EFFECTIVENESS OF NURSERY PLANTING DATES OF *ATRIPLEX HALIMUS* AND *SALSOLA* VERMICULATA ON DECREASING SEEDLINGS PRODUCTION COST IN JORDAN

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ABSTRACT

Seeds of *Atriplex halimus* and *Salsola* VERMICULATA were planted in nursery in March. Their stems were woody and their roots were convoluted, hence, stems and roots were pruned. The study aimed to determine the suitable planting date and decrease their production cost. Seeds were planted in 2 nurseries during 4 planting dates using the complete randomized design (CRD). Planting dates were, March, August, September and October. Seedlings production cost was calculated for March, August and September planting dates. Atriplex seeds showed capability to germinate during August and September, while Salsola didn't germinate well during August and September. The germination percentage of *S.* VERMICULATA seeds was 95 %, 40 %, 5 % and 0 % in March, August, September and October planting dates, respectively. While, the germination percentage of *A. halimus* seeds was 90 %, 84 %, 77 % and 70 % for March, August, September and October planting dates, respectively. *A. halimus* is recommending for the latest planting dates on August and September, whereas *S.* VERMICULATA recommended for the early planting date on March. For *A. halimus,* August and September planting were reduced seedlings production cost by 33 % and 38 %, respectively.

KEYWORDS: Fodder Shrubs, Forestry, Nurseries, Planting Dates, Rangeland, and Seedlings Cost