

## **Response of Roselle Plants (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.) to Pressed Olive Cake Compost Types and Potassium Fertilization Rates on Newly Reclaimed Soils at Siwa Oasis, Egypt**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This investigation was carried out during the two seasons of 2013 and 2014 at the experimental farm of Matrouh Agricultural Research Station, Siwa Oasis, Matrouh Governorate, Egypt, (29.11° N latitude and 25.33° E longitude). The study aiming at evaluating the effect of two types of composts pressed olive cake (POC) and POC+CM (chicken manure) combined potassium fertilizer levels and their interactions on yield, yield components and some sepals chemical constituents of Rosella plants. The obtained results could be summarized as follows:- \* The investigated compost types exerted significant effects on plant height, branches No. plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) and seed yield (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>) of Roselle plants, and POC+CM compost exhibited the highest figures in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. The adopted K fertilization rates significantly affected the abovementioned parameters, which gradually increased due to increasing k fertilization rate figures in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. All the parameters were significantly influenced due to the interaction and the highest values were recorded under POC+CM compost and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate interaction in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. \*Sepals yield and its components of Roselle plants were significantly influenced due to the tested compost types and K fertilization rates and interaction in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. Both POC+CM compost and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate exhibited the highest figures of the abovementioned parameters 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. The highest values of sepals yield and its components were attained due to POC+CM compost as interacted with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. \*N, P and K% of roselle petals were significantly influenced due to the investigated compost types and K fertilization rates. The highest N, P and K figures were attained with both POC+CM compost and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. In addition, interaction of POC+CM compost and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate exhibited the highest values, however, the differences did not reach the significance level, and such trend was true in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. \* Chemical constituents of roselle sepals e.g. total carbohydrates, anthocyanin ascorbic acid contents and pH were significantly influenced due to K fertilization rates, whereas compost type exhibited similar trend, except with pH 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. POC+CM compost and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate interaction still exhibiting the highest values of the abovementioned parameters, however, the differences did not reach the significance level, and such trend was true in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. On conclusion, supplying POC compost combined with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> resulted in higher values of sepals yield and quality and macronutrients uptake as well, however, it is advisable to replace POC compost by POC compost +CM which absolutely exhibited the highest values of the studied parameters under the present experimental conditions.

**Keywords:** Rosella plants (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.), growth, productivity, chemical constituents, pressed olive cake compost, potassium fertilization

### **INTRODUCTION**

Medicinal plants are valuable resources in a wide range of natural resources that occupied a prominent economic position because of the continuous increasing demand for these plants for the local and foreign markets. Among these medicinal rosella plants (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.) which is belonging to the family Malvaceae and has a common name in Egypt as Karkadeh. Roselle plants are cultivated mainly for the important commercial part of the plant which is the fleshy sepals (calyx) surrounding the fruit (capsules). This plant can grow on a wide range of soil conditions, but for economic with production, soil should be well supplied essential minerals, which can improve sepals yield and quality. Nitrogen and potassium are two major limiting nutrients for plant growth and yield (Adanlawo and Ajibade, 2006). So, great attention to cultivate such plants and exporting the calyx can be an important economic issue.

At Siwa oasis, large quantities of pressed olive cake are resulted as a waste of olive oil extraction. Moreover, increasing the organic matter content of soil (especially in newly reclaimed soils) has the additional benefits of mitigating the problems associated with the use of brackish or saline waters which are frequently used in these areas for crop irrigation, Tomar *et al.*, (2003).

Many authors documented the favorable effects of pressed olive cake compost on sandy soils such as increasing nutrient availability, cation exchange capacity,

organic matter content and enzymes activity which consequently stimulates plant growth and plant productivity, Cucci *et al.* (2008). In addition, Giovanna *et al.* (2008) showed that supplying wet olive pomace improved soil structure, increased organic matter and nutrient content without altering pH and salinity. Moreover, it improved nutrient content in sunflower and wheat in comparison with the control. Furthermore, Montemurro *et al.*, (2004) showed that addition of olive pomace compost increased growth, yield and macronutrients (NPK) uptake as well as dry matter content of rye-grass.

In Egypt, El-Tantawy and Mohamed (2009) under Sinai conditions found that, addition of pressed olive cake composting with chicken manure and phosphate solubilizing bacteria enhanced tomato plant growth, number and weight of fruits and increased phosphorus content in leaves. In connection, Ben-Jenana *et al.* (2009) found that addition of olive husks compost with pozidonia and chicken manure significantly improved growth characters and yield of tomato plants. Sellami *et al.* (2007) and Hachicha *et al.* (2006) reported that addition the compost of olive husks with chicken manure and irrigated with olive mill wastewater improved soil properties, did not have any negative impact on soil phenols, pH and EC at different soil depths and enhanced a better growth and yield of potato.

