

A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

# Growth Performance of *Eucalyptus Microtheca* Seedlings in Response to Different Levels of Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer

## Dr. Sherzad Omar Hamad

Department of Forestry, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq. Sherzad.hamad@su.edu.krd

#### Aisha Abdulla Shahin

Department of Forestry, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq. ayshashan.shahen1997@gmail.com

# **ARTICLE INFO**

#### Article History:

Received: 1/10/2021 Accepted: 7/11/2021 Published: Summer 2022

#### Keywords:

Seedling quality, fastgrowing species, Eucalyptus species, animal manure, chemical fertilizer, NPK, growth and biomass parameters.

#### Doi:

10.25212/lfu.qzj.7.2.44

# ABSTRACT

In nursery stage, some silvicultural treatments have been applied to produce high quality of forest seedlings. Fertilizer application is one of the most significant treatments that effects on the growth and development of the seedlings. This study was performed in early November 2019 to early April 2020. The paper evaluates the effects of organic and inorganic fertilizers on the growth of Eucalyptus microtheca seedling under nursery growing conditions. Organic fertilizer was used with three levels of animal manure, which are 0, 50 and 100 g/pot, and three levels of inorganic (compound chemical) fertilizer, which include 0, 1 and 2 g/pot of NPK (15:15:15), and each treatments were replicated three times due to availability limited numbers of Eucalyptus microtheca seedlings in the nursery. Vegetative growth parameters taken include, seedling height (cm), leaf number, stem diameter (mm) and biomass (g). The results obtained from the experiment showed that the effects of the treatments were significantly difference from the control for all the parameters accessed. Results of this research concluded that the best seedling growth performance and biomass allocation of E. microtheca were obtained from the seedlings that fertilized with 50 g organic matter and 2 g NPK fertilizer. The results will help nursery man to produce healthy and a high



quality of *E. microtheca* seedlings to meet plantation program.

# 1. Introduction

*Eucalyptus microtheca* F. Muell belongs to Mytraceae Family. The natural habitats of *Eucalyptus microtheca* cover a large area in mid-northern and northern parts of Australia in arid and semi-arid growth areas. However, it has been successfully cultivated in Sudan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. *E. microtheca* is frequently planted in the driest habitats for industrial and non-industrial purposes (Susiluoto and Berninger, 2007). It is fast growing in favorable sites. It is about 25 meters tall and very durable and resistant to insect attacks (AI-Mousawi and AI-Naib, 1975). It used mainly for posts, poles, railway sleepers, and fuel; it is also used in the cellulose industry for textile pulp, and to some extent for paper pulp by mixing with better pulps. The species is commonly planted along roadsides, in shelterbelts, and in farm wood lots and is of importance as a honey and pollen producer (Goor and Barney, 1976).

In view of the potential of mentioned species, nursery men should multiply this species on a large scale for afforestation and reforestation programs. In the nursery stage, some silvicultural treatments have been applied to produce high quality and quantity of forest seedlings. Fertilizer application is one of the most significant treatments that effects on the growth and development of the seedlings (Driessche, 1988; Bhujbal, 2012). Seedling's quality can be enhanced by governing the type, amount, and timing of fertilization (Duryea and Landis, 2012). Nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) are three central macro-nutrients that are very important in the early development stage of seedlings (Pallardy, 2008). Availability of satisfactory N in leaves is essential for photosynthesis that finally boosts shoot and root development (Oliet et al. 2009). The seedlings treat with an adequate level of fertilizer usually have larger stems, and bigger root mass (Trieu, 2003). Phosphorus (P) plays an important role in plant growth and development specifically root and reproductive system. In photosynthesis process, P also plays the main role in storage and transfer of energy as ADP and ATP (adenosine di- and triphosphate). P also is the most important part of the RNA and DNA structures, which are the primary components of genetic information (Uchida, 2000). Potassium (k) has indirect role in

#### QALAAI ZANISTSCIENTIFIC JOURNAL A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022



Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

plant growth and development. Potassium is essential for the activation of over 80 enzymes in the plant. It has significant role in plant's ability to resist stresses from extreme hot and cold temperatures, drought and pests. Potassium diminishes water loss from the leaves and rises drought tolerance due to regulating the stomatal conductance by potassium. Potassium also improves water use efficiency (Hopkins and Huner, 2009)

The appropriate application of organic and inorganic fertilizers to nursery soils is considered crucial because it may seriously influence the value of seedlings produced (Krishnan, 2014). Organic fertilizer (animal manure) has a significant role in improved seedling growth due to increased soil nutrient availability, increased soil microbial activity, decomposition of harmful elements, improvement soil structure, and increased soil water availability (Han et al., 2016). Inorganic fertilizers (NPK) are relatively have high nutrient content and are rapidly taken up by seedlings. The use of excess fertilizer can result in a number of problems such as nutrient loss, surface water and ground water contaminations, and increased sensitivity to harmful insects (Hogue *et al*, 2004). Adequate inorganic fertilizer application in the nursery stage is necessary to assure the production of high-quality and quantity seedlings (Hoque et al, 2004; Sherzad et al., 2015; Hamad et al., 2020). A vigorous seedling has to be well supplied with all the elements in suitable proportions for efficient growth (Craven et al., 2007; Gbadamosi, 2006). It is important to find a suitable amount of fertilizer to be used to different species, sizes, and ages of the seedlings for higher response to the use. Fertilizer gives various effects on plant growth based on the availability enough amount of nutrient in the soil (Barizan and Newbery, 2008).

