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## Response of Lettuce Plant Grown on Sandy Soil to Organic and Inorganic Amendments

Omar, M. M. ; Hassnaa A. Abdrabou and A. M. El-Ghamry\*



Soil sciences Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Mansoura University, Egypt.

### ABSTRACT

Currently, the Egyptian government is working hard to encourage and motivate citizens to reclamation the desert soils. So, a pot experiment was carried out aiming at evaluating the effect of some organic fertilizers as main factor *i.e.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) as sub main factor as well as bentonite amendment at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) as sub-sub main factor on the performance of lettuce plants grown on sandy soil. Lettuce growth criteria *i.e.*, plant height, plant fresh and dry weights, head diameter and root length as well as concentrations of nutrients *i.e.*, N, P, K, Fe and Mn in plant tissues were measured at harvest stage. The main results showed that the lettuce plants treated with compost had the highest values of all aforementioned traits followed by that treated with chicken manure, while lettuce plants treated with town refuse possessed the lowest values. Also, the values of all aforementioned traits increased as the added rate of the studied organic amendment increased. On the other hand, the soil addition of bentonite had a positive effect on lettuce plant performance compared to the corresponding plants grown without soil addition of bentonite (control treatment), where the values of all aforementioned traits increased as the added rate of the bentonite amendment increased. It can be concluded that soil addition of organic manures in combining with bentonite amendment represents an attractive option for programs of fertilization under the sandy soil.

**Keywords:** Compost, chicken manure, town refuse, bentonite, lettuce plants.

### INTRODUCTION

Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.) is consumed as a fresh green salad, where it is considered as a brilliant nutritive source of vitamins *i.e.*, vitamins C and A, minerals *e.g.*, N, Fe, Mn... etc. (El-Ghamry *et al.*, 2018). Also, its leaves are a rich source of antioxidants and phytochemicals that are anti-carcinogenic. The cultivated area of lettuce plants in Egypt is about 3100 hectares producing about 70000 Mg (Darwesh *et al.*, 2019).

In Egypt, the sandy soils represent more than 90% of the total area. So, the reclamation of degraded soils *e.g.*, sandy soil is becoming a major strategy for the government. Sandy soil possesses poor physical and chemical properties as well as its low capacity to retain irrigation water and its low supplying power for nutrient elements (El-Ghamry *et al.*, 2021).

One of the plants protective ways from the poverty of sandy soil fertility is the usage of soil organic and inorganic amendments. Organic manures possess the possibility of providing the energy of microflora, supplying nutrients and improving sandy soil properties. Soil addition of organic manures *e.g.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse was observed to possess a positive influence that aid crop growth and improve the vegetable crops nutritional components (El-Naggar and El-Ghamry, 2001; Abou-Hussein *et al.*, 2002 and Hou *et al.*, 2013). Arthur *et al.*, (2012) reported that compost possesses a vital role in enhancing sandy soil performance because the organic source causes to improve the soil properties. Also, Agbede *et al.*, (2020) reported that chicken manure soil addition improved all properties of sandy soil. Besides, Fouda, (2021) reported that one of the most abundant organic materials, locally available is organic

town refuse, which could easily be used as sources of organic substances and nutrients.

Bentonite is a clay mineral, a rock containing mainly montmorillonite (a smectite group clay mineral), (Pandey *et al.*, 2019). The primary vital role of the bentonite amendment is to improve the soil water holding capacity and moisture content, thus contributing to the stimulation of biological activity (Zhang *et al.*, 2020). The addition of bentonite to soils leads to an increase in the mineral nutrient and colloid content of the soils which should decrease the leaching of various nutrients from the soil (Mi *et al.*, 2020).

Therefore, the objective of the current study is to assess the influence of some soil additions at different rates on the performance of lettuce plants grown on sandy soils and find out the superior combined treatment because of the importance of sandy soil reclamation in Egypt to face the growing demand of the population for food and fill the gap between food production and consumption.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

A pot trial was implemented to evaluate the response of lettuce plants grown on sandy soils to different rates of different organic fertilizers (compost, chicken manure and town refuse) and bentonite amendment.

#### 1. Experimental site.

This research work was executed during growing season of 2018/2019 at the green house of Agricultural Faculty, Mansoura University, Egypt.

