

Effect of Seedling Age and Weed Management on Growth and Yield of Transplanted Rice (Sakha 106 cv).

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Abstract: Two field experiments were conducted at the Experimental Farm of Sakha Agricultural Research Station, Kafrelsheikh, Egypt during 2016 and 2017 summer seasons to study the effect of seedling age and weed management on growth and yield of transplanted rice (Sakha 106 cv). A split plot experimental design arranged in randomized complete block with four replications was used in both seasons. Three seedling ages viz., 21, 28 and 35 days were allocated to the main plots, while five weed control treatments i.e., thiobencarb (50% EC) at 2.39 kg ai ha⁻¹, oxadiazon (25% EC) at 0.045 kg ai ha⁻¹, penoxsulam (24% SC) at 0.029 kg.ai ha⁻¹, hand weeding two times (20 and 40 DAT) and untreated (weedy check) were assigned to the sub-plots. The results showed transplanting rice seedlings at 21 days old recorded the lowest dry weight of *Eclipta sp C. difformis E crus-galli* and total weeds. Also, the increasing in rice dry weight, number of panicles m⁻², panicle weight, number of filled grains panicle⁻¹, 1000-grain weight and rice grain yield as compared to rest seedling ages (28 and 35 days). The application of penoxsulam at 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹ applied at 15 DAT achieved the lowest dry weight of weed species and total weeds as well as the highest rice yield as compared to weedy check. The interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatments had significant effect on dry weights of weed species, total weeds dry, rice yield and its components. Where, transplanting rice seedlings treatment at 21 days old treated with herbicide of penoxsulam at 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹ at 15 DAT are the best among the studied treatments to achieve the best weed control and the highest rice dry mater, grain yield and its components for Sakha 106 cv. under this study conditions.

Keywords: Seedling age, Weed control, Penoxsulam, Total weeds, Rice grain yield

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is considered one of the important cereal crops not only in Egypt but also in all over the world and the main food for more than half of the world population. FAOSTAT (2017) stated that the Egyptian harvested area of about 1,632,461 million feddan with production of about of 6.38 million tonnes and average productivity of 3.908 tonnes per feddan. Increasing rice grain yield per unit area is considered a local goal to meet the growing demand of this crop. Among various factors affecting rice production, such as seedling age, planting methods, cultivars, transplanting space (El-Kassaby *et al.*, 2012), controlling weeds remain the most important agronomic practice.

Seedling age at the time of transplanting is an important factor in rice production and regulating its growth as it primarily contributes to increase number of productive tillers, panicle length, filled grains panicle⁻¹ and 1000-grain weight, ultimately resulted in increased grain yield of rice (Ginigaddara and Ranamukhaarachchi, 2011; El-Khoby and Alaa, 2016). In case of the age of seedlings is increased than optimum, the seedlings produce less number of tillers and dry weight due to lack period of vegetative growth resulting in reduction rice grain yield (Roy, 2015).

Kewat *et al.* (2002) and Krishna *et al.* (2008) reported that young seedling at age of 21 days old produced higher number of tillers, which contributed to higher grain yield more than 28 days old seedlings. Abou-Khalifa (2005) reported that seedling age of 25 days produced the highest value of number of panicles m⁻², 1000-grain weight, panicle weight, number of filled grains panicle⁻¹ and grain yield. Upandhyay (2003) and

Salem *et al.* (2011) found that the youngest seedling (20 days old) recorded the highest dry weight, number of tillers m⁻², 1000-grain weight, number of grain panicle⁻¹ and grain yield more than 30 and 40 day old seedlings.

Weeds are one of the most important serious resources considered in rice production. Weeds compete with crops on water, nutrients, light and space. Moreover, it is the important competitor in their early growth stages resulting in reduced the growth of crops and finally grain yield (Shukla *et al.* 2014). Losses caused by weeds vary from one country to another, depending on weed species prevailing, planting method common and the control methods practiced by farmers. These losses were estimated at 36-90% in Egypt (Hassan, 1999), 40% in Bangladesh (Karim *et al.*, 1998) and 10-85%, in general, (Labrada, 2001). Rice yield losses due to weed competition vary, depending on method of planting. The losses ranged from 14-93% in direct-seeded rice, 17-47% in transplanted rice (Ranjit, 1997), and ranged from 40-80 % in direct-sown rain fed upland rice (Thakur and Bassi, 1994).