The previous studies reported that the fertilizer (organic or/and inorganic) application has played a significant role in enhancing the growth of different forest tree seedlings. For instance, Stahl *et al.* (2013) reported that both shoot and root systems of *Eucalyptus benthamii*, and *Eucalyptus dunnii* were enhanced with nitrogen and Phosphor applications in the nursery. Farah Shahanim *et al.* (2014) displayed that *Neobalanocarpus heimii* seedlings fertilized with 10 g of NPK had significantly higher height increment, diameter increment, photosynthetic rate, and stomatal conductance than those fertilized with 10 g of goat dung. Sherzad *et al.* (2015) demonstrated that *Shorea materialis* seedlings fertilized with 2 g NPK monthly had



A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

significantly better growth variables than other fertilizer levels. Ashiono *et al.* (2017) showed that adding of Sawdust: Cow dung mixture (1:1) had the highest measurements for height, root collar diameter and biomass of *Eucalyptus saligna* when compared to the rest of growth mixtures. Rotowa *et al.* (2017) conducted a study to identify the effect of organic and mineral fertilizer treatments on the growth of *Moringa olifera* seedlings, and ultimately, they found that the highest value of growth traits recorded in poultry manure as followed by cow dung treatment. Hamad et al. (2020) found that *Brachychiton populneus* seedlings treated with 3 and/or 4 g NPK fertilizer every two months recorded higher growth characters, chlorophyll content and biomass allocation than application 0, 1, and 2 g NPK fertilizer. James (2020) displayed that the application of organic fertilizer had a positive effect on the growth parameters (seedling height, basal girth, number of leaves and leave area) of *Eucalyptus torelliana* F. Muell.

Although *Eucalyptus microtheca* is thought to be fast growing species, fertilizer application is required for full growth and improved seedling quality. Accordingly, and based on our knowledge that there is no study tested yet the influence of organic and inorganic fertilizers and their combination effects on the growth of *Eucalyptus microtheca* seedlings under nursery growing condition. Therefore, the object of the study is to identify the effect of different levels of organic and chemical fertilizers and their combinations on the early growth rate of *Eucalyptus microtheca* potted seedlings under the plastic-house.

# 2. Materials and Methods

# 2.1 The Study Location

This experiment was performed in early November 2019 to early April 2020 under a plastic house in Grdarasha field (Elevation 415 meters above Sea level, Latitude: 36°06'47.0"N and Longitude: 44°00'44.8"E) which belongs to the College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, Salahaddin University-Erbil.

# 2.2 Species under Study

*Eucalyptus microtheca* potted seedlings at age five months were bought from a private nursery. The average height of the seedlings was about 12±2cm and the



seedling grown in the pot that filled with 5 kg of sandy loamy soil. The seedlings were kept healthy by watering and weeding when needed.

# 2.3 Experimental Design

A factorial CRD was used with three levels of organic fertilizer (A), which are 0, 50 and 100 g/pot of well decomposed animal manure, and three levels of inorganic (compound chemical) fertilizer (B), which include 0, 1 and 2 g/pot of NPK (15 : 15 : 15) and their interactions (Og of organic fertilizer + Og of inorganic fertilizer (AOBO), Og of organic fertilizer + 1g of inorganic fertilizer (AOB1), Og of organic fertilizer + 2g of inorganic fertilizer (A0B2), 50g of organic fertilizer + 0g of inorganic fertilizer (A50B0), 50g of organic fertilizer + 1g of inorganic fertilizer (A50B1), 50g of organic fertilizer + 2g of inorganic fertilizer (A50B2), 100g of organic fertilizer + 0g of inorganic fertilizer (A100B0), 100g of organic fertilizer + 1g of inorganic fertilizer (A100B1), 100g of organic fertilizer + 2g of inorganic fertilizer (A100B2) /seedling), then each level had three replications. Thus, the total number of the experimental units was 27. Statistically, the minimum replication numbers in any experiment are three replications. However, using more than three replications are better to increase accuracy of results. In the current study only three replications were used due to availability limited numbers of Eucalyptus microtheca seedlings compared with Eucalyptus camaldulensis in the nursery. Moreover, both organic and inorganic fertilizer were added to the seedlings in early November.

