

EFFECT OF SUPPLEMENTARY CYAN LIGHT TO DEEP RED AND ROYAL BLUE RANGE WAVELENGTH ON THE CULTIVATION OF TAMARA F1 PEPPER**T. Yaşar Katircioğlu*, Berkay Dur*, Tuğrul Karagul*, Mehmet Tabak***ARTECS Anadolu R&D Technology Engineering and Consultancy Inc. Ankara University
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ABSTRACT: *This research was conducted to investigate effect of supplementary Cyan Light on growth characteristics of pepper. Three different light sources, cyan (500 nm), red (660 nm), royal blue (440 nm), in closed environmental condition are examined. For this purpose, a 3-section shelf was prepared including Tamara F1 type pepper seeds. Temperature, water, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), fertilizer and nutrient contents were controlled at requested value. First section was lighted 18 hours a day with composing 55% deep red, %25 royal blue and 20% cyan lights. Second section was lighted same hours with first section and, and second section was composed the 65% deep red and 35% royal blue lights. Same photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) of $360 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ was used at first and second section. The third section was lighted with sunlight in order to make a comparison with natural lighting. The experiment continued to the 55 days from seeding to harvest time. The experiment showed that; additional cyan effected on 28% more size (followed with fruit length) and 191% fruit weight. Also, there is no significant effect on plant trunk thickness and fruit number.*

KEYWORDS: Cyan light, LED lighting, agriculture, greenhouses, pepper, LabVIEW**INTRODUCTION**

World population have been sharply increasing since beginning of the 19th century. It is reached to reach 9 billion in 2050 [1] and food requirement will be increased proportionally. Besides, arable land hectares per person decreased from 0.367 to 0.192 between 1961 and 2016[2]. The greenhouse production could be the key to overcome this strong challenge. However, the sunlight intensity is not enough to plants grow well, and plants cannot take enough light due to continuous overcast and rainy days. The precaution of solving the light scarcity is to use artificial lighting in greenhouse.

Light - emitting diodes (LEDs) present comprehensive alternative for artificial greenhouse lighting with numerous advantages. The outstanding advantages of LEDs are lower energy demand, adjusting of require specific wavelength only for plants growing [3]. In addition to these advantages;

- Low energy consumption
- Long lifetime
- Small size
- Fire safety, do not produce excess heat
- Slow voltage

The deep red (660 nm) and royal blue (440 nm) lights combination, according to general assumption, are the most effective role for ideal plant growth and health [4] since photosynthesis reaction occurs near these wavelengths in the chlorophyll pigment [5].

However, various recent studies [6], [7], [8] show that using small amount green to cyan light accompanied by deep red and royal blue could improve plant growth. Besides, green to cyan light can saturate forest canopy and feed lower leaves and backside of the leaves thanks to the accessory pigments since its very little absorption [9].

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of small amount Cyan light (500 nm) on plant growth with subsidiary to the deep red (660 nm) and royal blue (440 nm), with the desire to find optimal lighting conditions for pepper plant growth.

MATERIALS AND METHOS

Measurements, equipment and calibration

In the experiment, 3-section shelf which first and second section covered with aluminium foils was used. These sections were ultimately dark when LEDs were turned off and interaction light between sections was blocked. Soilless system was used. Therefore, Fertilizer and other minerals were given within the irrigation fluid.



Figure 1: Drip Irrigation system



Figure 2: Humidifier

Humidifier was adjusted the air humidity at all shelf (Figure 2). 2 aquarium pumps were used in the irrigation fluid to pump the water through channels of drip irrigation system (figure 1).

Water pH sensor (Figure 3) was used every day to measure the pH in the water tank. Before taking measurement, calibration fluids at 10.01, 7.01, 4.01 was used. After the calibration, these liquids were measured 9.88, 6.95 and 4.04 pH

respectively, approximately accuracy of 99%. Water electrical conductivity sensor (Figure 4) was used and recorded every day. The reference EC around 1420 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ was used to calibration of EC sensor.

