

EFFECT OF ORGANIC MANURE APPLICATION ON YIELD DISTRIBUTION OVER TIME AND IN TRUSS POSITION ON THE MAIN STEM IN EGGPLANTS

J. E. Asiegbu and Carol N. Opara

*Department of Crop Science,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka.*

ABSTRACT

Temporal distribution of yield over harvests and yield in various truss positions on the main stem in three West African eggplants were studied in the field under five poultry manure rates.

Fruit yields were spread over 12-15 weeks, unless where the life of the crop was cut short due to insect pest or disease attack. Two peaks, the first major and a second minor one, were evident in the temporal fruit yield distribution, apparently arising from inherent flowering and fruiting periodicities of the eggplants and influenced by weather factors, especially rainfall. Multiple harvests were necessary as fruits were always at different stages of development, reaching maturity at different times. On the basis of time to first harvest, Marvelum was classified as early maturing, Roundgreen intermediate and Sweet Samaru late maturing.

Flower abortion was generally high and increased with higher truss positions. Fruit set was higher with the lower trusses and decreased with higher truss positions. Although manuring benefited yields generally, it did not help much in enhancing assimilate distribution among truss positions or in stabilizing fruit yield values during different harvest periods.