## 2.4 The Studied Parameters

At the start of the study (November), growth parameters viz seedling height (cm), stem diameter (mm) and leaf numbers were measured. The seedling height measured from the pot edge to the highest living apical shoot using a measuring tape in centime meter unites. Stem diameter was measured at pot edge level by using a digital Vernier caliper in millimeter units (Digimatic caliper Mitutoyo-Japan). Meanwhile; leaf number for each seedling counted manually. In addition, the mentioned parameters re-measured at the end of the experiment (April) to record seedling height increment (cm), stem diameter increment (mm) and leaf numbers increment. Moreover, the seedlings were harvested in April and separated into their components (shoot (stem, leaf), and root) and oven dried at  $80 \text{ C}^\circ$  for 72 hours until constant dry weight (Sherzad



*et al.*, 2017) to calculate biomass of the seedlings, which are shoot dry weight (g), root dry weight (g) and total seedling dry weight (g). In addition, Dickson Quality Index (DQI) was measured to assess seedling quality as a function of total dry weight (TDW), shoot height (SH), stem diameter (SD), shoot dry weight (SDW) and root dry weight (RDW), and is given as follows (eq 1) (Dickson *et al.*, 1960):

$$DQI = \frac{TDW(g)}{\frac{SH(cm)}{SD(cm)} + \frac{SDW(g)}{RDW(g)}}$$
(eq 1)

# 2.5 Data analysis

Data of the growth and biomass parameters were subjected separately to the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) using SPSS Statistics 25. The significant differences among treatment means were compared by Duncan Test at  $p \le 0.05$ .

# 3. Results

Results of analysis of variance showed that organic fertilizer, inorganic fertilizer and their interactions had significant effects on height increment and leaf number increment of *Eucalyptus microtheca* seedlings. However, stem diameter increment of the seedlings was not significantly affected by the organic fertilizer, inorganic fertilizer and their interactions (Table 1).

Comparison means among different levels of organic manure in table (2) demonstrated that the seedlings of *Eucalyptus microtheca* were fertilized with 50 g of organic fertilizer had significantly the highest height increment (24.90 cm). In addition, the seedlings were fertilized with 50 and 100 g of organic manure were significantly recorded higher leaf number increment (24.22 and 21.78/seedling respectively) than those unfertilized seedlings (13.44/seedling). Even though stem diameter increment of the seedlings was not significantly influenced by application of different organic manure amounts, the maximum diameter increment was obtained from the seedlings were treated with 50 g of animal manure (2.21 mm).

Results of inorganic fertilizer application in table (3) illustrated that *E. microtheca* seedlings were treated with 2 g of inorganic fertilizer NPK had significantly better height increment (25.53 cm) and leaf number increment (24.89/seedling) compared with those fertilized with 0 and 1 g of NPK. In addition, stem diameter increment of



the seedlings was not significantly affected by different levels of NPK fertilizer applications. However, the highest diameter increment was also gained from the seedlings were fertilized with 2 g of NPK (2.21 mm).

Table (1): Analysis of variance of the effect of organic, inorganic fertilizer and their interactions on height increment, leaf number increment and stem diameter increment of *E. microtheca* seedlings.

Source of Variation	БГ	P-Value		
	DF	Height increment	Leaf number increment	Stem diameter increment
Organic Fertilizer (A)	2	0.026	0.004	0.360
Inorganic Fertilizer (B)	2	0.010	0.017	0.292
A * B	4	0.035	0.000	0.327

Significant occurs when P- value is  $\leq$  0.05. DF = degree of freedom.

Table (2): Effect of organic fertilizer on means of height increment, leaf number increment and stem diameter increment of *E. microtheca* seedlings.

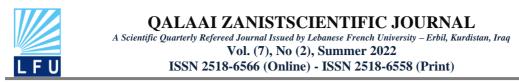
Organic Fertilizer (g)	Height increment (cm)	Leaf number increment	Stem diameter increment (mm)
0	18.56 b	13.44 b	2.09 a
50	24.90 a	24.22 a	2.21 a
100	18.28 b	21.78 a	1.86 a

Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ .

Table (3): Effect of inorganic fertilizer on means of height increment, leaf number increment and stem diameter increment of *Eucalyptus microtheca* seedlings.

Inorganic Fertilizer (g)	Height increment (cm)	Leaf number increment	Stem diameter increment (mm)
0	17.86 b	15.89 b	2.10 a
1	18.34 b	18.67 b	1.84 a
2	25.53 a	24.89 a	2.22 a

Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ . Interaction effects of organic and chemical fertilizer on the growth of seedling height (Figure 1) displayed that the seedlings were fertilized with A50B0, which are 50 g organic manure and 0 g of inorganic fertilizer NPK, recorded higher seedling height increment (28.17 cm) followed by A100B2, A50B2, A0B2, A0B1 and A50B1, while the lowest value of seedling height increment (12.67 cm) was found in the seedlings were not treated by organic and inorganic fertilizer (A0B0). In addition, figure (2) showed



that leaf number increment significantly increased when the seedlings treated with combination of 50 g animal manure and 2 g of NPK (A50B2), followed by 100 g animal manure and 1 g of NPK (A100B1), whereas the lowest numbers of leaf increment was also achieved in A0B0 treatment.

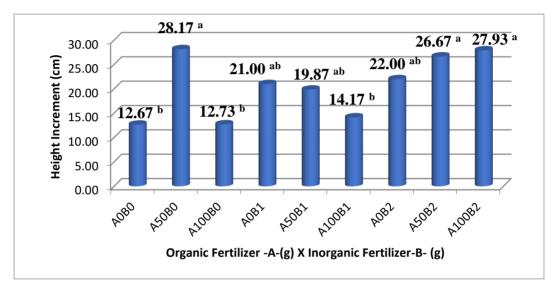


Figure (1): Interactive effect of organic and inorganic fertilizer on mean height increment (cm) of *E. microtheca*. Means with the same letter are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ .

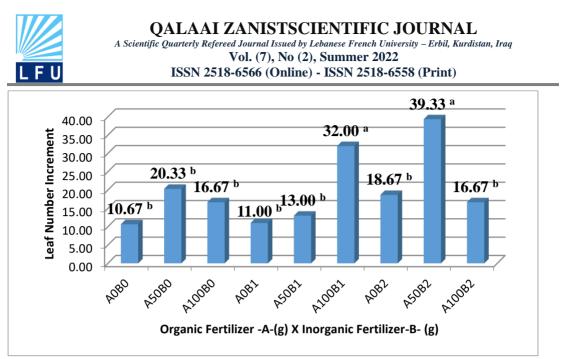


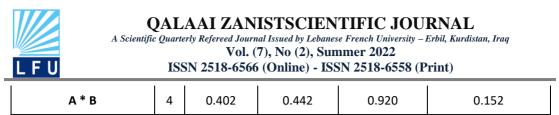
Figure (2): Interactive effect of organic and inorganic fertilizer on leaf number mean increment of *Eucalyptus microtheca*. Means with the same letter are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ .

Table (4) showed that shoot dry weight was significantly affected only by organic fertilizer factor. However, root dry weight and total seedling dry weight were significantly influenced by both the organic and inorganic fertilizer factors. On the other hand, Dickson quality index was significantly affected only by inorganic fertilizer factor. Furthermore, there were not significant interaction effect of the organic and inorganic fertilizer found on the seedling biomass parameters and Dickson quality index.

Table (4): Analysis of variance of the effect of organic, inorganic fertilizer and their interactions on shoot dry weight, root dry weight, total dry weight and Dickson

		P-Value			
Source of Variation	DF	Shoot dry weight	Root dry weight	Total dry weight	Dickson quality index
Organic Fertilizer (A)	2	0.040	0.024	0.024	0.390
Inorganic Fertilizer (B)	2	0.113	0.000	0.004	0.012

quality index of E. microtheca seedlings.



Significant occurs when P- value is  $\leq$  0.05. DF = degree of freedom.

Table (5) demonstrated that shoot dry weight, root dry weight and total seedling dry weight of the seedlings were treated by 50 g and 100 g of organic fertilizer were significantly greater than the control. However, there was not significant differences between application of 50 g and 100 g of organic fertilizer. Thus, economically better to use 50 g of organic fertilizer to enhance seedling biomass of the species. Moreover, even though application of different organic fertilizer amounts did not have significant effect on Dickson quality index of the seedlings, it was improved by increasing organic fertilizer amounts.

Table (5): Effect of organic fertilizer on means of shoot, root and total dry weights of*E. microtheca* seedlings.

Organic Fertilizer (g)	Shoot dry weight (g)	Root dry weight (g)	Total dry weight (g)	Dickson quality index
0	2.63 <sup>b</sup>	2.68 <sup>b</sup>	5.31 <sup>b</sup>	0.08 <sup>a</sup>
50	3.71 ª	3.29 ª	7.00 ª	0.09 <sup>a</sup>
100	3.97 <sup>a</sup>	3.54 <sup>a</sup>	7.51 ª	0.10 <sup>a</sup>

Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ .

Comparison means of seedling biomass traits among different inorganic fertilizer levels in table (6) investigated that even though different levels of chemical fertilizer had not significant result on the shoot dry weight of *E. microtheca* seedlings, application of 2 g fertilizer NPK gave the best result of the mentioned biomass parameter. On the other hand, root dry weight was significantly enhanced with increasing inorganic fertilizer levels as the maximum root dry weight was 4.02 g after application 2 g of NPK, while the minimum result of it was 2.20 g in the control level. In addition, used 1g and 2 g fertilizer NPK dramatically increased total seedling dry weight compared with the control treatment. In other word, the greatest value of total seedling dry weight was 8.01 g after applied 2 g NPK followed 6.73 g in 1 g NPK,



whereas the smallest result which was 5.07 g in the control treatment. Based on Dickson quality index the best significant amounts of inorganic fertilizer application was 2g/seedling in order to improve quality of *E. microtheca* seedlings.

Table (6): Effect of inorganic fertilizer on means of shoot, root and total dry weightsof *E. microtheca* seedlings.

Inorganic Fertilizer (g)	Shoot dry weight (g)	Root dry weight (g)	Total dry weight (g)	Dickson quality index
0	2.86 ª	2.20 <sup>c</sup>	5.07 <sup>b</sup>	0.09 <sup>b</sup>
1	3.44 <sup>a</sup>	3.29 <sup>b</sup>	6.73 ª	0.07 <sup>c</sup>
2	3.99 <sup>a</sup>	4.02 <sup>a</sup>	8.01 <sup>a</sup>	0.10 <sup>a</sup>

Means with the same letter in a column are not significantly different by Duncan at  $p \le 0.05$ .