Unfortunately, the literatures interesting the response of Roselle plants to olive cake compost addition

are not available. However, tremendous literatures concerning the effect of other types of organic compost wastes on Roselle growth are cited such as Abou-El-Seoud *et al.* (1997); El-Keltawi *et al.* (2003); El-Sherif and Sarwat (2007) and Yasser *et al.* (2011) who reported that application of organic manure to Roselle increased vegetative growth parameters, number of branches and fruits, sepal yield and a slight increase in the protein and phosphorus content of sepals of Roselle.

It is well known that potassium regulates many metabolic processes in plants. It is involved in cell division and enlargement, increases stress tolerance, regulates the opening and closing of the stomata and it is required for osmotic regulation. In addition, K promotes photosynthesis and activates enzymes and co-enzymes to metabolize carbohydrates for the manufacture of starch and protein. Furthermore, potassium improves oil content in oil crops and is essential for the development of the root system Bidari and Hebsur (2011). In connection, Shalan *et al.* (2001) investigated the effect of nitroben (biofertilizer), nitrogen fertilizer; (40 or 60 kg N/fed) combined with potassium as foliage spray or potassium sulfate; (50 or 100 kg/fed.) on Roselle plants and reported that N and K at different levels increased plant height, number of branches, number of fruit/plant, sepal weight (fresh & dry), anthocyanin, sugars and protein contents of sepals. The author added that Potassin (foliar P K fertilizer) as a source of potassium resulted in a high significant increases in most parameters; branch number, fruit number/plant, acidity, as well as anthocyanin, sugars and protein contents.

The main objective of this study is to find out whether sufficient and high quality of roselle yield can be produced using pressed olive cake compost, pressed

olive cake + chicken manure compost and potassium fertilization under the soil and climate conditions of Siwa Oasis.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was conducted in a newly reclaimed soil at the experimental farm at Siwa Oasis located at 29.11° N latitude and 25.33° E longitude, Matrouh Agricultural Research Station, Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Egypt, during 2013 and 2014 growing seasons. aiming to evaluate compost type e.g. pressed olive cake (POC) and pressed olive cake (POC)+Chicken Manure (CM) in 1:1 ratio, both at rate of 2 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> under potassium fertilization rates of 0, 24 and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> on growth, sepals yield and its components and chemical constituents of Roselle (*Hibiscus Sabdariffa L.*) as well.

Particle size distribution and some chemical characteristics of the experimental soil as determined according to Ryan *et al.* (1996) are shown in Table 1.

The POC accumulates, in huge quantities, as a waste from olive oil mills at Siwa Oasis. The POC used in the present study was obtained from the olive oil extraction mill belongs to Desert Research Center (DRC) at Siwa Oasis, whereas CM was collected from the local peoples. On preparing the compost piles of POC and POC+CM (2 m<sup>3</sup> in volume) were prepared and insulated for 3- month period. During the composting process both windrows were homogenized by mixing every two weeks and moistened to keep the moisture in the range of 40 to 60%. The piles were periodically sampled at zero, 30, 60 and 120 days for chemical analyses to determine percentages of N, P, K and organic carbon, and data are represented in Table 2.

**Table 1: Soil particle size distribution and some chemical characteristics of the experimental site, 2013 and 2014 seasons.**

properties		2013 season	2014 season
Particle size distribution (%)	Coarse sand	7.40	8.70
	Fine sand	61.20	64.80
	Silt	26.60	22.40
	Clay	4.80	4.10
Textural class		Sandy loam	Sandy loam
EC dSm <sup>-1</sup> (soil paste extract)		2.41	2.23
pH (1:2.5, soil: water suspension)		7.42	7.28
CaCO <sub>3</sub> (%)		6.20	5.80
Soluble cations (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	Ca <sup>+2</sup>	5.14	4.92
	Mg <sup>+2</sup>	4.32	4.24
	Na <sup>+</sup>	13.74	12.42
	K <sup>+</sup>	1.58	1.42
	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	5.34	4.87
Soluble anions (meqL <sup>-1</sup> )	Cl <sup>-</sup>	9.00	8.75
	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>--</sup>	10.44	9.38
	N	11.22	11.72
Available nutrients (ppm)	P	3.42	3.86
	K	22.85	24.15

### Experimental design and execution

The experiment was laid out in a split-plot design with three replicates. The main plots were assigned for compost types e.g. control (without compost addition),

POC and POC+CM both at 2 ton fed<sup>-1</sup> rate, whereas the subplots were devoted to potassium fertilization rates e.g. control (without K fertilization), 24 and 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> in potassium sulphate form. The experimental unit

area was 14 m<sup>2</sup> (3.5 mx4.00 m) contained five ridges 70 cm apart and 50cm between plants i.e. 40 plants per plot. Seeds of Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L., cv. Sabaheia 17) were obtained from Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research Department, Horticulture Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Giza. Four seeds per hill were sown on 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, respectively. After one month, the seedlings were thinned to leave one seedling per hill.

