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

Mohammad Javad Teherani 1 and Yehyeh Ebraimi 2

Chicineh

Crop yield efficiency of maize (Zea mays L.) was determined in an experiment. The experiment was conducted in a randomized complete block design with four replicates. The treatments included: (1) Control (no defoliation), (2) 50% defoliation, (3) 75% defoliation, and (4) 100% defoliation. The results showed that defoliation significantly reduced the yield and water use efficiency of maize. The 50% defoliation treatment resulted in the highest yield and water use efficiency, while the 100% defoliation treatment resulted in the lowest. Overall, the results suggest that partial defoliation may be a viable strategy for improving yield and water use efficiency of maize.