# 4. Discussion

Seedlings grown in containers face several restrictions, including the scarcity of growing area, which offer the essential nutrients. Therefore, organic and mineral fertilizers are used to provide sufficient nutrients to the seedlings in nursery. The seedlings supported with adequate amount of fertilizer usually have bigger stems and root mass (Trieu, 2003).

This study exhibited that fertilizer application either organic or inorganic or combination of them with adequate level has played critical role in enhancing some growth parameters of *E. microtheca* seedling under nursery growing condition. The best usage amount of animal manure and chemical fertilizer NPK were 50 g and 2 g respectively or both amounts together to improve most growth parameters of the studied species since organic manure increases soil nutrient availability, soil microbial activity, decomposition of harmful elements, improvement soil structure, and soil water availability (Han *et al.*, 2016), and mineral fertilizers (NPK) are also relatively have high nutrient content and are rapidly taken up by seedlings (Hoque *et al*, 2004). Results of growth performance of *E. microtheca* seedlings in the present study in line with those reported by the prior studies on the other forest seedlings species. For example, Trubat *et al.* (2010) explored that fertilization influenced growth and morphology of *Quercus suber* L. seedlings at nursery stage. Aminah *et al.* (2013)



displayed that stem height increment and basal stem diameter increment of *Neobalanocarpus heimii* seedlings received 1 and 2 g NPK were significantly increased compared with those unfertilized. Stahl et al. (2013) investigated that shoot and root growth of Eucalyptus benthamii, and Eucalyptus dunnii seedlings were boosted with nitrogen and Phosphor applications. Sherzad et al. (2015) demonstrated that application of 2 g NPK.pot<sup>-1</sup> significantly increased the height increment, leaf number increment in shorea materialis seedlings compared with unfertilized seedlings. Han et al. (2016) informed that the application of a mixed of animal manures (1000 g.m<sup>-</sup> <sup>2</sup>; mixture of poultry manure, cattle manure, swine manure, and sawdust) or NPK fertilizer (urea, 30 g.m<sup>-2</sup>; fused superphosphate, 70 g.m<sup>-2</sup>; potassium chloride, 15 g.m<sup>-</sup> 2) increased the seedling height and root collar diameter of yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera L.). Ashiono et al. (2017) showed that adding of Sawdust: Cow dung mixture (1:1) had the highest measurements for height, root collar diameter and biomass of *Eucalyptus saliana* when compared to the rest of growth mixtures. Egbewole (2017) showed that the maximum growth rate of Araucaria heterophylla seedlings were recorded in soil treated with poultry droppings. Rotowa et al. (2017) conducted a study to identify the effect of organic and mineral fertilizer treatments on the growth of Moringa olifera seedlings, and ultimately, they found that the highest growth traits of Moringa olifera seedlings recorded in poultry manure and then cow dung treatment. Awosan and Morakinyo (2020) demonstrated that the highest significant value for seedling height, leaves number and branches number of Deinbollia pinnata were achieved when the species was manured by organic fertilizer (cow dung), while the control had the highest mean value in collar diameter. James, (2020) demonstrated that organic fertilizer application had a positive effect on the seedling height, basal diameter, leaf number and leaf area of Eucalyptus torelliana seedlings. Hamad et al. (2020) reported that the highest increment in stem height, stem diameter and leaf number of Brachychiton populneus seedlings obtained when the seedlings fertilized with 3 and 4 g of NPK fertilizer.

In terms of the seedling biomass of *E. microtheca,* results of the present study showed that the shoot dry weight, root dry weight and total dry weight of the seedlings treated with 50 g and 100 g organic fertilizer were significantly greater than the control. However, there was not significant differences between application of 50 g



A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

and 100 g of organic fertilizer. Thus, economically better to use 50 g of organic fertilizer to enhance seedling biomass of the species. Moreover, the shoot dry weight of the seedlings was not significantly differencing among NPK fertilizer amounts, while the root dry weight with 2 g NPK were significantly greater than the control and 1 g NPK. Furthermore, the total dry weight with 1 g and 2 g NPK were significantly superior than the control. So, these results confirmed the previous studies as application an adequate of fertilizer (organic or inorganic) played important role in raising seedling biomass of various forest tree seedlings. For example, Tripathi and Raghubanshi (2013) exposed that the total seedling biomass of Acacia catechu, Bridelia retusa, Dalbergia sissoo, Lagerstroemia parviflora and Terminalia arjuna were enhanced with the increasing amount of nitrogen from 0, to 120 kg. ha<sup>-1</sup>. Han et al. (2016) reported that the mean dry weight of the stems and leaves of yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera L.) were significantly enhanced after application of a mixed of animal manures (1000 g.m<sup>-2</sup>; mixture of poultry manure, cattle manure, swine manure, and sawdust) or NPK fertilizer (urea, 30 g.m<sup>-2</sup>; fused superphosphate, 70 g.m<sup>-2</sup>; potassium chloride, 15 g.m<sup>-2</sup>), compared with the control. Awosan and Morakinyo (2020) demonstrated that organic fertilizer (cow dung) gave the highest significant value for stem, leaf and root dry weight of *Deinbollia pinnata* seedlings. Hamad et al. (2020) informed that the highest significant value of stem and leaf dry weight of Brachychiton populneus seedlings were achieved when the seedlings treated with 4 g NPK fertilizer. However, the highest significant value of root dry weight was attained when the seedlings treated with 3 g NPK fertilizer.