The EC sensor was measured with an error less than %3.

Two aluminium plates were used to installed LEDs for lighting purposes. Total PPFD value of LEDs were adjusted at $360 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$, and their operational voltage was around 21.10 V for each section. Resulted amperage value was around 195 mA for each. Pictures of sections are given in Figure 5.



Figure 3 Water EC sensor



Figure 4 Water pH sensor



Figure 5 Experimental LEDs Design

Development conditions

Same six seedling seed were used in each shelf. These seedlings were placed on to rock wool (Grodan Vital) as a growth media figure 7.



Figure 6 Rock Wool



Figure 7 Growth Media

50 ml of (% 12 Calcium oxide, % 1 Boron), product named CAL REFLEX, 50 ml NPK (8-8-8) product named Gentafol, ZN-EXTRA (% 0,2 B, % 0,6 Cu, % 2 Fe, % 0,5 Mn, % 0,08 Mo, % 5 Zn) product named NUTRIPLUS were added in the plant nutritious. In the phenological stage, plants use the oxygen and carbon dioxide from air, hydrogen from water, other necessary nutritious for enough growth; nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and sulphur were given in the water [10]. 70 litres water tank, which consist of 55 litres mains water, 15 litres drinking water and aforementioned nutrients, was used. Electrical conductivity of mixture measured $1700 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ which positive result for pepper growing since its ideal electrical conductivity is in the range $1400 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ and $2000 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ [11], [12], [13], [14]. Ph of the mixture was 5.5, which is favourable range for pepper growing [15], [16], [17]. Keeping of the electrical conductivity and Ph values in the desired value are significant since pH provide availability of elements in water; and electrical conductivity leads to nutrient deficiency or limited uptake of water.

Temperature of the shelves was kept between the 18 and 25 Celsius which is the ideal range for pepper growing in the hydroponic cultivation. The K type of thermocouples were settled to each section [18], [19]. Air humidity was kept between 50-80% [20].

Irrigation was done in the hydroponic system via pumps and dripping. This system provided the water from tank to the plants. Its range was adjusted with respect to the sensors and phenological stage from literature survey. Irrigation was started and stopped for both shelves during day and Control and automation system was created with using LabVIEW program figure 8.