The tested composts, potassium fertilizer levels, and calcium superphosphate (15% P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> at rate of 30 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> fed<sup>-1</sup>) as well were applied during seedbed preparation. Nitrogen fertilizer as ammonium nitrate (33.5%) was added at 40 kg N fed<sup>-1</sup> rate divided into three equal portions at 35, 50 and 70 days after planting. Surface drip irrigation was adopted in the experimental field, and chemical analyses of the irrigation water are shown in Table 3.

**Table 2: Chemical analyses for POC and POC + CM piles at different periods during composting process in 2013 and 2014 seasons.**

Treatments	2013 season							
	Pressed olive cake				Pressed olive cake + chicken manure			
	Initial time	30 days	60 days	120 days	Initial time	30 days	60 days	120 days
Total N (%)	1.19	1.11	1.21	1.29	1.28	1.19	1.31	1.39
Total P (%)	0.15	0.11	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.14	0.17	0.19
Total K (%)	1.18	1.14	1.18	1.21	1.22	1.17	1.23	1.24
Organic matter %	57.98	60.31	53.78	52.92	55.63	60.02	50.17	43.63
Organic carbon %	33.63	34.98	31.19	30.70	32.27	34.86	29.10	25.31
C/N Ratio	28.26	31.51	25.78	23.80	25.21	29.29	22.21	18.21
	2014 season							
Total N (%)	1.22	1.12	1.25	1.32	1.31	1.23	1.36	1.41
Total P (%)	0.17	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.18	0.19	0.23
(Total K (%)	1.22	1.19	1.23	1.26	1.25	1.21	1.27	1.29
Organic matter %	58.33	61.05	55.22	53.57	56.12	58.15	51.55	41.78
Organic carbon %	33.83	35.41	32.03	31.07	32.55	34.86	29.90	24.23
C/N ratio	27.73	31.61	25.62	23.54	24.84	28.34	21.98	17.18

**Table 3: Chemical analyses of the irrigation water.**

Season	Parameters									
	EC (dSm <sup>-1</sup> )		pH	Soluble cations (mqL <sup>-1</sup> )				Soluble anions (mqL <sup>-1</sup> )		
	ppm			Na <sup>+</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Ca <sup>++</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>=</sup>
2013	3.13	2003	7.6	10.8	2.9	3.4	0.2	9.2	3.2	4.9
2014	2.35	1504	7.1	10.5	2.3	3.2	0.2	8.8	3.0	4.4

**Data Recorded:**

At harvest time (200 days after sowing), the plants were sampled at random from the middle ridges of the experimental unit to estimate the following data:

Plant height (cm), number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup>, fresh weigh of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup>, dry weigh of sepal plant<sup>-1</sup> (g), seed yield plant<sup>-1</sup> (g), seed yield (kgfed<sup>-1</sup>) and sepal yield (kgfed<sup>-1</sup>), Concerning dry sepals chemical constituents, nitrogen content was determined by wet oxidation using Kjeldahl digestion and distillation procedures, Parkinson and Allen (1975), while phosphorous was determined calorimetrically according to the procedure outlined by (Ryan *et al.* 1996). Potassium content was determined using flame photometer according to (Black, 1982). Total carbohydrate and ascorbic acid were determined according to Nielsen (2010), anthocyanin content was determined as described by Byamukama *et al.* (2014). Acidity of sepal was determined according to AOAC (1975). Data were subjected to the statistical analysis according to Snedecor and Cochran (1980). Mean values of the treatments were compared against each other using the least significant differences (LSD) at 5% level of significance.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**1- Plant height, branches No. plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield(g plant<sup>-1</sup>) and seed yield (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>)**

**(a) Effect of compost types**

Data presented in Table 4 show that the tested parameters were significantly affected due to the adopted compost types and K fertilization rates and interactions and POC+CM compost exhibited the highest figures in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons.