Although several parameters can be used to estimate quality of seedling, for instance, seedling height, stem diameter, shoot and root dry weight, combination of these morphological properties through the Dickson Quality Index becomes an approach to avoid the risk of selecting higher, yet weaker seedlings. The DQI was a good pointer of seedling quality, sturdiness, and biomass balance distribution (Johnson and Cline, 1991). This index takes in consideration important ratios that measure the sturdiness (SH/SD) and biomass balance distribution (SDW/RDW), and ranges from 0 to 1. The greater this value the better the quality of the seedling (Caldeira *et al.*, 2005). In present study, Dickson Quality Index ranged from 0.07 to 0.10. There were no significant differences among the organic fertilizer amounts, but the index improved



by increasing the organic fertilizer amounts. On the other hand, the index value enhanced significantly with 2g/ seedling of NPK fertilizer compared with 1g/seedling and control treatments. Thus, results of Dickson Quality Index confirmed the beneficial effects of the organic and chemical compound fertilizers for the growth and enhancing quality of *E. microtheca* seedlings.

# 5. Conclusion

Results of this research concluded that adding a suitable amount of organic manure and chemical fertilizer had played significant role in improving growth and biomass for *E. microtheca* seedlings. Therefore, to produce healthy and a high-quality seedlings of *E. microtheca* the study suggests that the seedlings should be treated with 50 g well decomposed animal manure and/or 2 g NPK fertilizer. For future studies, researchers should use more than three replications for each treatment in order to confirm the accuracy and stability of the results.

# **References:**

- Al-Mousawi, A.H. and Al-Naib, F.A., 1975. Allelopathic effects of *Eucalyptus microtheca* F. Muell. *The Journal of the University of Kuwait (Science)*, *2*, pp.59-66.
- Aminah, H., Naimah, C.L., Raja Barizan, R.S. and Mohd Noor, M., 2013. Effect of light intensity and fertiliser levels on the stock seedlings of Chengal (*Neobalanocarpus heimii*) and rooting of its subsequent cuttings. *Sains Malaysiana*, 42(3), pp.257-263.
- Ashiono, F.A., Wangechi, H.K. and Kinyanjui, M.J., 2017. Effects of sawdust, forest soil and cow dung mixtures on growth characteristics of blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) seedlings in South Kinangop Forest, Nyandarua, Kenya. *Open Journal of Forestry*, 7(4), pp. 373-387.
- Awosan, E.A. and Morakinyo, D.A., 2020. Effect of organic and inorganic fertilizer on the biomass reserve of *Deinbollia pinnata* Schum. and Thonn. *Journal of Seedling Sciences.*, 15(2), pp 39-47.
- Barizan, R. S. R., and Newbery, D. M. 2008. Early establishment of dipterocarp seedlings in Berkelah forest reserve, Pahang. In Chan, H. T., Shamsudin, I. and Ismail, P. (Eds.) An in-depth look at enrichment planting. Malaysian Forest Record 47 (pp. 89–105). Kepong, Malaysia.: Forest Research Institute Malaysia.



- Bhujbal, Bhimraj (ed.). 2012. *Resource book on horticulture nursery management*. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, New Delhi, p 264.
- Caldeira, M.V.W., Spathelf, P., Barichello, L.R., Vogel, H.L.M. and Schumacher, M.V., 2005. Effect of different doses of vermicompost on the growth of *Apuleia leiocarpa* (Vog) Macbr. seedlings. *Revista Acadêmica Ciência Animal*, *3*(2), pp.11-17.
- Craven, D., Braden, D., Ashton, M.S., Berlyn, G.P., Wishnie, M. and Dent, D., 2007. Between and within-site comparisons of structural and physiological characteristics and foliar nutrient content of 14 tree species at a wet, fertile site and a dry, infertile site in Panama. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 238(1-3), pp.335-346.
- Dickson, A., Leaf, A.L. and Hosner, J.F., 1960. Quality appraisal of white spruce and white pine seedling stock in nurseries. *The Forestry Chronicle*, *36*(1), pp.10-13.
- Driessche, R.V.D., 1988. Nursery growth of conifer seedlings using fertilizers of different solubilities and application time, and their forest growth. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, *18*(2), pp.172-180.
- Egbewole, Z. T., 2017. Assessment of early growth and profitability of sales of *Araucaria heterophylla* seedlings in selected locations in the middle belt zone of Nigeria. *International Journal of Applied Research and Technology. 6* (8), pp. 116 -125.
- Gbadamosi, A.E., 2006. Fertilizer response in seedlings of a medicinal *plantenantia chlorantha* Oliv. *Tropical and subtropical agroecosystems*, *6*(2), pp.111-115.
- Goor, A.Y. and Barney, C.W., 1976. *Forest tree planting in arid zones.*, Second Edition. New York. P 504.
- Hamad, S.O., Ali, N.S. and Karim, S.A., 2020. Effects of Light and Fertilizer Amounts on Seedling Growth of *Brachychiton populneus* (Schott & Endl.). *Basrah Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 33(2), pp.158-171.
- Han, S.H., An, J.Y., Hwang, J., Kim, S.B. and Park, B.B., 2016. The effects of organic manure and chemical fertilizer on the growth and nutrient concentrations of yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera* Lin.) in a nursery system. *Forest science and technology*, *12*(3), pp.137-143.
- Hopkins, W. G., and Huner, N. P. A. 2009. Introduction to Plant Physiology (Fourth Edi). United States of America: Wiley.



