

nitrate, glutamine synthetase and glutamate synthase dependent of ferredoxin, proline content in leaves, production of dry matter, soluble sugars content in leaves and stalks and macro and micronutrients. In the field experiment, the spacing of the sowing did not have effect on the studied variables. The suppression of irrigation at 10 DanF reduced the height of plants and leaf area of BR 205. The dry matter of ears and total aerial part and the contents of N and P in leaves were reduced in both genotypes and the contents of Fe in leaves and B in ears increased. The production of grains was reduced in 92 and 98% for the genotypes BR 2121 and BR 205, respectively, with the suppression of irrigation at 10 DanF. For the experiment of house-vegetation, it was verified that with the increase in the interval between irrigations there was a reduction of the water potential and of the transpiration and an increase of the stomatal resistance. The genotype BR 205 presented variation in the leaf osmotic potential with the induced water deficiency by

interval of 5 days between irrigations. The production of biomass was reduced with the increase in the interval between irrigations and the concentrations of N, P, K and Mg in both genotypes increased. The content of soluble sugars in leaves of BR 205 increased with the increase in the interval between irrigations, while it decreased in the stalk. The content of proline increased with the water deficit in the genotype BR 2121. The activity of nitrate reductase was reduced by the water deficit and increased, above the control, in the recovery of the stress. The activities of GS and GOGAT did not suffer effect of the water treatments. A greater stomatal sensitivity allied to a greater production of roots are attributes that can contribute to a greater stability of production in the genotype BR 2121. The osmotic adjustment found in BR 205 was not sufficient to assure a better productive performance of this genotype in conditions of water deficiency.

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ASPECTS OF GROWTH, NUTRITION AND WATER RELATIONS IN TWO MAIZE (*Zea mays* L.) GENOTYPES IN FUNCTION OF SOIL WATER AVAILABILITY¹

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ABSTRACT - The great limitation to production, imposed by water deficit during a crop season, has brought a search for genotypes more tolerant to drought. Based on that, it was evaluated the production behavior, at the field, of two commercial maize genotypes: BR 2121 and BR 205, which were submitted to different timing of water deficits during the reproductive stage and splitting of N and K fertilization. Besides that, these genotypes were also submitted to water deficit in greenhouse regime, searching to identify possible drought tolerance mechanisms. The field experiment was carried out, using a randomized complete block design, with split plots. It were studied: genotypes (2), timing of irrigation deficit (4) and splitting of N and K fertilization (3). The timing of irrigation deficit were:

10 days before flowering (DBF), 15, 30 and 50 days after flowering (DAF). The fertilization with N and K consisted on the application in foundation (during planting time) and split during V8 and V12 stages. The variables evaluated in this experiment were: leaf area, plant height, dry matter accumulation of plants, storage and nutrient distribution (macro and micro) Na, Si and Al and finally grain production. On the greenhouse experiment the water deficit was based on the increasing of interval among irrigations. The treatments were defined as: daily irrigation (T1) and intervals of 3, 5 and 7 days among irrigations (T3, T5 and T7). In this experiment were evaluated weekly, water potential (Ψ_w), stomatal resistance and leaf transpiration. The data were collected starting always at 9:00 A.M. It was estimated the leaf osmotic

potential at full turgor of treatments by "pressure-volume" method. It was measured the activities of enzymes such as: nitrate reductase (NR), glutamine synthetase (GS) and glutamate synthase ferredoxine (Fd-GOGAT) and also the proline content. It was evaluated the leaf area, plant height, stem diameter, dry matter, nutrients concentrations and total soluble sugars. The results from field experiment showed that fertilization splitting did not have any effect on the variables studied. The effect of irrigation deficit at 10 DBF decreased the plant height and leaf area of BR 205. Moreover the ear dry matter, biomass production, N and P content of plants were reduced in both genotypes and the contents of Fe leaves and B in ears increased. Grain production was reduced up to 92% and 98% on the genotypes BR 2121 and BR 205, respectively. The results from greenhouse experiment showed that increased of irrigation intervals reduced the Ψ_w and transpiration consequently increasing

stomatal resistance. The BR 205 presented osmotic adjustment in the leaf in response to water deficit. The total biomass production was reduced with increasing irrigation intervals. On the other hand, were observed increased concentrations of N, P, Mg and K in both genotypes. The leaves total soluble sugars content of BR 205 increased with the increasing of irrigations intervals, whereas decreased in the stem. The proline content with water deficit in the genotype BR 2121. The RN activity was reduced by water deficits and increased, over the control, under stress recovery. The activities of GS and GOGAT was not affected by water treatments. A great stomatal sensibility together with a great root proliferation are attributes which may have helped the genotype BR 2121 to yield more. The adjustment osmotic found in BR 205 was not sufficient to a good grain production under water deficit conditions.

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USO DA ATMOSFERA MODIFICADA NO ARMAZENAMENTO DO ABACAXI (*Ananas comosus* L. Merr.) CV. SMOOTH CAYENNE¹

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RESUMO - Avaliou-se o potencial de conservação do abacaxi cv. Smooth Cayenne, quando submetido a tratamentos pós-colheita com atmosfera modificada, utilizando-se cera Sparcitus e filme de cloreto de polivinila. Frutos foram imersos em cera dissolvida com água 1:1 (v/v), em seguida acondicionados em caixas de papelão cobertas com filmes de 20 e 30 μ M de espessuras. O período de armazenamento foi de 30 dias sob 8,5°C e 90% de UR, seguido de 8 dias ao ambiente com 23°C e 70% de UR. Quando aplicado cera mais filmes de 220 ou 30 μ M simultaneamente,

obteve-se melhores resultados para a perda d'água, firmeza da polpa, teor de vitamina C e sintomas de escurecimento interno na polpa. A atividade das enzimas polifenoloxidase e peroxidase foi afetada pela atmosfera modificada. O uso da cera e dos filmes quando usados isoladamente tiveram poucos efeitos sobre as principais características de qualidade do abacaxi, havendo também pouca superioridade entre as espessuras dos filmes quando aplicados sozinhos ou juntos com a cera.

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