The increases in plant height, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) and seed yield (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>), due to POC+CM compost application, amounted to (48.21 and 57.88%), (25.44 and 71.67%), (82.34 and 25.86 %) and (84.26 and 24.18% ) in the 1<sup>st</sup> season and by (51.52 and 57.12%), (23.77 and 62.88 %), (81.47 and 24.14 %) and ( 82.72 and 24.95% ) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> one, respectively, compared to POC and the control. The beneficial effect of POC+CM compost is attributed to providing the necessary the soil macro and micronutrients, in available forms, which are necessary for healthy plant growth. Such results are in accordance with those reported by Tomati *et al.*, 1996; Cucci *et al.*, 2008 and Medjahdi *et al.*, 2014.

**(b) Effect of potassium fertilization rates**

Respecting the effect of potassium fertilization on studied parameters of roselle plants, data in Table 4 reveal that increasing potassium rate from zero to 24 or 48 K<sub>2</sub>O kgfed<sup>-1</sup> gradually increased all investigated parameters. The increase values, under 48 K<sub>2</sub>O Kgfed<sup>-1</sup> rate, in plant height, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield (gplant<sup>-1</sup>) and seed yield (kgfed<sup>-1</sup>) in 1<sup>st</sup> season, amounted to (5.64 and 17.45%), (19.54 and 71.59 %), (10.89 and 29.25 %) and ( 2.37 and 29.61 %) higher than those with 24 K<sub>2</sub>O kgfed<sup>-1</sup> rate and the control, respectively. In 2<sup>nd</sup> season, the corresponding increases for the abovementioned parameters reached to (15.49 and 25.58%), (18.63 and 60.09%), (13.25 and 30.15 %) and (13.83 and 32.50 %) in the same order of the

treatments. Such increases are attributable to favorable effect of the highest K- fertilization rate in regulating many metabolic processes in Roselle plants. These results are in accordance with those reported by Abo-El-Seoud *et al.* (1994), Abbas and Ali (2011) and Sakr *et al.*, (2014) on Roselle plants.

**(c) Effect of the interaction**

Regarding the effect of interacted factors under study on Plant height, Branches No. plant<sup>-1</sup>, Seed yield (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) and Seed yield (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>) of Roselle plants, data illustrated that the combination of POC+CM compost and the highest potassium fertilization rate resulted in the highest figures of the investigated parameters, Table 4.

**Table 4: Plant height, branches No. plant<sup>-1</sup>, seed yield (g plant<sup>-1</sup>) and seed yield (kg fed<sup>-1</sup>) of roselle plants as affected by compost types and potassium fertilization rates and interaction 2013 and 2014 seasons**

		2013 Season			
Treatments		Plant height (cm)	Branches No. plant <sup>-1</sup>	Seed yield (g plant <sup>-1</sup> )	Seed yield (kg fed <sup>-1</sup> )
Control, zero compost		89.26	8.33	17.16	223.36
POC*		95.09	11.40	24.86	331.41
POC+CM**		140.93	14.30	31.29	411.56
L.S.D at 0.05		2.39	0.27	1.21	5.96
Control		98.98	8.20	21.20	277.71
24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O		110.04	11.77	24.71	368.69
48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O		116.25	14.07	27.40	359.94
L.S.D at 0.05		2.07	0.18	1.07	12.01
Control, zero compost addition	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	82.70	5.80	14.81	192.54
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	90.85	8.60	17.27	224.68
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	94.23	10.60	19.39	252.87
	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	87.55	7.60	21.14	279.48
POC	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	96.42	11.80	25.33	343.56
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	101.30	14.80	28.12	371.18
	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	126.70	11.20	27.65	361.10
POC+CM	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	142.85	14.90	31.52	417.82
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	153.23	16.80	34.69	455.77
L.S.D at 0.05		3.11	0.43	1.64	8.88
		2014 Season			
		Compost types effect			
Control, zero compost		97.91	9.08	18.24	239.59
POC*		101.53	22.95	26.64	350.37
POC+CM**		153.84	14.79	33.07	437.78
L.S.D at 0.05		4.74	0.18	1.07	12.01
		K- fertilization rates effect			
Control		105.67	9.07	22.59	294.57
24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O		114.90	12.24	25.96	342.88
48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O		132.70	14.52	29.40	390.31
L.S.D at 0.05		4.74	0.18	1.07	12.01
		Interaction effect			
Control, zero compost addition	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	91.55	6.92	15.74	204.15
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	97.85	9.10	17.98	237.85
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	104.32	11.22	21.00	276.76
	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	94.60	8.43	23.05	302.42
POC	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	101.88	12.28	26.76	352.14
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	108.12	15.15	30.11	396.55
	Zero K <sub>2</sub> O	130.87	11.86	28.97	377.13
POC+CM	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	144.98	15.33	33.15	438.58
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	185.66	17.18	37.08	497.62
L.S.D at 0.05		8.21	0.51	1.84	20.18