- Hoque, R.A.T.M., Hossain, M.K., Mohiuddin, M. and MM, H., 2004. Effect of inorganic fertilizers on the initial growth performance of *Anthocephalus chinensis* (Lam.) Rich.
  Ex. Walp. seedlings in the nursery. *Journal of Applied Sciences*, 4(3), pp.477-485.
- James, R.O., Akorede, A.A., Abimbola, A.I. and Omoh, O.P., 2020. Effect of Organic Manure and Potting Media on Germination and Early Growth of *Eucalyptus torelliana* F. Muell. *American Journal of Agriculture and Forestry*, 8(4), pp.100-107.
- Johnson, J.D. and Cline, M.L. 1991. Seedling quality of southern pines. In: Duryea, M.L. and Dougherty, P.M. (Eds.). Forest regeneration manual. (pp. 143-159). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Krishnan, P.R., Kalia, R.K., Tewari, J.C. and Roy, M.M., 2014. Plant nursery management: principles and practices. *Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, 40*.
- Oliet, J.A., Planelles, R., Artero, F., Valverde, R., Jacobs, D.F. and Segura, M.L., 2009. Field performance of *Pinus halepensis* planted in Mediterranean arid conditions: relative influence of seedling morphology and mineral nutrition. *New Forests*, *37*(3), pp.313-331.
- Pallardy, S., 2008. Physiology of woody plants. Third edition. Academic Press. 464 pp.
- Rotowa, O.J., Ugonma, D.A., Egbewole, Z.T. and Bhadmus, H.B., 2017. Growth Response of *Moringa oleifera* Lam. to Organic and Mineral Fertilizers Treatment. *International Journal of Applied Research and Technology*, *6*(5), pp.51-56.
- Farah Shahanim, M. M., Raja Barizan, R.S., Nasrulhaq Boyce, A. and Normaniza, O., 2014. Growth performance and physiology parameters of chengal seedlings under different light and fertiliser treatments in the nursery. *In Proceedings of the conference on forestry and forest products research 2013* (Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 365).
- Sherzad, O.H., Mohd Zaki, H., Hazandy, A.H., Mohamad Azani, A. and Noordin, W.D., 2015. Growth and physiological responses of *Shorea materialis* Ridl. seedlings to various light regimes and fertilizer levels under nursery condition. *The Malaysian Forester*, 78(1 and 2), pp.133-150.
- Sherzad, O.H., Zaki, H.M., Hazandy, A.H. and Azani, A.M., 2017. Effect of different shade periods on *Neobalanocarpus heimii* seedlings biomass and leaf morphology. *Journal of Tropical Forest Science*, 29 (4), pp.457-464.



- Stahl, J., Ernani, P.R., Gatiboni, L.C., Chaves, D.M. and Neves, C.U., 2013. Dry matter yield and nutritional efficiency of *Eucalyptus benthamii* and *Eucalyptus dunnii* clones due to addition of phosphorus rates to the soil. *Ciencia Florestal*, 23(2), pp.287-295.
- Stoeckeler, J. H., and Jones, G. W., 1957. Forest nursery practice in the lake states. Agriculture Handbook, No. 110. Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture. pp. 124.
- Susiluoto, S. and Berninger, F., 2007. Interactions between morphological and physiological drought responses in *Eucalyptus microtheca*. *Silva Fennica*, *41*(2), pp.221.
- Trieu, D.T., 2003. *Effects of Some Nursery Practices on the Growth of Endospermum Chinese Benth Seedlings.* M.Sc., Universiti Putra Malaysia.
- Tripathi, S.N. and Raghubanshi, A.S., 2013. Seedling growth of five tropical dry forest tree species in relation to light and nitrogen gradients. *Journal of Seedling Ecology*, 7(3), pp.250-263. <u>https://doi.org/10.1093/jpe/rtt026</u>
- Trubat, R., Cortina, J. and Vilagrosa, A., 2010. Nursery fertilization affects seedling traits but not field performance in *Quercus suber* L. *Journal of arid environments*, *74*(4), pp.491-497. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaridenv.2009.10.007</u>
- Uchida, R., 2000. Essential nutrients for plant growth: nutrient functions and deficiency symptoms. *Plant nutrient management in Hawaii's soils*, *4*, pp.31-55.