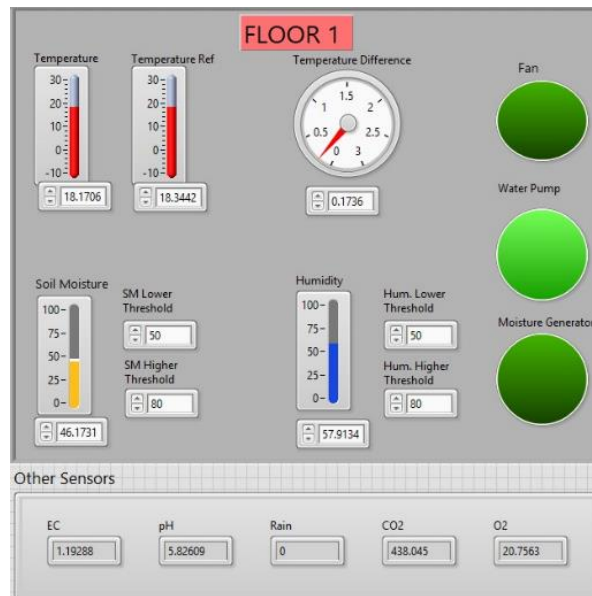


Figure 8 LabVIEW user interface

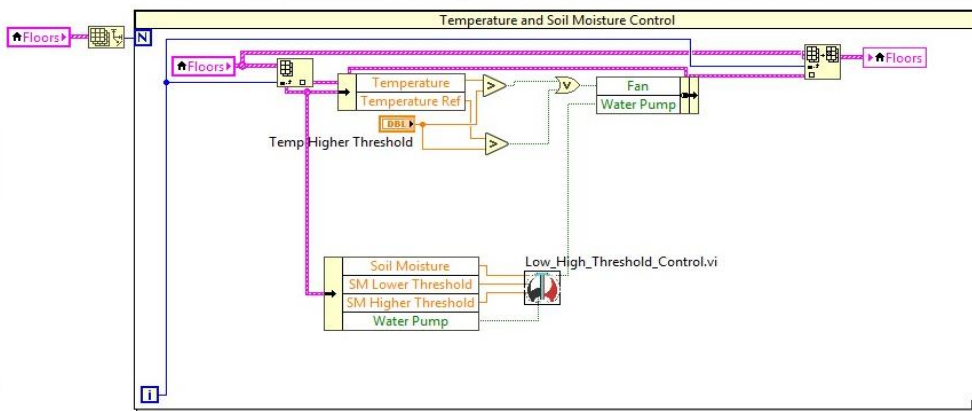


Figure 9 LabVIEW code for Hyroponics System

Lighting Conditions

Daily required photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) for light between 400-700 nm in 1 m² area with unit mol*m⁻² per day [21], [22], is different depending on environmental conditions like latitude, clouds, time of year, etc. Some research investigates that depending on type of plant, higher than the 330 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ of PPFD is required to achieve enough growth and nutrient value and the most suitable range is 330- 545 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ of PPFD [23]. In this experiment, a constant PPFD of 360 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ was used to reach maximum difference.

There different power LEDs, deep red light 660 nm, royal blue 440 nm and cyan 500 nm, were used. The exact wavelength of mentioned LEDs was measured and approved with an Ocean HR4000 spectrometer Figure 10 [8].

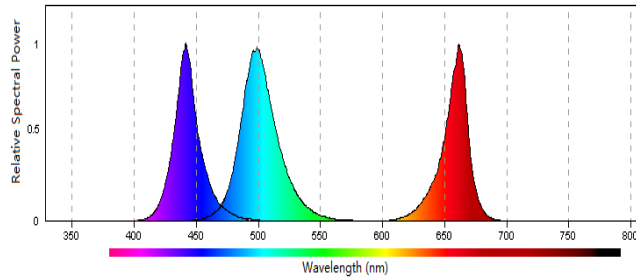


Figure 10 Wavelengths of LEDs

Calculation of simulation sun peak power

Total Daily energy = time \times PPFD \times E

Time = $24 \times 60 \times 60$ seconds = 86400 seconds

PPFD = $360 \times 10^{-6} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}$

$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$, E is photon energy, h is Planck constant, c is speed of the light in vacuum and λ is wavelength of the photon. [24]

Then;

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Daily energy} &= 86400 \times 360 \times 10^{-6} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23} \times \frac{(6.62607004 \times 10^{-34}) \times (299792000)}{\lambda} \text{ joules} \\ &= \frac{3.71954}{\lambda} \text{ joules} \end{aligned}$$

For first section (55% red, 25% blue, 20% cyan);

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{(55 \times 660) + (25 \times 440) + (20 \times 500)}{100} = 573 \text{ nm}$$

For second section (65% red, 35% blue);

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{(65 \times 660) + (35 \times 440)}{100} = 583 \text{ nm}$$

$$\text{Total daily energy 1} = \frac{3.71954}{0.000000573} \text{ joules} = 6491344 \text{ joules} = 6.49 \text{ MJ}$$

(1)

$$\text{Total daily energy 2} = \frac{3.71954}{0.000000583} \text{ joules} = 6380000 \text{ joules} = 6.38 \text{ MJ}$$

(2)

Second way of calculation for total Daily energy,

On cloudless summer afternoon sun transmit approximately 1050 W of power per m^2 on Earth's surface [25] PAR portion of energy given on Earth's surface can be estimated as [26], [27], [28]:

$$1050 \times 0.43 \times (4/24) = 75.25 \text{ W/m}^2$$

(3)

$$\text{Total daily energy}_{\text{sun-visible}} = 75.25 \times 60 \times 60 \times 24 \text{ joules} = 6.5 \text{ MJ/m}^2$$

(4)

Result of equations (1), (2) and (3) are similar. Considering the equations (4) the total given energy in the experiment was like a simulation of 16 hours a day sun peak power in the approximately 0.25 m² setup area.