\*POC= pressed olive cake compost    \*\*POC+CM= pressed olive cake + chicken manure

**2- Dry sepals yield and its components:**

**(a) Effect of compost types**

Results in Table 5 show that the adopted compost types and K fertilization rates and interaction as well significantly affected sepals yield and its components of Roselle plants. Supplying POC+CM compost resulted in the highest figures of sepal yield per feddan which were higher by (63.04 and 17.96%) and (59.04 and 14.01 %) than those under without compost addition and POC compost addition in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, respectively. Similar trends were noticed with dry weigh of sepals (gplant<sup>-1</sup>), number of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup> and fresh weigh of fruits (gplant<sup>-1</sup>). The increase percentages, due to POC+CM compost addition, were (74, 00 and 13.88), (68.90 and 13.21) and (70.97 and 14.26) higher than those under without compost addition and POC compost addition, respectively, in 1<sup>st</sup> season. The corresponding increase percentages in 2<sup>nd</sup> season were (59.04 and 14.20), (67.83 and 14.03), (67.54 and 15.93) and (65.95 and 13.98) in the same order of treatments and parameters. Similar results have been obtained due to

supplying compost from different organic wastes on Roselle plants, Abo-El-Seoud *et al.* (1997), El-Sheriff and Sarwat (2007) and Yasser *et al.*(2011).

**(b) Effect of potassium fertilization rates**

The highest figures of the investigated parameters were recorded with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate and such trend was true in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, Table 5. In the 1<sup>st</sup> season, reducing the k fertilization rate to be without k addition and 24 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate resulted in values of the studied parameters e.g. sepals yield per feddan, dry weigh of sepals (gplant<sup>-1</sup>), number of fruits plant<sup>-1</sup> and fresh weigh of fruits (gplant<sup>-1</sup>) amounted to (33.82 and 19.51%), (39.03 and 21.21%), (38.41 and 21.08%) and (38.35 and 22.39%), respectively, lower than that with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate. The corresponding reduction values in 2<sup>nd</sup> season were (34.53 and 22.58%), (37.78 and 22.72%), (37.80 and 22.42%) and (37.76 and 21.93%) in the same order of the treatments. The obtained results were in accordance with those reported by Abo-El-Seoud *et al.*(1994), Abdou *et al.*(2004), Abbas and Ali (2011) and Sakr *et al.*(2014) .

**Table 5: Sepals yield and its components of roselle plants as affected compost types and potassium fertilization rates and interaction in 2013 and 2014 seasons.**

Treatments	2013 season				2014 season				
	Dry sepals yield (kg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry weigh of sepals (g plant <sup>-1</sup> )	Number of fruits plant <sup>-1</sup>	Fresh weigh of fruits plant <sup>-1</sup>	Dry sepals yield (kg fed <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry weigh of sepals (gplant <sup>-1</sup> )	Number of fruits plant <sup>-1</sup>	Fresh weigh of fruits plant <sup>-1</sup>	
Compost types effect									
Zero compost addition	214.78	15.23	21.67	62.34	251.76	18.06	23.20	71.34	
POC*	296.90	23.27	32.33	93.28	350.59	26.58	33.53	103.86	
POC+CM**	350.18	26.50	36.60	106.58	400.39	30.31	38.87	118.40	
L.S.D at 0.05	1.06	0.13	1.97	4.61	3.44	2.27	1.03	12.43	
Potassium fertilization rates effect									
Zero K addition	231.76	16.53	23.20	67.56	270.27	19.47	24.80	76.04	
24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	281.85	21.36	29.73	85.05	319.63	24.18	30.93	95.38	
48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	348.24	27.11	37.67	109.59	412.83	31.29	39.87	122.18	
L.S.D at 0.05	0.08	0.73	1.11	3.54	3.22	2.12	0.07	2.11	
Interaction effect									
Zero Compost addition	Zero K addition	180.21	10.58	15.20	43.68	199.51	43.68	16.40	49.83
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	197.25	14.91	20.80	58.44	228.64	58.44	22.00	68.08
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	266.87	20.21	29.00	84.91	327.12	84.91	31.20	96.12
POC	Zero K addition	222.43	16.84	24.20	70.74	270.55	70.74	25.40	79.02
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	306.98	23.33	32.80	93.74	353.84	93.74	34.00	105.32
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	361.28	29.64	40.00	115.36	427.38	115.36	41.20	127.24
POC+CM	Zero K addition	292.65	22.17	30.20	88.25	340.76	88.25	32.60	99.28
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	341.31	25.83	35.60	102.98	376.42	102.98	36.80	112.75
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	416.58	31.49	44.00	128.51	483.98	128.51	47.20	143.18
L.S.D at 0.05		3.49	1.12	2.60	7.32	6.62	3.04	1.21	6.53