# کاردانەوەی گەشەی نەمامی يوکاليپتۆس بۆ بڕی جياواز لە پەينی ئەندامی و نا ئەندامی

# پوخته:

لە نەمامگە چەند كردارێك ئەنجام دەدرێت بە مەبەستى گەشە پێدان و بەرھەم ھێنانى نەمامى دارى دارستان بە كواليتى بەرز. يەكێك لە گرينگترين ئەو كردارانە بريتيە لە بەكارھێنانى پەين كە كاريگەريەكى بەرچاوى ھەيە لەسەر گەشە و بەرەوپێشچوونى نەمامەكان. ئەم توێژينەوە ئەنجامدرا لە سەرەتاى مانگى تشرينى يەكەمى 2019 تا سەرەتاى مانگى ئايارى 2020 ، كە تێيدا ھەڵسەنگاندن كراوە بۆ كاريگەرى بەكارھێنانى پەينى ئەندامى(ئاژەڵى) و پەينى نائەندامى (كيميايى) لەسەر گەشەى نەمامى دارى يوكاليپتۆس. پەينە ئەندامىدا ئاژەڵى) و پەينى نائەندامى (كيميايى) لەسەر گەشەى بووەى ئاژەڵ كە بريتى بوون لە 0، 50 ، 100 گرام/مەركان. پەينە نائەنداميەكەش بريتى بوو لە سى بېرى جياواز لە پەييى ئاوێتەى كىميايى (نايترۆجين، ڧۆسڧۆر، پۆتاسيۆم)، برەكانيش بريتى بوون لە 0،



A Scientific Quarterly Refereed Journal Issued by Lebanese French University – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq Vol. (7), No (2), Summer 2022 ISSN 2518-6566 (Online) - ISSN 2518-6558 (Print)

1، 2 گرام/مەركان. بە مەبەستى ھەڵسەنگاندنى كارىگەرى برەجياوازەكانى ئەم دوو جۆر پەيينە لەسەر گەشەى نەمامەكان چەند خەسلەتێكى گەشە لە نەمامەكان پێوانەكرا، خەسلەتەكانيش بريتى بوون لە بەرزى قەد(سم)، ژمارەى گەڵا، تيرەى قەد(ملم)، كێشى ووشكى بەشە جياوازەكانى نەمام(گرام). ئەنجامى توێژينەوەكە دەريخست كە بەكارھێنانى ھەر دوو جۆر پەينەكە كاريگەرى بەرچاوى ھەبووە لەسەر باشتر كردنى گەشە و بەرەوپێشچوونى نەمامەكان بە بەراورد لەگەڵ ئەو نەمامانەى كە پەينيان پێنەدراوە. دەرئەنجامى توێژينەوەكەش نيشانى دا كە باشترين برى پەينە ئەنداميەكە 50 گرام بووە و ھەروەھا باشترين برى پىنە نائەنداميەكەش 2 گرام بووە. ئەنجامەكانى ئەم توێژينەوە سود بەخش دەبێت بۆ خاوەنى نەمامگەكان كە نەمامى يوكاليپتۆس بە كواليتى بەرز وتەندروست بەرھەم بێنن بۆ پرۆژەكانى دار چاندن وزيادكردنى رێژەي دارستان لە كوردستان.

# استجابة أداء نمو شتلات اليوكالبتوس (Eucalyptus microtheca) لكميات مختلفة من الأسمدة العضوية وغير العضوية.

## الملخص:

تم تطبيق بعض العمليات التنموية في المشتل لإنتاج شتلات الغابات ذات الجودة عالية ، و يعتبر استخدام السماد احدى أهم العمليات التنموية التي تؤثر على نمو وتطور الشتلات، يتناول البحث تأثير سماد عضوي وسماد غير عضو على نمو شتلة اليوكالبتوس (Eucalyptus microtheca) ، و قد تم اجراء الدراسة من بداية شهر تشرين الثاني 2019 الى بداية شهر أيار 2020 باستخدام السماد العضوي(السماد الحيواني) بثلاثة مستويات وهي 0 و 50 و 100 غم / وعاء ، وايضا استخدمت في التجربة ثلاثة مستويات من السماد غير العضوي (مركب كيميائيكالالال عمر) ، 1 و 2 غم / وعاء، وما أخذ صفات النمو الخضري التي تشمل ارتفاع النبات (سم) ، عدد الورقة ، قطر الساق (ملم) والكتلة الحيوية (وزن جاف لأجزاء الشتلة) ، وقد أظهرت النتائج المتحصلة عليها من التجربة أن تأثير المعاملتين(السماد العضوي و الكيميائي) كان ملحوظا عن المقارنة لجميع المحصلة عليها من التجربة أن تأثير المعاملتين(السماد العضوي و الكيميائي) كان ملحوظا عن المقارنة لجميع الموفات المدروسة، و خاصت نتائج هذا البحث إلى أنه تم الحصول على أفضل صفات نمو و وزن جاف لشتلات الصفات المدروسة، و خاصت نتائج هذا البحث إلى أنه تم الحصول على أفضل صفات نمو و وزن جاف لشتلات اليوكالبتوس التي تمت معالجتها بـ 50 غم سماد عضوية و 2 غم مماد مركب NPK، النتائج التي تم التوصل اليوكالبتوس التي تمت معالجتها بـ 50 غم سماد عضوية و 2 غم سماد مركب NPK، النتائج التي تم التوصل اليوكالبتوس التي تمت معالجتها بـ 50 غم سماد عضوية و 2 غم سماد مركب NPK، النتائج التي تم التوصل