RESULTS

The experiment lasted 55 days which started from seedling and ended with harvest. Periodically (every two days), bloom number, fruit number, fruit length, plant length, plant trunk thickness and after harvest fruit weight were measured of 13 pepper plants of each section. The reason of recording data after date 27/07/2019 is fruit length, number plant length can be more meaningful, below table describes these measures.

Table 1: Effect of LED and Sunlight on the TAMARA F1 Pepper

Average of 6 plants each section						
Red, Blue (65%, 35%)	fruit number	fruit weight	fruit length	plant length	plant trunk thickness	bloom number
20/06/2019				14.62	4.93	
22/06/2019				14.97	4.68	
24/06/2019				15.55	4.85	
26/06/2019				16.28	4.91	
28/06/2019				16.95	5.16	
01/07/2019				17.67	5.43	
03/07/2019				17.97	5.62	
05/07/2019				17.97	5.62	
27/07/2019	1.5		41.9	17.97	5.76	3.5
29/07/2019	1.5		45.2	17.98	5.9	3
01/08/2019	1.5		51	18.01	6.04	2.5
03/08/2019	1.66		52	18.01	6.18	2.5
05/08/2019	1.66		54.6	18.03	6.31	3
08/08/2019	1.66		57.1	18.05	6.45	2.3
15/08/2019	1.66	16.1	59.8	18.05	6.59	2.3
Red, Blue, Cyan (55%. 25%. 25%)	fruit number	fruit weight	fruit length	plant length	plant trunk thickness	bloom number

20/06/2019				15.11	4.8	
22/06/2019				15.3	4.87	
24/06/2019				15.29	5.05	
26/06/2019				15.75	5.73	
28/06/2019				16.28	5.39	
01/07/2019				16.61	5.48	
03/07/2019				16.88	5.58	
05/07/2019				16.88	5.58	
27/07/2019	1.5		65.44	17.2	5.84	1
29/07/2019	1.5		69.77	17.21	5.96	0.66
01/08/2019	1.5		73.77	17.21	6.08	0.83
03/08/2019	1.5		73.22	17.23	6.2	0.83
05/08/2019	1.5		76	17.38	6.32	0.83
08/08/2019	1.5		76.22	17.28	6.44	0.5
15/08/2019	1.5	47	76.55	17.28	6.56	0.33
Sunlight 100%	fruit number	fruit weight	fruit length	plant length	plant trunk thickness	bloom number
20/06/2019				14.65	4.90	
22/06/2019				14.88	4.66	
24/06/2019				15.1	4.77	
26/06/2019				15.5	4.80	
28/06/2019				15.9	5.01	
01/07/2019				16.2	5.06	
03/07/2019				16.6	5.22	
05/07/2019				16.9	5.33	
27/07/2019	1.4		33.7	17.0	5.66	1
29/07/2019	1.4		35.8	17.1	5.79	0.55
01/08/2019	1.4		41.7	17.4	6.0	0.6
03/08/2019	1.4		44.4	17.6	6.13	0.6
05/08/2019	1.4		49.3	17.8	6.21	0.6
08/08/2019	1.4		50.7	17.8	6.36	0.5
15/08/2019	1.4	13.6	53.4	17.8	6.44	0.5

Two lighting combination red-blue and red-blue-cyan effect is shown in figure 11. Supplementary Cyan light increased the average fruit length 28% compared to the red-blue lighting. Calculation as follow;

