The Effects of the Combined Tillage Machine Combinations on Some Soil Physio-Chemical Properties and Yield of *Zea mays* L.

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Abstract

The investigation was carried out to evaluate the effects of tillage treatments by combined tillage machines on some soil characteristics and maize grain yield. Five combined tillage machines were used in the experiment, namely: (T₁), consisting of a subsoiler working at a depth of 60 cm, a chisel plow, a tandem disc harrow, and a grooved roller, (T₂), which is similar to (T₁) except the subsoiler works at a depth of 40 cm. (T₃), consisting of a subsoiler working at a depth of 60 cm and a chisel plow. (T₄) is similar to (T₃), except the subsoiler works at a depth of 40 cm. (T₅) consists of a chisel plow and tandem disk harrow. respectively. The experiment was laid out in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replicates. The results showed that T₁ and T₃ improved soil characteristics considerably. In contrast, bulk density, EC, and penetration resistance of soil decreased, whereas saturated water conductivity and MWD increased compared to T₂, T₄, and T₅. The results showed that the sampling period had a significant effect (p<0.01) on soil characteristics. Bulk density, MWD, and EC of soil were reduced by 5.51, 14.18, and 43.60%, respectively, whereas the hydraulic conductivity and penetration resistance of soil, increased by 36.17 and 43.53% at the start of the maize growing season compared to after harvest. However, T₁ achieved a grain yield greater than that of T₂, T₃, T₄, and T₅ by 14.18, 7.02, 36.52, and 53.17%, respectively.

Keywords: combined tillage machine, soil properties, maize, yield.

تأثير تراكيب آلة الحراثة المركبة في بعض الخواص الفيزيائية والكيميائية للتربة وحاصل الذرة الصفراء (Zea mays L.)

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Introduction

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