Optimization of Sowing Window in Mesta for Seed Production

P Pushpa, A V Ramana, Ch Pulla rao and G Rama rao
Department of Agronomy, Agricultural College, Naira, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

Growth parameters *viz.,* plant height, dry matter accumulation, number of branches per plant, crop growth rate and yield parameters *viz.,* number of capsules per plant and 1000 seed weight of mesta were found significantly higher with the earliest sowing window D_1 (3rd week of July), which were however, comparable with the immediate delayed sowing window D_2 (1st week of August), except in case of dry matter accumulation and crop growth rate. Whereas, the relative growth rate and number of seeds per capsule were found higher with 1st week of September (D_4) sowing. Mesta sown during 3rd week of July (D_1) took significantly higher number of days to attain 50% flowering over other sowing dates. Maximum seed yield of mesta was obtained with 1st week of August (D_2) sowing, which was however, found parity with 3rd week of July (D_1) sowing. Significantly higher stalk yield of mesta was obtained with early sowing of 1st week of July (D_1).

Key words : Mesta, Sowing window, Seed yield.