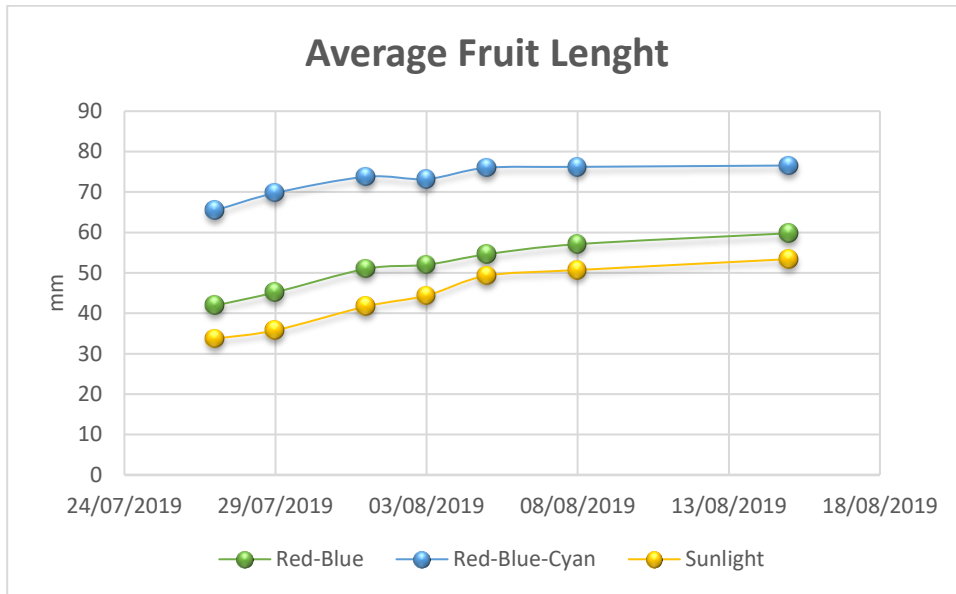


Figure 11: Average Fruit Length of Red- Blue and Red-Blue-Cyan Lighting

End of the experiment average fruit length 76.56 mm for red-blue-cyan and 59.8 mm for red-blue. Average of fruit length calculated from 19 fruits at 12 plants. Table below shows that the length of 19 fruit for last 18 days.