The most problematic weeds in rice field are grasses (*Echinochloa crus galli* and *Echinochloa colona*) and sedges (*Cyperus rotundus*, *Cyperus difformis* and *Cyperus irria*) (Sandeep *et al.*, 2002, Rekha *et al.*, 2003 and Ahmad *et al.*, 2004). These weeds compete with rice plant on nutrition, light, space and air. For this reason produces lose in rice yields.

The traditional methods of weed control in rice include hand weeding; it is easy method and environment-friendly but this is becoming less common because of labour scarcity at critical time of weeding and increasing labour costs (Kumar and Ladha, 2011; Chauhan, 2012). Moreover, morphological similarity

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between grassy weeds and rice seedlings makes hand weeding difficult at early stages of growth (Rahman *et al.*, 2012). Nowadays, herbicides are becoming the alternative to weed control in rice culture due to their rapid effects and it is more effective, easy to apply, economically available method for controlling different weed species at the same time and less cost compared to traditional methods weeding (Singh *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, the objectives of this study were to evaluate the best seedling age, to determine the best weed control method and to evaluate the interaction effects between seedling age and weed control methods on growth and rice grain yield (Sakha106 cv).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were conducted in 2016 and 2017 seasons at the Experimental Farm of Sakha, Agricultural Research Station, ARC, Egypt to study the effect of seedling age and weed management on growth, yield and its attributes of Sakha 106 rice cultivar under transplanting method. A split plot experimental design arranged in randomized complete block with four replications was used in both seasons. Main plots were devoted to three seedling ages while, weed control treatments were distributed with sub-plots in plot area of 20 m² (4 x 5 m). Rice cultivar was transplanted on 3rd and 5th of May in 2016 and 2017 seasons, respectively. Rice seeds were soaked in fresh water for 48 hours and then incubated for another 48 hour to enhance germination. Pre-germinated seeds were broadcasted in the presence of water after puddling the nursery. Rice was transplanted at 3-4 seedlings per hill. All cultural practices; i.e., land preparation, phosphorus fertilization and pest management were done as recommended in transplanted rice.

Studied factors were as follow:

A- Seedling age:

Three seedling ages were studies as follows:

- 1- Twenty one days old (Three weeks)
- 2- Twenty eight days old (four weeks)
- 3- Thirty five days old (five weeks)

B - Weed control treatments:

Five weed control treatments were used during the two seasons as follows:

- 1- Thiobencarb 50 % EC (Saturn) at the rate of 2.39 kg ai ha⁻¹
- 2- Oxadiazon 25 % EC (Ronstar) at the rate of 0.045 kg ai ha⁻¹
- 3- Penoxsulam 24% SC (Granite) at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹
- 4- Hand weeding two times
- 5- Untreated (weedy check)

Thiobencarb 50% EC and oxadiazon 25% EC as pre-emergence herbicides were applied at 4 days after transplanting (DAT) while, herbicide was deluted by water and mixed with sand, then broadcasted by hand on to flooded plots then, kept field flooded from 3 to 4 days after herbicidal application. Penoxsulam 24% SC was applied at 15 DAT and it was sprayed in 300 liter water per hectare on wet land by using knapsack

sprayer then the soil was flush irrigated after 24 hours from herbicidal application. Hand weeding was applied two times at 20 and 40 DAT.

At 50 DAT, weed samples were collected using 0.5 m² quadrat (50 x 50 cm) replicated four times for each plots. Weeds were cleaned and classified according to it species. The weed plants were obtained and weighed as fresh weight then air dried, then oven dried at 70 °C up to content weights, the average weight was recorded as gm².

Weed control efficiency (WCE %): WCE was calculated by using the following formula (Drost and Moody, 1982) :

$$\text{WCE (\%)} = \frac{\text{DMC} - \text{DMT}}{\text{DMC}} \times 100$$

Where: DMC= Weed dry matter in weedy check plots

DMT = Weed dry matter in weed control treatment

For rice, dry weight was measured at the same time of sampling by the same method (50 DAT). Before harvest, panicles were counted in two random quadrates of 50 x 50 cm and number of panicles per square meter was recorded. After rice maturity, panicle weight (g) was estimated by weighing ten random panicles per plot and their average was estimated. Thousand-grain weight (g) was recorded in random samples from grain yield. Number of field grain panicle¹ was estimated at ten matured random panicles was recorded. The central 5 m² from each plot were manually harvested, air dried, threshed and cleaned to determine grain yield ha⁻¹ then rice grain yield was recorded at 14% moisture content.

