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

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Abstract

The effect of defoliation on yield and water use efficiency of maize was studied. Maize was defoliated at 2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks after planting. The results showed that defoliation significantly reduced the yield and water use efficiency of maize. The yield was reduced by 50% and the water use efficiency was reduced by 70% when the plants were defoliated at 8 weeks after planting. The results suggest that defoliation should be avoided to maintain the yield and water use efficiency of maize.

Keywords: Defoliation, maize, yield, water use efficiency.

References