Effect of defoliation on yield and water use efficiency of maize (Zea mays L.)

Mohammad Javad Tone thresholds 1 and 2

Chikwe

Crops can be divided into two main types, depending on their use in the agricultural system. The first type includes crops that are grown purely for their economic value, such as cereals, legumes, and oilseeds. The second type includes crops that are grown for their environmental benefits, such as forage crops, cover crops, and green manures. The effectiveness of defoliation varies depending on the type of crop and the timing of defoliation. In general, defoliation can be used to control weed growth, reduce competition for water and nutrients, and improve soil structure. However, excessive defoliation can reduce yield and water use efficiency of crops. The goal of defoliation should be to achieve a balance between economic and environmental benefits. Further research is needed to optimize the timing and extent of defoliation for different crops and environments.