Statistical analysis:

Data analysis: the collected data were subjected to proper statistical analysis of variance according to Snedecor and Cochran (1971). Weed data were statistically analyzed by MSTATC program after transformed according to square-root transformation ($\sqrt{x + 0.5}$), while rice collected data were directly analyzed by MSTATC program then the means of both weeds and rice characters were compared by using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Weeds:

The common weed species in the experimental field associated with rice crop during the two growing seasons were: Among the broad leaved weeds was *Eclipta sp.*, the major sedge was *Cyperus difformis* (small flower) and among the grasses was *Echinochloa crus-galli* (barnyard grass).

a.1. Effect of seedling age and weed control treatments on dry weight of *Eclipta sp.*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli*, total weeds and weed control efficiency (%) during 2016 and 2017 seasons:

Dry weight of *Eclipta sp.*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli*, total weeds and weed control efficiency were significantly affected by seedling age and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons are presented in Table (1).

Data indicated that transplanting rice seedlings at 21 day age recorded less dry weight of weed species and total weeds followed by 28 days old as compared to planting at 35 days old which recorded greater dry weight of these traits during two seasons of study. The reduction in dry weight of weeds may be due to the ability of young seedlings (21 days old) to deplete more nutrients from soil and, suppress weeds due to enough coverage of leaves and produce higher number of tillers through early growth stage more than number of total weeds, resulting reduced growth and population of weed. The obtained results are confirmed with those obtained by Kavitha *et al.* (2010), Anitha and Chellappan (2011) and Shukla *et al.* (2015).

In respect to weed control treatments, all weed control treatments significantly reduced dry weight of

Eclipta sp., *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli* and total weeds as compared to weedy check plots during two seasons of study. The application of post-emergence herbicide (Penoxsulam 24% SC) at the recommended dose (0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹) recorded the lowest values of weeds dry weight and total weeds while, the highest values of weed species dry and total weeds weight were found in weedy check plots in 2016 and 2017 seasons. The significant reduction in weed characters may refer to high efficiency of chemical weed control treatment, which suppressed weed germination and kill weeds in early stage. These findings are in harmony with those reported by Shebl *et al.* (2009), Ramachandra *et al.* (2012) and Mondal *et al.* (2013).

Table (1): Dry weight (g) of *Eclipta sp.*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli*, total weeds and weed control efficiency (%) as affected by seedling age and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Treatments	<i>Eclipta sp.</i>		<i>C. difformis</i>		<i>E. crus-galli</i>		Total weeds		Weed control Efficiency (%)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
a- Seedling age										
21 day	9.6 (2.5 c)	7.7 (2.2 c)	31.2 (3.9 c)	28.7 (3.6 c)	54.9 (4.8 c)	52.7 (4.6 c)	95.7 (6.6 c)	89.0 (6.2 c)	--	--
28 day	14.6 (3.2 b)	12.3 (2.8 b)	39.1 (4.8 b)	35.7 (4.4 b)	77.7 (5.7 b)	68.7 (5.2 b)	131.4 (8.1 b)	116.7 (7.3 b)	--	--
35 day	27.8 (4.7 a)	23.5 (4.3 a)	70.0 (5.9 a)	63.4 (5.4 a)	134.2 (9.3 a)	127.6 (9.0 a)	231.9 (12.1a)	214.5 (11.5a)	--	--
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	--	--
b- Weed control										
Thiobencarb 50% EC	14.1 (3.6 b)	10.5 (3.2 b)	25.1 (5.0 b)	17.7 (4.2 b)	44.2 (6.1 b)	40.8 (5.7 b)	83.5 (8.7 b)	69.1 (7.9 b)	64.78	66.95
Oxadiazon 25 % EC	6.7 (2.3 d)	5.5 (2.2 d)	3.9 (1.9 d)	1.8 (1.5 d)	13.7 (3.0 d)	12.6 (2.8 d)	24.2 (4.3 d)	19.9 (3.8 d)	82.59	84.10
Penoxsulam 24% SC	0.8 (1.0 e)	0.4 (0.9 e)	0.7 (1.0 e)	0.4 (0.9 e)	0.7 (1.0 e)	0.3 (0.9 e)	2.1 (1.5 e)	1.1 (1.2 e)	93.93	94.98
Hand weeding	8.5 (2.8 c)	6.9 (2.5 c)	6.9 (2.7 c)	5.1 (2.3 c)	17.7 (3.8 c)	16.1 (3.6 c)	33.2 (5.4 c)	28.0 (4.9 c)	78.14	79.50
Weedy check	56.5 (7.5 a)	49.1 (6.9 a)	197.2 (13.8a)	188.2 (13.5a)	368.4 (19.0a)	344.9 (18.4a)	622.0 (24.7a)	582.2 (23.9a)	0.00	0.00
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	--	--
Interaction (a * b)										
	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	--	--