#### 2. Soil sampling.

Sandy soil was collected from Kalapshoo Village, Belqas District, Dakahlia Governorate, Egypt, then it was analyzed before the execution of the experiment according to Peverill *et al.*, (1999) as presented in Table 1.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [Aymanelghamry@mans.edu.eg](mailto:Aymanelghamry@mans.edu.eg)

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**Table 1. Characteristics of the studied soil before transplanting.**

Particle size distribution (%)				Texture class	Available nutrients			EC** dSm <sup>-1</sup>	pH*	OM	CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)
C. Sand	F. Sand	Silt	Clay		N	P	K				
4.50	87.00	2.90	5.60	Sandy	30.50	3.70	101.60	1.35	8.00	0.20	1.00

\* pH (1:2.5 soil suspension).

\*\*EC(soil extract 1:5).

**3. Studied substances.**

Compost (animal residues) and chicken manure were obtained from the farm of the faculty, which located in Kalabsho. Town refuse was taken from Mansoura manufactory for organic manure. Bentonite was purchased from Al-Basteen Company for Industry – Cairo. Table 2 shows some properties of the studied amendments.

**Table 2. Chemical analysis of the studied amendments.**

Parameters	Compost	Chicken manure	Town refuse	Bentonite
pH	6.15	6.64	7.72	9.25
EC, dSm <sup>-1</sup>	3.65	3.71	4.25	3.44
Total C, %	20.41	25.40	11.51	0.48
Total N, %	1.46	1.50	0.55	0.00
C:N ratio	13.90	16.90	20.80	0.00
Available nutrients, mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	P	0.620	0.49	0.36
	K	0.950	0.93	0.65
	Fe	48.20	47.95	47.00
	Zn	24.00	18.00	9.56
	Mn	26.00	25.00	19.30

**4. Lettuce seedlings**

Lettuce seedlings (*Lactuca sativa* L.Cv Balady) were obtained from Ministry of Agric. and soil Rec. (MASR).

**5. Pots used.**

Plastic pots possessed 25 cm diameter and 25 cm depth were filled by air-dry soils equaled to 10 kg oven dry soil.

**6. Experimental setup.**

Pot experiment was carried out aiming at evaluating the effect of some organic fertilizers as main factor *i.e.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) as sub main factor as well as bentonite amendment at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) as sub-sub main factor on the performance of lettuce plants grown on sandy soil. Two weeks before transplanting, all pots received the studied substances in a single addition at above studied rates. Four lettuce seedlings were transplanted in each pot on December 15<sup>th</sup> then thinning process to two homogenous plants pot<sup>-1</sup> was done at a period of 25 days from transplanting.

The execution of the research work was done in a split-split-plot design with three replicates. Consequently, total number of pots was 81 as follows; 3 “organic fertilizers” × 3 “levels of organic fertilization” × 3 “bentonite treatment” × 3 “replicates”.

The normal agricultural practices as well as mineral NPK fertilization were done for the lettuce production depending on the recommendation of MASR. Ammonium sulphate (21 %N) was applied in two doses at 25 and 45 days from transplanting at rate of 100 Kg fed<sup>-1</sup>. Potassium sulfate (39.84 % K) was applied in a single application at rate of 50 Kg fed<sup>-1</sup> with the second N-fertilizer dose. While, before transplanting, calcium superphosphate (6.6%P) was added in a one dose at rate of 250 Kg fed<sup>-1</sup>.

The irrigation process was executed as the lettuce plants required. On 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the harvest process was done.

**7. Measurements.****Growth criteria.**

The following growth criteria *i.e.*, plant height (cm), plant fresh and dry weights (g plant<sup>-1</sup>), head diameter and root length (cm) were measured at harvest stage.

**Chemical constituents and quality.**

To determine the concentrations of nutrients *i.e.*, N, P, K, Fe and Mn in lettuce plant tissues, 0.2 g from each sample was digested using 5 cm<sup>3</sup> from the mixture of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and HClO<sub>4</sub> (1:1) as described by Peterburgski (1968).

Total N, P and K in lettuce were determined using Kjeldahl method, spectrophotometer and flame photometer, respectively apparatus depending on the methods described by Walinga *et al.*, (2013).