POC= pressed olive cake compost

POC+CM= pressed olive cake + chicken manure compost

**(c) Effect of the interaction**

The interaction data indicated that POC+CM compost as interacted with K fertilizer rate of 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O exhibited the highest figures of the investigated parameters in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> season, Table 5.

**3- Macronutrients (N, P and K) contents:**

**(a) Effect of compost types**

Data in Table 6 reveal that the adopted compost types significantly affected N, P and K% of roselle petals, and the highest values were recorded with

POC+MC compost in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. The increases in N, P and K contents, due to POC+CM application, comprised (11.17 and 19.67%), (29.55 and 54.05 %) and (13.97 and 22.95%) in 1<sup>st</sup> season and (9.39 and 18.97%), (38.00 and 72.50%) and (16.07 and 23.81%) in 2<sup>nd</sup> season, respectively, compared with POC and zero compost addition. Similar results were reported by Nabila and Aly (2002), El-Sheriff and Sarwat (2007), Gad (2011) and Abbas and Ali (2011) who stated that

organic waste composts addition significantly increased N, P and K contents of Roselle dry matter.

**(b) Effect of potassium fertilization rates**

Data obtained in Table 6 show that the adopted potassium fertilization rates significantly influenced N, P and K % in sepals of Roselle plants in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, and the highest figures were reported with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate and reached to (2.07 and 2.26%), (0.51 and 0.61%) and (3.39 and 3.69 %) in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, respectively. With zero K addition and 24 kg

K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate, N, P and K contents tended to reduction by (8.70 and 3.38 %), (27.45 and 7.84%) and (18.66 and 12.26 %) in 1<sup>st</sup> season, and in 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons by (10.62 and 4.87%), (26.23 and 13.11%) and (12.20 and 5.69%), respectively, comparable with 24 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate. The beneficial effects of potassium fertilizer on N, P and K% content were previously observed by Sakr *et al.* (2014) and Ghasemi *et al.* (2015) on Roselle plants.

**Table 6: N, P and K contents in sepal of Roselle plants as affected by compost types and Potassium fertilization rates and interaction in 2013 and 2014 seasons**

Treatments	2013 season			2014 season			
	N%	P%	K%	N%	P%	K%	
Compost types effect							
Zero compost addition	1.83	0.37	2.92	1.97	0.40	3.15	
POC*	1.97	0.44	3.15	2.13	0.50	3.36	
POC+MC**	2.19	0.57	3.59	2.33	0.69	3.90	
L.S.D at 0.05	0.15	0.60	0.21	0.11	0.04	0.13	
Potassium fertilization rates effect							
Zero K addition	1.89	0.40	3.05	2.02	0.45	3.24	
24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	2.00	0.47	3.23	2.15	0.53	3.48	
48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	2.07	0.51	3.39	2.26	0.61	3.69	
L.S.D at 0.05	0.10	0.05	0.11	0.09	0.04	0.09	
Interaction							
Zero	Zero K addition	1.74	0.30	2.74	1.89	0.32	2.91
Compost addition	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	1.83	0.38	2.92	1.94	0.41	3.18
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	1.91	0.42	3.11	2.08	0.46	3.37
	Zero K addition	1.86	0.38	2.97	2.00	0.42	3.21
POC	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	1.97	0.44	3.16	2.15	0.49	3.29
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	2.09	0.49	3.33	2.23	0.58	3.57
	Zero K addition	2.07	0.51	3.44	2.18	0.60	3.59
POC+MC	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	2.21	0.58	3.61	2.35	0.69	3.97
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	2.29	0.63	3.73	2.46	0.78	4.13
L.S.D at 0.05		NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	

\*POC= pressed olive cake compost    \*\*POC+CM= pressed olive cake + chicken manure compost

**(c) Effect of the interaction**

Combination of compost types and K fertilization rates on N, P and K percentages in sepal Roselle plants exhibited insignificant effects in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. However, the highest values were recorded with application of POC+MC as interacted with the highest rates of K<sub>2</sub>O (48 kg fed<sup>-1</sup>). Meanwhile, the lowest values were recorded with compost and K fertilization - untreated plants in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. The obtained results are coincided with those reported by Montemurro *et al.* (2004) on rye-grass and Medjahdi *et al.* (2014) on durum wheat plants.