** indicate $P < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$. Means of transformed data followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test

As shown in Table (1), weed control treatments had a significant effect on weed control efficiency percentages (%). The highest weed control efficiency (%) was observed in plots treated with penoxsulam 24% SC at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹ followed by oxadiazon 25 % EC at the rate of 0.045 kg ai ha⁻¹. The reason in this might be due to the high efficiency of herbicide in weed control and the reduction in weed germination and growth. These results are confirmed with those cited by Paramita *et al.* (2005) and Montazeri *et al.* (2010). On the other hand, the lower

weed control efficiency (%) was observed in weedy check plots during two seasons of study.

a.2. Effect of interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatments on dry weight of *Eclipta*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli* and total weeds during 2016 and 2017 seasons:

As shown in Table (2) generally, all weed control treatments caused significant reduction in dry weight of *Eclipta*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli* and total weeds under different seedling ages during two seasons.

Table (2): Dry weight (g) of *Eclipta sp.*, *C. difformis*, *E. crus-galli* and total weeds as affected by the interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Weed control treatments	<i>Eclipta sp.</i>			<i>C. difformis</i>			<i>E. crus-galli</i>			Total weeds		
	Seedling age											
	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days
2016 Season												
Thiobencarb 50% EC	13.1 (2.06 fg)	29.0 (4.14 e)	33.4 (4.71 d)	3.9 (3.66 d)	16.7 (5.43 c)	21.7 (5.81c)	15.9 (4.01 f)	16.5 (4.13 f)	100.2 (10.03 d)	32.9 (5.77 g)	62.3 (7.92 ef)	155.2 (12.48 d)
Oxadiazon 25% EC	1.8 (1.41 h)	6.3 (1.48 h)	3.6 (4.12 e)	1.7 (1.44 fg)	1.9 (2.55 e)	16.5 (1.85 f)	0.8 (1.10 hi)	1.9 (1.54 h)	38.3 (6.23 e)	4.3 (2.13 j)	10.1 (3.20 i)	58.3 (7.66 f)
Penoxsulam 24% SC	0.0 (0.71 i)	0.5 (0.77 i)	1.6 (1.64 gh)	0.0 (0.71 h)	0.1 (0.99 gh)	2.2 (1.43 fg)	0.0 (0.71 i)	0.5 (0.99 hi)	1.5 (1.34 h)	0.0 (0.71 l)	1.2 (1.28 k)	5.3 (2.39 j)
Hand weeding	3.0 (1.95 fg)	7.9 (2.35 f)	10.0 (4.20 e)	3.3 (1.85 f)	5.0 (2.89 e)	17.2 (3.22 de)	4.7 (2.27 g)	5.8 (2.51 g)	42.7 (6.57 e)	10.9 (3.38 i)	18.8 (4.38 h)	69.9 (8.39 e)
Weedy check	137.9 (6.29 c)	152.0 (7.05 b)	301.6 (9.04 a)	39.0 (11.76 b)	49.3 (12.34 b)	81.2 (17.38 a)	253.3 (15.93 c)	363.7 (19.08 b)	488.2 (22.11 a)	430.2 (20.75 c)	564.9 (23.77 b)	871.0 (29.52 a)
2017 Season												
Thiobencarb 50% EC	9.8 (1.84 e)	20.4 (3.66 d)	22.9 (3.99 d)	3.0 (3.19 e)	13.2 (4.57 d)	15.4 (4.83 d)	13.3 (3.66 f)	13.8 (3.77 f)	95.5 (9.79 d)	26.1 (5.13 g)	47.3 (6.90 f)	133.8 (11.58 d)
Oxadiazon 25% EC	1.1 (1.22 g)	2.6 (1.38 (efg)	1.6 (3.77 d)	1.2 (1.22 h)	1.6 (1.75 g)	13.8 (1.43 gh)	0.6 (1.01 h)	1.0 (1.19 h)	36.1 (6.05 e)	2.9 (1.84 j)	5.3 (2.34 ij)	51.5 (7.21 f)
Penoxsulam 24% SC	0.0 (0.71 h)	0.1 (0.73 h)	1.0 (1.32 fg)	0.0 (0.71 i)	0.0 (0.79 i)	1.3 (1.20 h)	0.0 (0.71 h)	0.1 (0.75 h)	1.0 (1.15 h)	0.0 (0.71 k)	0.2 (0.85 k)	3.2 (1.90 j)
Hand weeding	1.7 (1.62 (efg)	6.8 (1.75 ef)	6.7 (4.05 d)	2.2 (1.46 gh)	2.6 (2.7 f)	15.9 (2.68 f)	4.2 (2.15 g)	4.8 (2.28 g)	39.3 (6.31 e)	8.0 (2.92 i)	14.2 (3.83 h)	61.9 (7.90 e)
Weedy check	130.8 (5.70 c)	148.7 (6.68 b)	285.0 (8.46 a)	31.9 (11.46 c)	44.1 (12.21 b)	71.1 (16.90 a)	245.2 (15.67 c)	323.8 (18.00 b)	466.0 (21.59 a)	408.0 (20.12 c)	516.6 (22.74 b)	822.1 (28.68 a)