Iron and manganese were determined using atomic absorption spectrophotometer using perkin Elmer Model 370A as described by Chapman and Pratt (1978).

**8. Statistical analysis.**

The obtained data were subjected to analysis of variance according to Gomez and Gomez (1984).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To understand the strategies of lettuce plants response to some organic fertilizers and bentonite amendment under sandy soil conditions, a pot experiment was executed and the obtained results will be presented and discussed in separate topics.

**1. Growth criteria of lettuce plants.**

Tables 3 and 4 show that soil addition of some organic manures *i.e.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) and inorganic amendment *i.e.*, bentonite at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) pronouncedly affected all studied growth criteria *i.e.*, plant height (cm), plant fresh and dry weights (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 3), head diameter (cm) and root length (cm) (Table 4) at harvest stage of lettuce plants.

The same Tables illustrate that the lettuce plants treated with compost had the highest values of all studied growth criteria under sandy soil conditions followed by that treated with chicken manure, while lettuce plants treated with town refuse possessed the lowest values of plant height (cm), plant fresh and dry weights (g plant<sup>-1</sup>), head diameter (cm) and root length (cm) at harvest stage of lettuce plants.

Concerning the studied levels of organic amendments, from the same Tables, it can be noticed that the values of all aforementioned growth criteria increased as the added rate of the studied organic amendment increased.

**Table 3. Effect of organic fertilizers and bentonite amendment at different rates on growth criteria of lettuce plants *i.e.*, plant height, plant fresh and dry weights at harvest stage.**

Treatments	Plant height, cm	Plant fresh weight, g plant <sup>-1</sup>	Plant dry weight g.plant <sup>-1</sup>		
Organic fertilization as main factor					
Compost	28.72a	346.37a	26.97a		
Chicken manure (ChM)	28.32b	340.35b	25.86b		
Town refuse (TR)	28.28c	335.09c	25.10c		
LSD at 5%	0.03	0.49	0.05		
Levels of organic fertilization as sub main factor					
0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	22.18c	300.49c	19.00c		
10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	30.97b	347.74b	27.44b		
15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	32.17a	373.58a	31.49a		
LSD at 5%	0.04	1.42	0.04		
Levels of bentonite amendment as sub-sub main factor					
Bentonite at rate of 0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	26.85c	316.24c	21.81c		
Bentonite at rate of 10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	28.75b	349.95b	27.67b		
Bentonite at rate of 15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	29.71a	355.63a	28.45a		
LSD at 5%	0.07	2.77	0.07		
Interaction					
Compost	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	20.29	289.80	16.00
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	21.31	300.65	19.77
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	25.20	310.54	22.00
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	29.93	323.84	24.25
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	31.91	369.85	30.58
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	32.16	373.92	31.40
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	30.78	343.04	26.66
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	33.33	400.31	35.93
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	33.56	405.38	36.18
ChM	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	20.29	292.20	15.90
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	21.76	300.64	19.94
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	23.44	306.16	20.35
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	29.69	319.63	23.48
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	31.48	359.10	29.01
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	31.67	363.64	29.73
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	30.56	336.79	25.89
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	32.86	390.28	33.80
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	33.10	394.70	34.59
TR	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	20.35	296.02	16.22
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	22.67	301.04	20.21
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	24.34	307.34	20.58
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	29.54	314.95	22.74
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	31.06	349.80	27.56
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	31.28	354.97	28.23
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	30.28	329.87	25.11
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	32.41	377.86	32.22
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	32.61	383.98	33.00
LSD at 5%	0.20	8.20	0.20		

Generally, it can be said that all organic amendments had a vital role in improvement the performance of lettuce plants grown on sandy soil due to its ability in supplying nutrients to plants grown under poor soil conditions. The superiority of compost amendment compared to others amendments may be attributed to that compost had the lowest C/N ratio in addition to its high content from nutrients compared to other both organic amendments. For the same reasons, the chicken manure amendment was more effective than town refuse fertilizer. The obtained findings are in harmony with the results of Eklind *et al.*, (2001) and Alromian, (2020) on lettuce plants.