**4- Chemical constituents:**

**(a) Effect of compost types**

Data in Table 7 show that the studied chemical constituents of Roselle sepals, except P<sup>H</sup>, significantly affected due to the tested compost types in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons, and the highest figures were recorded with POC+MC compost addition. Values of chemical constituents e.g. total carbohydrates, anthocyanin content, ascorbic acid and P<sup>H</sup> seemed to reduce, under both without compost addition and POC, by (10.75 and 9.62%), (12.05 and 5.13%), (11.68 and 5.98%) and (5.80 and 3.04%) in 1<sup>st</sup> season, respectively, comparable with POC+MC. Whereas the corresponding reduction

values in 2<sup>nd</sup> season were (17.64 and 10.39%), (12.14 and 5.23%), (12.39 and 6.94%) and (5.15 and 2.44%) in the same order of the treatments. These results are in good agreement with those found by Nabila and Aly (2002), El-Keltawi *et al.* (2003) and Postma *et al.* (2003) who indicated that organic waste composts significantly increased anthocyanin, total and soluble carbohydrates and ascorbic acid in Roselle sepals.

**(b) Effect of potassium fertilization rates**

The investigated chemical constituents of roselle sepals were significantly altered due to the adopted K fertilization rates, and the highest values of total carbohydrates, anthocyanin, ascorbic acid and pH were noticed with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons. Reducing K fertilization to be without K fertilization or 24 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate resulted in reductions in the abovementioned chemical constituents reached to (6.43 and 4.57%), (9.12 and 4.31%), (5.19 and 2.15%) and (3.91 and 1.68%) in 1<sup>st</sup> season, respectively, lower than those with 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate. The corresponding reduction values in 2<sup>nd</sup> season were (10.26 and 5.66%), (10.96 and 6.24%), (5.19 and 2.30%) and (3.55 and 1.37%) in the same order of the treatments. These results come in agreement with Shalan *et al.* (2001) who found that applying potassium fertilizer at different rates

increased anthocyanin and sugar contents of roselle sepals. Similar results obtained by Abbas and Ali (2011), Sakr *et al.* (2014) and Ghasemi *et al.* (2015) on Roselle.

**(c) Effect of the interaction**

Data in Table 7 prove that interaction of the adopted compost types and K fertilization rates

insignificantly affected the studied chemical constituents of Roselle sepals. However, the highest values of total carbohydrate, anthocyanin, ascorbic acid and pH of Roselle sepals were recorded as POC + MC interacted with the highest rate of K fertilization (48 kgK<sub>2</sub>Ofed<sup>-1</sup>) in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> seasons.

**Table 7: Total carbohydrates, anthocyanin, ascorbic acid contents and pH of Roselle sepals as affected by compost types and K fertilization rates and interaction in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 seasons**

Treatments	2012/2013 season				2013/2014 season				
	Total carbohydrates (%)	Anthocyanin content (mg gdry <sup>-1</sup> )	Ascorbic acid (mg g dry <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	Total carbohydrates (%)	Anthocyanin content (mg gdry <sup>-1</sup> )	Ascorbic acid (mg gdry <sup>-1</sup> )	pH	
Compost types effect									
Zero compost addition	14.19	18.18	34.55	3.41	14.43	18.97	34.94	3.50	
POC*	14.37	19.61	36.78	3.51	15.70	20.46	37.23	3.60	
POC+CM**	15.90	20.67	39.12	3.62	17.52	21.59	39.88	3.69	
L.S.D at 0.05	0.11	0.27	0.80	NS	0.47	0.36	0.92	NS	
Potassium fertilization rates effect									
Zero K fertilizer addition	14.55	18.54	35.78	3.44	15.05	19.41	36.32	3.53	
24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	14.84	19.52	36.93	3.52	15.82	20.44	37.43	3.61	
48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	15.55	20.40	37.74	3.58	16.77	21.80	38.31	3.66	
L.S.D at 0.05	0.22	0.71	0.41	0.21	0.61	0.83	0.45	0.06	
Interaction									
Zero compost addition	Zero K addition	13.21	17.33	33.62	3.33	13.89	18.12	33.97	3.42
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	13.87	18.15	34.78	3.42	14.27	18.87	35.12	3.51
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	14.51	19.05	35.25	3.48	15.12	19.91	35.74	3.58
POC	Zero K addition	14.07	18.80	35.58	3.44	14.76	19.62	36.21	3.55
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	14.68	19.76	36.92	3.51	15.62	20.68	37.34	3.61
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	15.43	20.26	37.84	3.57	16.72	21.07	38.15	3.65
POC+MC	Zero K addition	15.02	19.48	38.15	3.55	16.51	20.48	38.77	3.63
	24 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	15.96	20.65	39.08	3.64	17.58	21.77	39.83	3.70
	48 kg K <sub>2</sub> O	16.71	21.88	40.13	3.68	18.47	22.53	41.05	3.75
L.S.D at 0.05	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	