Means followed by a common letter within a season are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. **DAT**= days after herbicidal treatment

Transplanting rice seedlings at 21 days old as well as 28 days old recorded the lowest dry weight of weed species and total weeds with herbicide treatment of penoxsulam 24% SC at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹ followed by oxadiazon 25 % EC at the rate of 0.045 kg ai ha⁻¹ under the same two seedling ages (21 and 28 days) as compared to weedy check plots which gave the highest dry weight of weeds species and total weeds under 35 day seedling old. The same trend was observed during two season of study. The reason in reduction of dry weight of weeds due to fast rice plant growth and tillers production through early growth stage which caused suppress weeds and also, addition to weed management by herbicide application which reduced weed competition resulted in higher weed control under the younger seedling as compared to

older seedlings as mentioned by Shukla *et al.* (2015) and Sinha *et al.* (2018).

b- Rice:

b.1. Effect of seedling ages and weed control treatments on dry weight (gm⁻²), number of panicle m⁻², panicle weight (g), number of filled grain panicle⁻¹, 1000-grain weight (g) and rice grain yield (t ha⁻¹) during 2016 and 2017 seasons:

As shown in Tables (3 and 4), all measured traits were significantly affected by seedling ages. The highest dry weight, number of panicles m⁻², panicle weight, number of filled grain panicle⁻¹, 1000-grain weight and grain yield of rice were obtained when using the youngest seedling (21 days) in the first and second seasons.

Table (3): Dry weight (g m⁻²), number of panicles m⁻² and panicle weight (g) of rice as affected by seedling ages and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Treatments	Rice dry weight (g m ⁻²)		Number of panicle m ⁻²		Panicle weight (g)	
a- Seedling age			2016 Season			
21 days	753.0 a	813.8 a	421.7 a	446.7 a	2.14 a	2.19 a
28 day s	687.1 b	746.1 b	373.3 b	400.0 b	1.93 b	2.06 b
35 day s	463.7 c	514.3 c	328.3 c	346.7 c	1.76 c	1.84 c
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**
b- Weed control			2017 Season			
Thiobencarb 50% EC	634.2 d	675.6 d	397.2 c	413.9 c	1.98 b	2.04 b
Oxadiazon 25 % EC	735.3 b	795.4 b	427.8 b	450.0 b	2.07 a	2.15 a
Penoxsulam 24% SC	809.2 a	881.7 a	452.8 a	472.2 a	2.09 a	2.19 a
Hand weeding	712.8 c	781.1 c	400.0 c	425.0 c	1.98 b	2.06 b
Weedy check	281.4 e	323.2 e	194.4 d	227.8 d	1.62 c	1.71 c
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**
Interaction (a * b)	**	**	**	**	****	**

