K112 > wild amaranth > red amaranth R104. There were not significantly different in germination rate length of hypocotyl for red amaranth K112 red amaranth R104. The results indicated that germination vigour, length radicle, germination index and vigor index were more sensitive to saline-alkali stress than germination rate and length of hypocotyl.

Table 1 The variance analysis of seed germination related to saline-alkali stress in grain amaranth.

variety	Treatment (%)	Germination rate (%)	Germination vigour (%)	Length of hypocotyl (cm)	Length of Radicle (cm)	Germination index	Vigor index
Red amaranth K112	CK	62.33aA	47.66aA	1.41aA	3.27aA	90.10aA	294.64aA
	0.2	51aA	25.33bB	1.51aA	1.85bB	62.45bA	115.53bB
	0.4	11bB	2cC	0.6bB	0.31cC	9.36cB	2.90cC
Red amaranth R104	0.6	16.33bB	0cC	0.52bB	0.35cC	11.71cB	3.74cC
	CK	88aA	57.33aA	0.7aAB	2.95aA	114.79aA	338.64aA
	0.2	90.66aA	53.66aA	0.9aA	2.33bB	100.74aA	234.73bB
Wild amaranth	0.4	80aA	27.66bB	0.42bBC	0.49cC	70.42bB	34.50cC
	0.6	67.33bAB	13cC	0.4bBC	0.21cC	54.72bB	11.49dC
	CK	76.66aA	45.66aA	1.77aA	2.67aA	87.36aA	233.25aA
Wild amaranth	0.2	73.33aA	37.33aA	1.53bB	2.01bB	75.83aA	152.41bB
	0.4	54bAB	4bB	0.62cC	0.3cC	27.71bB	8.31cC
	0.6	34.33bcBC	0bB	0.4dC	0.22cC	10.81cC	2.37cC

Conclusions The ability of resistance saline-alkali stress for three varieties of grain amaranth was that red amaranth R104 > wild amaranth > red amaranth K112. It is concluded that Red amaranth R104 can be planted in saline-alkali areas where wild amaranth survive.

Reference

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