\*POC= pressed olive cake compost    \*\*POC+CM= pressed olive cake + chicken manure compost

**CONCLUSION**

Under the conditions of the present study, it is advisable to apply pressed olive cake compost due to its beneficial effect in improving Roselle sepals production and quality. In addition, applying compost of pressed olive cake + chicken manure combined with K fertilization at 48 kg K<sub>2</sub>O fed<sup>-1</sup> rate was superior to achieve the highest figures in this concern.

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**استجابة نباتات الكركدية لإضافة نوعين من كمبوست المتبقي من استخلاص زيت الزيتون ومستويات مختلفة من التسميد البوتاسي في الأراضي المستصلحة حديثاً بواحة سيوة – مصر**  
**خطاب عبد الباقي خطاب**  
**معهد بحوث الأراضي والمياه والبيئة – مركز البحوث الزراعية**

أقيم هذا البحث بواحة سيوة -محطة البحوث الزراعية بمطروح – مصر لدراسة استجابة الكركدية لنوعين من الكمبوست المصنع من بقايا استخلاص زيت الزيتون (كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون) و(كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن) أضيفا بمعدل 2 طن للفدان مقارنة بعدم الإضافة ومستويات مختلفة من التسميد البوتاسي (24 و 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> مقارنة بعدم الإضافة) والتفاعلات على محصول البتلات ومكوناته، بعض المكونات الكيميائية وامتصاص العناصر الغذائية الكبرى (ن، فو، بو) ذلك خلال 2013 و 2014. يمكن تلخيص أهم النتائج في الآتي: 1- كان تأثير معاملات كلا من الكمبوست والتسميد البوتاسي معنوياً على ارتفاع النبات، عدد الفروع بالنبات ومحصولي البذور بالنبات وبالفدان. أعطي كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن وكذا معدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> أعلى القيم من الصفات السابقة في الموسمين. التفاعل بين المعاملات تحت الدراسة كان معنوياً على الصفات تحت الدراسة وأعلى القيم من تفاعل كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن ومعدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> في كلا الموسمين. 2- محصول البتلات ومكوناته تأثراً معنوياً بمعاملات الكمبوست وكذا مستويات التسميد البوتاسي تحت الدراسة. أعلى القيم لمحصول البتلات ومكوناته سجلت بإضافة كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن وكذا معدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> في موسمي الزراعة. التفاعل بين كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن ومعدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> أظهر أعلى القيم لمحصول البتلات ومكوناته في كلا الموسمين. 3- محتوى البتلات من ال ن، فو، بو% تأثراً معنوياً بمعاملات الكمبوست وكذا مستويات التسميد البوتاسي تحت الدراسة. أعلى القيم سجلت بإضافة كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن وكذا معدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> في موسمي الزراعة. التفاعل بين كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن ومعدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> أظهر أعلى القيم لمحتوي البتلات من ن، فو، بو% في كلا الموسمين. 4 - محتوى الكربوهيدرات، الأنثوسيانين وحمض الاسكوربيك في بتلات الكركدية تأثروا معنوياً بمعاملات الكمبوست وكذا مستويات التسميد البوتاسي تحت الدراسة في كلا الموسمين. أعلى القيم للمكونات السابقة بإضافة كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن وكذا معدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> في موسمي الزراعة. التفاعل بين كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن ومعدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> أظهر أعلى القيم للمكونات السابقة وإن لم تكن الفروق معنوية في كلا الموسمين. إضافة كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + معدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> أعطى قيم عالية لمحصول البتلات ومكوناته من المركبات الكيميائية والعناصر الغذائية الكبرى (ن، فو، بو) خلال 2013 و 2014. بالرغم من ذلك ينصح بإضافة كمبوست مخلف استخلاص زيت الزيتون + سماد الدواجن ومعدل التسميد البوتاسي 48 كجم بو ٢ فدان<sup>1</sup> للحصول على القيم الأعلى من الصفات السابقة الذكر تحت ظروف التجربة الحالية.