** indicate P< 0.05 and P< 0.01. Means of transformed data followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

On the other hand, the oldest seedling age (35 days) gave the lowest values of these traits. The increase in these above mentioned characters might be attributed to the ability of younger seedlings to greater root development of rice plant and activity, high ability to use better utilization of growth resources from soil more than oldest seedlings (Singh *et al.*, 2013) and produced more tillers due to quick regeneration of seedlings and plant vigor (Haque, 2002), increase ability of young seedlings at early transplanting stage on produced more number of leaves resulting in higher photosynthesis and producing more dry matter (Damodaran *et al.*, 2012), in addition to, increase number of panicles and panicle weight which consequently improved the grain yield (Ramachandra *et al.*, 2012).

As for weed control treatments, it is clear from the results in Tables (3 and 4) all weed control treatments significantly increased dry weight, number

of panicle m^{-2} , panicle weight, number of filled grains panicle $^{-1}$, 1000-grain weight and grain yield of rice than untreated check plots in 2016 and 2017 seasons. Penoxsulam 24% SC at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha $^{-1}$ recorded the greatest of the studied characters as well as oxadiazon 25 % EC at the rate of at 0.045 kg ai ha $^{-1}$ on panicle weight as compared to weedy check plots, which gave the lowest values ones in the first and second seasons without significant differences between oxadiazon 25 % EC at the rate of at 0.045 kg ai ha $^{-1}$ on 1000-grain weight in the first season. This result might be due to effective chemical control of weeds during early growth stages of rice, resulted in lower competition with rice plants on moisture, nutrients and sunlight which in turn significantly increased dry weight, number of panicles m^{-2} and panicle weight, that resulted in increase rice grain yield as found by Singh *et al.* (2005) and Sakar *et al.* (2017).

Table (4): Number of filled grains panicle $^{-1}$, 1000-grain weight (g) and grain yield (t h $^{-1}$) of rice as affected by seedling ages and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Treatments	Number of filled grains panicle $^{-1}$		1000-grain weight (g)		Grain yield (t ha $^{-1}$)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
a- Seedling age:						
21 days	99.7 a	102.9 a	23.3 a	24.1 a	7.9 a	8.2 a
28 days	94.4 b	97.1 b	22.3 b	23.2 b	7.0 b	7.4 b
35 days	85.3 c	88.5 c	21.3 c	21.8 c	5.7 c	6.1 c
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**
b- Weed control:						
Thiobencarb 50% EC	94.3 d	96.7 d	23.3 c	24.0 b	7.4 d	7.8 c
Oxadiazon 25 % EC	99.3 b	102.9 b	23.7 ab	24.3 b	8.0 b	8.5 b
Penoxsula 24% SC	105.0 a	107.7 a	23.9 a	24.6 a	8.5 a	8.8 a
Hand weeding	96.1 c	99.4 c	23.4 bc	23.9 b	7.6 c	7.9 c
Weedy check	70.9 e	74.2 e	17.0 d	18.1 c	2.8 e	3.1 d
F. test	**	**	**	**	**	**
Interaction (A* B)	**	**	**	**	**	**

** indicate $P < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$. Means of transformed data followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test

b.2. Effect of interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatments on dry weight (g m^{-2}), number of panicles m^{-2} , panicle weight (g), number of filled grain panicle $^{-1}$, 1000-grain weight (g) and grain yield (t h^{-1}) of rice during 2016 and 2017 seasons:

As shown in Tables (5 and 6), dry weight, number of panicle m^{-2} , panicle weight, number of filled grains panicle $^{-1}$, 1000-grain weight and grain yield of rice were significantly influenced by the interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatment during the two seasons.