Regarding the bentonite amendment, Tables 3 and 4 indicate that the soil addition of bentonite had a positive

effect on lettuce plant performance compared to the corresponding plants grown without soil addition of bentonite (control treatment), where the values of all aforementioned growth criteria increased as the added rate of the bentonite amendment increased. The superiority of bentonite amendment may be attributed to that it could increase lettuce plant biomass by increasing cation exchange capacity of sandy soil and making more exchange sites available to hold plant nutrients for lettuce plant growth as well as its nature, where it is a rock containing mainly montmorillonite (Valizadeh *et al.*, 2014). A further benefits of bentonite affecting lettuce performance may be its capacity to increase plant available water as a function of increasing porosity as mentioned by Soda *et al.*, (2006).

**Table 4. Effect of organic fertilizers and bentonite amendment at different rates on growth criteria of lettuce plants *i.e.*, head diameter and root length at harvest stage.**

Treatments	Head diameter, cm	Root length, cm		
Organic fertilization as main factor				
Compost	8.21a	12.03a		
Chicken manure (ChM)	8.09ab	11.81b		
Town refuse (TR)	8.02a	11.63b		
LSD at 5%	0.14	0.19		
Levels of organic fertilization as sub main factor				
0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	7.13c	10.24c		
10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	8.37b	12.17b		
15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	8.82a	13.06a		
LSD at 5%	0.04	0.07		
Levels of bentonite amendment as sub-sub main factor				
Bentonite at rate of 0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	7.48c	10.77c		
Bentonite at rate of 10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	8.36b	12.24b		
Bentonite at rate of 15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	8.48a	12.46a		
LSD at 5%	0.06	0.08		
Interaction				
Compost	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	6.30	9.20
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.44	10.63
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.69	10.96
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.05	11.46
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.76	12.85
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.83	13.03
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.30	11.96
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	9.24	14.00
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	9.29	14.16
ChM	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	6.20	9.14
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.45	10.62
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.62	10.85
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.94	11.36
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.51	12.47
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.63	12.69
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.24	11.82
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	9.09	13.57
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	9.15	13.79
TR	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	6.31	9.21
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.49	10.65
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.65	10.89
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	7.86	11.18
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.36	12.14
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.43	12.34
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.16	11.61
		B (10Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	8.90	13.22
		B (15Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	9.00	13.40
LSD at 5%	0.18	0.25		

The results mentioned in Tables 3 and 4 has been proved that the interaction among the studied treatments had highly significant effects on all the studied growth criteria of lettuce plant. Where the highest values of all studied growth criteria *i.e.*, plant height (cm), plant fresh and dry weights (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) (Table 3), head diameter (cm)

and root length (cm) (Table 4) at harvest stage were realized when plants treated with compost and simultaneously treated with bentonite conditioner at rate of 15 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> for both. While the lowest values of all aforementioned growth parameters were recorded with the corresponding plants grown without both organic and inorganic amendments.

**2. Chemical constituents in leaves of lettuce plants.**

The impact of studied organic amendments *i.e.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) and inorganic amendment *i.e.*, bentonite at different rates (0.0, 10.0 and 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) on macronutrients content *i.e.*, N, P, K, % (Table 5) and micronutrients content *i.e.*, Fe and Mn, mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (Table 6) in leaves of lettuce plants was significant.

Data of the same Tables show that leaves of lettuce plants grown on sandy soil amended by compost had the highest values of N, P, K (%), Fe and Mn (mg kg<sup>-1</sup>), while the lettuce plants grown on sandy soil amended by chicken manure came in the second order for all aforementioned traits, whilst the lettuce plants grown on sandy soil amended by town refuse possessed the lowest values.

As for the studied levels of organic amendments, the sequence order of studied levels from the most effective to the less was as follows;

**15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> > 10.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> > control (without soil addition).**

The obtained results are in harmony with those of Amaref *et al.*, (2018) and El-Ghamry *et al.*, (2019) who compared among different organic amendments and their impacts on plants grown sandy soil.

The investigated organic amendments increased the micro and macronutrient's availability, thus increasing their uptake by lettuce plants and their concentrations in plant tissues and this may be positively reflected on the synthesis of chlorophyll in the lettuce plant tissues and this may be the reason for raising the ability of lettuce to tolerate sandy soil conditions. As mentioned above, the superiority of compost amendment compared to others amendments may be attributed to that compost had the lowest C/N ratio in addition to its high content from nutrients compared to other both organic amendments (Eklind *et al.*, 2001 and Alromian, 2020).

