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EVALUATION OF FIELD RESISTANCE OF ALFALFA CULTIVARS TO ALFALFA STEM NEMATODE[1]

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SUMMARY

Field resistanoe of five alfalfa cultivars to alfalfa stem nematode, *Dity - lenchus dipsaci* (Lucerne Race) was evaluated in three successive years (1984 - 1986). The results showed that on the basis of resistance to the nematede alfalfa cultivars fell into three groups : Sechine Hamedan and Mohajeran Hamedan were highly resistant, Ranger showed intermediate resistance and Moapa and local cultivars were susceptible.

Crop yield was directly correlated with the degree of resistance except for Moapa which had a high nematode population with intermediate yield and could be regarded as tolerant. The average yield (dry hay) was 11. 30, 11. 17, 7. 96,7. 90 and 5. 06 tons per hectare for Sechine Hamedan,Mohajeran Hamedan, Moapa, Ranger and local cultivars respectively.

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