

ZELP AND RADISHES (Oct, 2013)

(Camille Moreau)

PLANTING

This experiment was conducted in greenhouse conditions on R & N Beattie's Property at Lansdowne Valley. A total of 90 radish seeds were planted across 6 groups (15 radish seeds per group). Five different concentrations of kelp were used and one control. The kelp was mixed into the seed bed only – the top 2cm. The total weight from each group was measured after 10 weeks.

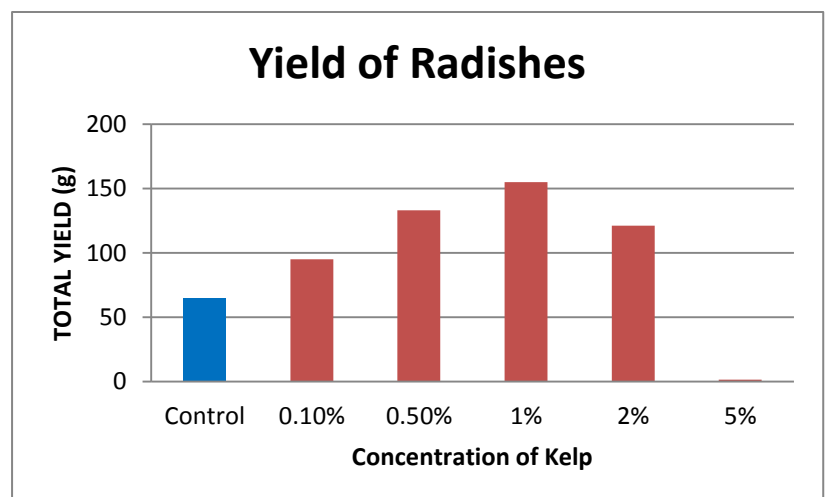


Sowing Date: August 2013

Harvest Date: October 2013

RESULTS

- 2.4 x greater yield of radishes when Zelp is at 1% concentration in seed bed.
- 1.5 x greater yield of radishes when Zelp is at 0.1% concentration in seed bed.



Probable explanations for the increase in productivity when Zelp is mixed into seed bed:

- **Zelp has extremely high antimicrobial properties** – Planted within the immediate vicinity of the seed, Zelp acts as a protective barrier to fight off harmful bacteria and fungi giving the plant a more resistant & resilient start.
- **Zelp is high in plant growth hormones** – Auxins, Cytokinins, Giberellins. These hormones help regulate cell mitosis (more, bigger, faster).
- **Zelp has a large number of bioavailable micronutrients** – These encourage plant growth and the growth of beneficial soil microbes, helping to establish crucial root symbioses
- **Zelp is high in complex polysaccharides (sugars)** – These help soil life and plant life

The next experiment will test Zelp applied directly with the seed.