

RESPONSE OF HYDROPRIMING AND OSMOPRIMING ON GERMINATION AND SEEDLING GROWTH OF SUNFLOWER (*HELIANTHUS ANNUUS* L.) UNDER SALT STRESS

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ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted to evaluate the best priming method and its effects on the seed germination and seedling growth of sunflower under salt stress conditions. Among the primings, hydropriming recorded highest mean values for most traits viz. seed germination percentage, germination rate, germination index, seedling vigor index, root/shoot length, root/shoot fresh weight and root/shoot relative water content under various concentrations (0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0%) of NaCl. Hydropriming proved significantly better than the osmopriming (KNO₃) under the wide range of salinity levels.

KEYWORDS: Priming, Sunflower, Germination, Salinity, KNO₃