

SOWING DATES AND VARIETAL EFFECTS ON LEAF AREA INDEX, MEAN TILT ANGLE AND HEAT SUSCEPTIBILITY INDEX OF WHEAT (*TRITICUM AESTIVUM* L.)

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Abstract: A field experiment was conducted at the Crop Research Center of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) during rabi season of 2008-09 to study the photosynthesis, growth and yield of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. emend. Fiori & Paol.) varieties at different sowing dates. The experiment was conducted in split plot design with 4 replications with treatments comprising six wheat varieties on Nov.14, Dec.4 and Dec.24. Delay in sowing adversely affected leaf area index. Reduction in leaf area index at 45, 60 and 75 day after sowing and at anthesis and two week after anthesis stage was observed due to late sowing. High leaf area index was noticed in variety UP 2526 at 75 day after sowing and at anthesis and variety DBW 17 followed by UP 2526 recorded highest leaf area index at two week after sowing. Heat susceptibility index computed for yield and yield attributes indicated that variety Raj 3765 was most heat tolerant variety. High grain yield of a genotype under late sown condition indicated the presence of gene for heat tolerance.

Keywords: Sowing date, Leaf area index, Mean Tilt angle, Heat susceptibility index, Yield

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