Tables 5 and 6 show the total content of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and manganese nutrients in tissues of lettuce plants at harvest stage under investigated rates of bentonite. Data again indicated positive responses for bentonite conditioner particularly with high-added level (15.0Mg fed<sup>-1</sup>) compared to control treatment (without soil addition). In other words, the sequence order of studied levels of bentonite amendment from the most effective to the less was as follows;

**15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> > 10.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> > control (without soil addition of bentonite).**

These findings may be attributed to the good movement of nutrients from the soil to lettuce grown plant as well as its good metabolism that indirectly reflected on the health state of sandy soil. It is known that sandy soil suffers from rapid irrigation water infiltration, therefore the favourable effects of bentonite amendment may be related to the role of bentonite in improving the water holding capacity and moisture content of sandy soil thus contributing to the stimulation of biological activity(Soda

*et al.*, 2006 and Valizadeh *et al.*, 2014). The obtained results agree with those of El-Etr and Hassan, (2017) who suggested that soil addition of bentonite increased the total nutrients content of pea plant which should associate with good use of nutrients in soil solution by lettuce roots.

**Table 5. Effect of organic fertilizers and bentonite amendment at different rates on chemical constituents in leaves of lettuce plants *i.e.*, N, P and K at harvest stage.**

Treatments		N, %	P, %	K, %	
Organic fertilization as main factor					
Compost		3.39a	0.492a	3.32a	
Chicken manure (ChM)		3.32b	0.486b	3.22b	
Town refuse (TR)		3.27c	0.482b	3.15c	
LSD at 5%		0.04	0.004	0.05	
Levels of organic fertilization as sub main factor					
0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		2.83c	0.431c	2.68c	
10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		3.44b	0.504b	3.30b	
15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		3.72a	0.525a	3.70a	
LSD at 5%		0.03	0.003	0.05	
Levels of bentonite amendment as sub-sub main factor					
Bentonite at rate of 0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		3.05c	0.460c	2.89c	
Bentonite at rate of 10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		3.44b	0.495b	3.36b	
Bentonite at rate of 15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		3.50a	0.506a	3.44a	
LSD at 5%		0.02	0.004	0.04	
Interaction					
Compost	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.72	0.404	2.50
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.80	0.430	2.70
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.96	0.464	2.88
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.18	0.482	3.05
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.69	0.520	3.58
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.75	0.525	3.64
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.36	0.497	3.24
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	4.01	0.548	4.10
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	4.07	0.553	4.16
ChM	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.71	0.396	2.48
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.83	0.433	2.71
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.90	0.452	2.79
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.12	0.497	2.98
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.57	0.511	3.43
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.61	0.514	3.48
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.29	0.492	3.19
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.91	0.538	3.92
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.94	0.544	4.02
TR	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.75	0.409	2.53
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.85	0.437	2.74
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	2.92	0.459	2.83
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.07	0.475	2.92
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.45	0.502	3.30
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.50	0.506	3.36
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.25	0.489	3.12
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.82	0.531	3.76
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	3.86	0.534	3.83
LSD at 5%		0.07	0.011	0.12	

Going along with combination treatments among organic amendments, their added levels and levels of bentonite conditioner, from the same Tables, it was obvious that the interaction among the studied treatments had highly significant effects on the total content of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron and manganese nutrients in tissues of lettuce plants at harvest stage. Where the highest values of all aforementioned traits were recorded when plants treated with compost and bentonite at

the same time at rate of 15 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> for both, whilst the lowest values of all aforementioned traits were recorded with the corresponding lettuce plants grown without both organic and inorganic amendments.

