

## Effect of Sowing Dates on Growth, Agronomic Traits and Yield of Tossa Jute (*Corchorus olitorius* L.)

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**Abstract :** In order to investigate the impact of sowing time on growth parameters, the length of the development cycle and yield of tossa jute (*Corchorus olitorius* L.), a field experiment was conducted from March to May 2011 at the Laboratoire d'Aridoculture et Cultures Oasiennes, 'Institut des Régions Arides de Médénine', Tunisia. Results of the experiment revealed that the early sowing (the middle of March, the beginning of April) induced a cycle of more than 100 days to reach the stage maturity and generates a marked drop in production. This period of plantation affects plant development and leads to a sharp drop in performance marked primarily by a reduction in growth, number and size of leaves, number of flowers and pods and weight of different parts of plant. Sowing from the end of April seems appropriate for shortening the development cycle and better profitability than the first two dates. Seeding of *C. olitorius* during May enhance the development of plants more dense, which explains the superiority of production marked by the increase of seed yield and leaf fresh and dry weight of this leafy vegetables.

**Keywords :** tossa jute (*Corchorus olitorius* L), sowing date, growth, yield

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