The highest dry weight, number of panicles m^{-2} , panicle weight, number of filled grains panicle $^{-1}$, 1000-grain weight and grain yield of rice were recorded by the combination of planted rice at 21 days old seedling when treated by penoxsulam 24% SC at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha^{-1} as well as oxadiazon 25 % EC at the rate of at 0.045 kg ai ha^{-1} on panicle weight without

significant differences between oxadiazon 25 % EC on 1000-grain weight during two seasons of study. On the other side, the lowest values of these characters were observed in the interaction between transplanted rice at 35 days old seedling under untreated plots (weedy check) during two seasons of study. The increase of rice characters might be due to increase plant density, resulting in higher photosynthesis (Rasool *et al.*, 2012). In addition, due to increasing in number of panicles m^{-2} , panicle weight and 1000-grain weight, resulting in increased rice grain yield (Thiyagarajan *et al.*, 2002 and Ramachandra *et al.*, 2012) moreover, weed suppression by herbicide application, which effectively reduced weed competition, significantly increased number of panicles m^{-2} and panicle weight consequently improved the grain yield as mentioned by Singh *et al.* (2005), Ramachandra *et al.* (2012) and Shukla *et al.* (2014).

Table (5): Dry weight (g m^{-2}), number of panicles m^{-2} and panicle weight (g) of rice as affected by the interaction between seedling ages and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Weed control treatments	Dry weight (g m^{-2})			Number of panicles m^{-2}			Panicle weight (g)		
	Seedling age								
	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days
2016 Season									
Thiobencarb 50% EC	734.3 d	661.3 e	507.0 g	433.3 c	391.7 de	366.7 ef	2.15 bc	1.94 ef	1.83 gh
Oxadiazon 25% EC	856.0 b	807.9 c	541.9 fg	475.0 b	433.3 c	375.0 def	2.33 a	2.01 de	1.86 fgh
Penoxsulam 24% SC	971.9 a	880.7 b	575.0 f	525.0 a	450.0 bc	383.3 def	2.30 a	2.07 cd	1.91 efg
Hand weeding	814.2 c	807.1 c	517.1 g	441.7 c	400.0 d	358.3 f	2.17 b	1.96 ef	1.81 gh
Weedy check	388.7 h	278.2 i	177.3 j	233.3 g	191.7 h	158.3 i	1.76 hi	1.68 i	1.40 j
2017 Season									
Thiobencarb 50% EC	778.7 e	687.3 f	560.9 i	450.0 cd	408.3 ef	383.3 f	2.22 bc	2.07 d	1.85 ef
Oxadiazon 25% EC	896.7 c	900.0 c	589.5 g	500.0 b	450.0 cd	400.0 ef	2.37 a	2.17 bcd	1.91 e
Penoxsulam 24% SC	1104.0 a	935.6 b	605.6 g	541.7 a	475.0 bc	400.0 ef	2.42 a	2.23 b	1.92 e
Hand weeding	870.6 d	892.4 cd	580.2 gh	466.7 c	425.0 de	383.3 f	2.18 bcd	2.11 cd	1.88 ef
Weedy check	418.8 i	315.4 j	235.3 k	275.0 g	241.7 h	166.7 i	1.78 fg	1.70 gh	1.63 h

Means followed by a common letter within a season are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. DAT= days after herbicidal treatment

Table (6): Number of filled grains panicles⁻¹, 1000-grain weight (g) and grain yield (t ha⁻¹) of rice as affected by the interaction between seedling age and weed control treatments in 2016 and 2017 seasons

Weed control treatments	Number of filled grain panicle ⁻¹			1000-grain weight (g)			Grain yield (t ha ⁻¹)		
	Seedling age								
	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days	21 days	28 days	35 days
2016 Season									
Thiobencarb 50% EC	100.0 cd	95.7 ef	87.3 h	23.98 bc	23.17 def	22.57 f	8.18 d	7.47 e	6.46 h
Oxadiazon 25 % EC	109.0 b	98.7 d	90.3 g	24.44 ab	23.77 bcd	22.87ef	9.16 b	8.12 d	6.81 g
Penoxsulam 24% SC	113.0 a	107.7 b	94.3 f	25.05 a	23.93 bc	23.00ef	9.45 a	8.96 bc	7.12 f
Hand weeding	101.7 c	97.3 de	89.3 gh	24.13 bc	23.54 cde	22.63f	8.78 c	7.70 e	6.22 h
Weedy check	75.0 i	72.7 i	65.0 j	18.77 g	16.90 h	15.43 i	3.96 i	2.68 j	1.71 k
2017 Season									
Thiobencarb 50% EC	101.3 e	98.7 fg	90.0 i	24.73 bc	24.03 d	23.33 e	8.50 e	7.90 f	6.92 h
Oxadiazon 25 % EC	114.0 b	101.3 e	93.3 h	25.23 ab	24.57 cd	22.97 e	9.45 b	8.77 de	7.26 g
Penoxsulam 24% SC	116.7 a	109.3 c	97.0 g	25.50 a	24.90 bc	23.33 e	9.78 a	9.10 c	7.53 g
Hand weeding	104.7 d	100.7 ef	91.3 hi	24.77 bc	24.33 cd	22.87 e	9.03 cd	7.96 f	6.79 h
Weedy check	78.0 j	75.7 k	69.0 l	20.03 f	17.97 g	16.30 h	4.26 i	3.11 j	1.95 k