**Table 6. Effect of organic fertilizers and bentonite amendment at different rates on chemical constituents in leaves of lettuce plants *i.e.*, Fe, Mn at harvest stage.**

Treatments		Fe, mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	Mn, mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	
Organic fertilization as main factor				
Compost		230.39a	110.25a	
Chicken manure (ChM)		225.49b	107.10b	
Town refuse (TR)		220.27c	103.93c	
LSD at 5%		3.45	1.47	
Levels of organic fertilization as sub main factor				
0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		191.32c	85.69c	
10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		230.69b	110.49b	
15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		254.15a	125.10a	
LSD at 5%		1.26	0.54	
Levels of bentonite amendment as sub-sub main factor				
Bentonite at rate of 0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		201.80c	93.63c	
Bentonite at rate of 10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		234.44b	112.27b	
Bentonite at rate of 15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>		239.91a	115.38a	
LSD at 5%		1.61	0.71	
Interaction				
Compost	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	179.29	79.88
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	191.35	86.32
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	202.02	90.20
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	209.52	98.68
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	249.66	121.79
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	255.21	125.08
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	225.74	107.41
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	277.73	140.03
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	283.02	142.91
ChM	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	179.22	80.54
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	193.03	86.53
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	198.71	89.90
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	208.04	96.00
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	239.85	116.53
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	245.07	119.14
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	221.00	104.34
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	270.57	134.06
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	273.92	136.85
TR	0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	179.31	80.95
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	197.92	86.75
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	201.02	90.14
	10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	202.68	93.21
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	230.40	110.49
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	235.79	113.48
	15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup>	B (0.0 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	211.42	101.64
		B (10 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	259.47	127.93
		B (15 Mg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	264.45	130.73
LSD at 5%		4.83	2.14	

### CONCLUSION

Results of the current investigation and those obtained by other researchers are enough to confirm that both organic manures *e.g.*, compost, chicken manure and town refuse and bentonite conditioner are beneficial for sandy soil reclamation at all studied rates. In this respect, the soil addition of compost at a rate of 15.0 Mg fed<sup>-1</sup> for both of them was the best-combined treatment.

Generally, it can be concluded that soil addition of organic manures in combining with bentonite amendment represents an attractive option for programs of fertilization under the sandy soil.

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### استجابة نبات الخس النامي على أراضي رملية لمحسنات التربة العضوية والغير عضوية محمود موسى عمر ، حسناء عبد المقصود عبد ربه و أيمن محمد الغمري قسم الأراضي ، كلية الزراعة ، جامعة المنصورة ، مصر.

مؤخرًا تعمل الحكومة المصرية جاهدة على تشجيع وتحفيز المواطنين على استصلاح الأراضي الصحراوية. لذلك، تم إجراء تجربة أصص تهدف إلى تقييم تأثير بعض الأسمدة العضوية مثل سماد الكمورة (الكومبوست)، زرق الدواجن، مخلفات المدن كمعاملات رئيسية بمعدلات مختلفة (١٠,٠، ١٠,٠، ١٥,٠ طن/الفدان) كمعاملات منشقة أولى وكذلك محسن البنتونايت بمعدلات مختلفة (١٠,٠، ١٠,٠، ١٥,٠ طن/الفدان) كمعاملات منشقة ثانية على أداء نباتات الخس النامية بالتربة الرملية. تم قياس معايير نمو الخس مثل ارتفاع النبات، ووزن النبات الطازج والجاف، وقطر الرأس وطول الجذر وكذلك تركيز العناصر الغذائية مثل النيتروجين والفسفور والبوتاسيوم والحديد والمنجنيز في أنسجة النبات عند مرحلة الحصاد، وأظهرت النتائج الرئيسية أن نباتات الخس المعاملة بسماد الكمورة (الكومبوست) كان لها أعلى القيم بالنسبة لجميع الصفات المذكورة أعلاه تليها تلك النباتات المعاملة بزرق الدواجن، بينما امتلكت نباتات الخس التي تمت معاملة بمخلفات المدن أقل القيم. كما زادت قيم جميع الصفات المذكورة أعلاه كلما زاد معدل إضافة السماد العضوي المدروس. من ناحية أخرى، فإن إضافة البنتونايت للتربة كان له تأثير إيجابي على أداء نبات الخس مقارنة بالنباتات المقابلة النامية بدون إضافة البنتونايت (معاملة الكنترول)، حيث زادت قيم جميع الصفات المذكورة أعلاه مع زيادة المعدل المضاف لمحسن البنتونايت. يمكن الاستنتاج أن الإضافة الأرضية للسماد العضوي مع محسن البنتونايت يمثل خيارًا جذابًا لبرامج التسميد تحت ظروف التربة الرملية.