Means followed by a common letter within a season are not significantly different at 5% level, using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. DAT= days after herbicidal treatment

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the obtained results of this study it could be concluded that, the highest rice grain yield and best weed control were achieved by transplanting rice seedlings at 21 days old and also weed control treatment by using penoxsulam 24% SC at the rate of 0.029 kg ai ha⁻¹ (Granite 24% SC) applied at 15 DAT.

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تأثير عمر الشتلات ومعاملات مكافحه الحشائش علي نمو ومحصول الأرز الشتل (سحا ١٠٦)

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أجريت دراسة حقلية بالمزرعة البحثية لمحطة البحوث الزراعية بسحا - كفر الشيخ - مصر خلال الموسم الصيفي لعامي ٢٠١٦ - ٢٠١٧ م بهدف دراسة تأثير عمر الشتلات ومعاملات مكافحه الحشائش علي نمو ومحصول الأرز الشتل (صنف سحا ١٠٦). كان التصميم الإحصائي المستخدم هو القطع المنشقة مره واحده في توزيع القطاعات الكاملة العشوائية ذو أربع مكررات في كلا من الموسمين. حيث وزعت أعمار الشتلات وهي ٢١، ٢٨، و ٣٥ يوم في القطع الرئيسية بينما وزعت خمس معاملات لمكافحه الحشائش وهي مبيد ثيوبينكارب ٥٠% (بمعدل ٢.٣٩ كجم ماده فعاله/هكتار)، أوكساديازون ٢٥% (بمعدل ٠.٠٤٥ كجم ماده فعاله/هكتار)، بينوكسيولام ٢٤% (بمعدل ٠.٠٢٩ كجم ماده فعاله/هكتار)، نقاوة يدوية مرتين عند ٢٠ و ٤٠ يوم من الشتل و غير المعامل (الكنترول) في القطع المنشقة. أوضحت النتائج أن شتل الأرز عند عمر ٢١ يوم أدى إلي انخفاض الوزن الجاف لحشيشه السويده، العجيره، الدنيبه والحشائش الكلية وزيادة في الوزن الجاف للأرز، عدد السنابل، وزن السنبله، عدد الحبوب الممتلئه في السنبله ومحصول حبوب الأرز مقارنة بغير المعامل. كما أوضحت النتائج أن استخدام مبيد بينوكسيولام بمعدل ٠.٠٢٩ كجم ماده فعاله/هكتار أدى إلي انخفاض الوزن الجاف لأنواع الحشائش المدروسة والحشائش الكلية وزيادة في محصول الحبوب ومكوناته مقارنة بغير المعامل. كما أظهرت النتائج أيضاً أن هناك تأثيراً معنوياً للتفاعل بين أعمار الشتلات ومعاملات مكافحه الحشائش علي صفة الوزن الجاف لأنواع الحشائش والحشائش الكلية وكذلك محصول ومكوناته حيث كانت معاملة شتل بإدرات الأرز عند عمر ٢١ يوم مع استخدام مبيد الحشائش بينوكسيولام بمعدل ٠.٠٢٩ كجم ماده فعاله/هكتار بعد ١٥ يوم من الشتل هي الأفضل بين المعاملات المدروسة للحصول على أفضل مكافحه للحشائش وأعلى مادة جافة، محصول حبوب ومكوناته لصنف الأرز سحا ١٠٦ تحت هذه الدراسة.