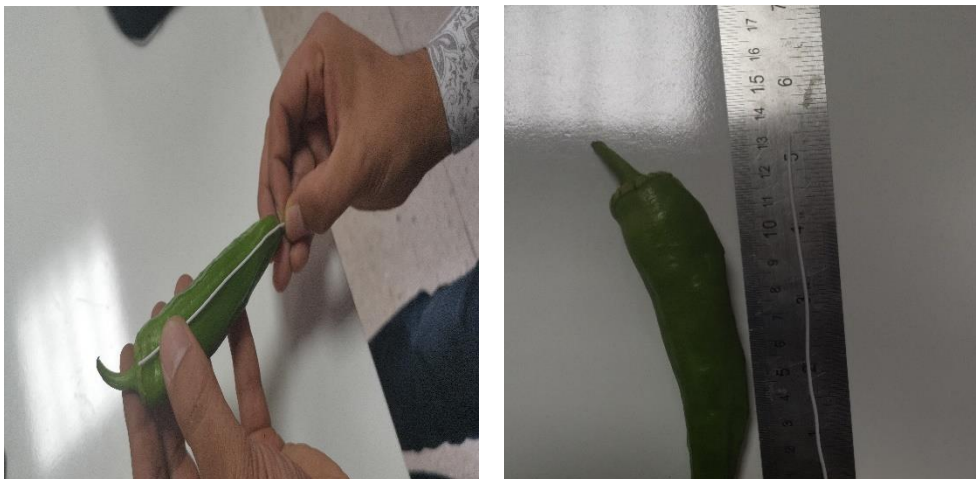


Figure 12: Measurement Methods of Fruit Length Lighting

Table 2: Effect of LED on the plant growth length

DATE/mm	PLANT 1	PLANT 2	PLANT 2	PLANT 2	PLANT 3	PLANT 3	PLANT 4	PLANT 5	PLANT 5	PLANT 6
27/07/2019	65	38	38	15	50	70	60	13	50	20
29/07/2019	67	39	35	24	55	73	62	18	58	21
01/08/2019	70	38	42	41	59	83	68	19	68	22
03/08/2019	75	41	46	40	57	83	69	16	70	23
05/08/2019	78	40	47	43	59	90	69	19	78	23
08/08/2019	77	41	46	36	66	89	72	18	78	48
15/08/2019	79	40	56	40	66	96	75	19	78	49
DATE/mm	PLANT 7	PLANT 8	PLANT 8	PLANT 9	PLANT 9	PLANT 10	PLANT 11	PLANT 11	PLANT 12	PLANT 13
27/07/2019	105	28	81	10	75	90	34	58	108	33
29/07/2019	105	35	85	14	84	96	35	63	111	35
01/08/2019	111	36	93	12	92	97	39	68	116	38
03/08/2019	111	37	95	13	84	98	38	66	117	40
05/08/2019	112	39	99	14	93	98	38	74	117	42
08/08/2019	112	40	94	14	93	98	38	80	117	46
15/08/2019	112	40	97	14	93	98	38	80	117	53

For red- blue;
$$\frac{(79+40+56+40+66+96+75+19+78+49)}{10} = 59.8 \text{ mm}$$

For red- blue- cyan;
$$\frac{(112+40+97+14+93+98+38+80+117)}{9} = 76.56 \text{ mm}$$

And to calculate efficiency;
$$\frac{76.56-59.8}{59.8} = 0.28$$

The effect of cyan on the fruit length calculated 28%. (compering with red-blue)

Total fruits weight measured 16.1 gr for red-blue-cyan for 47 gr for 55 days table. Total efficiency for supplementary cyan measured 191% compering to red blue. Calculation as follow;

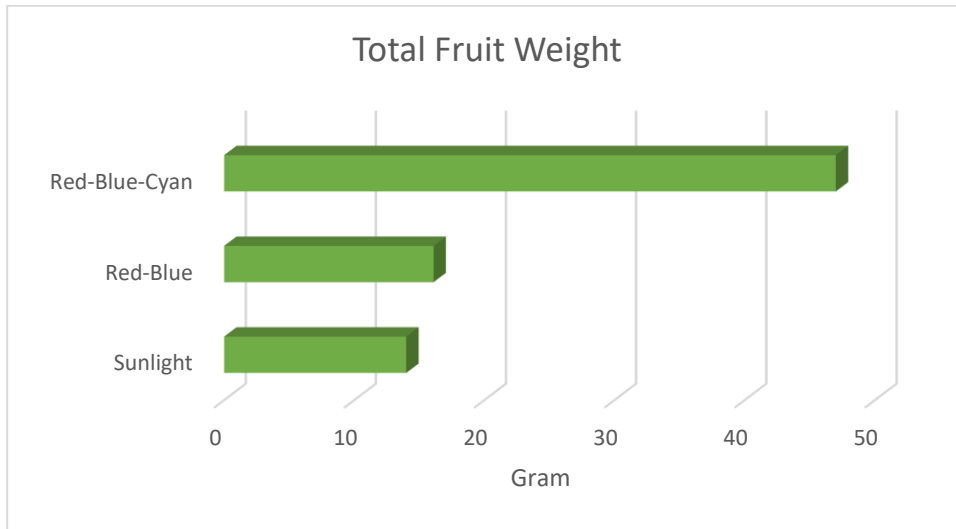


Figure 13: Total Fruit Weight

$$\frac{(47 - 16.1)}{16.1} = 1.91$$

Efficiency of supplementary cyan lighting increased 191% total weight.

With the cyan lighting there is no significant effect for plant trunk thickness table.

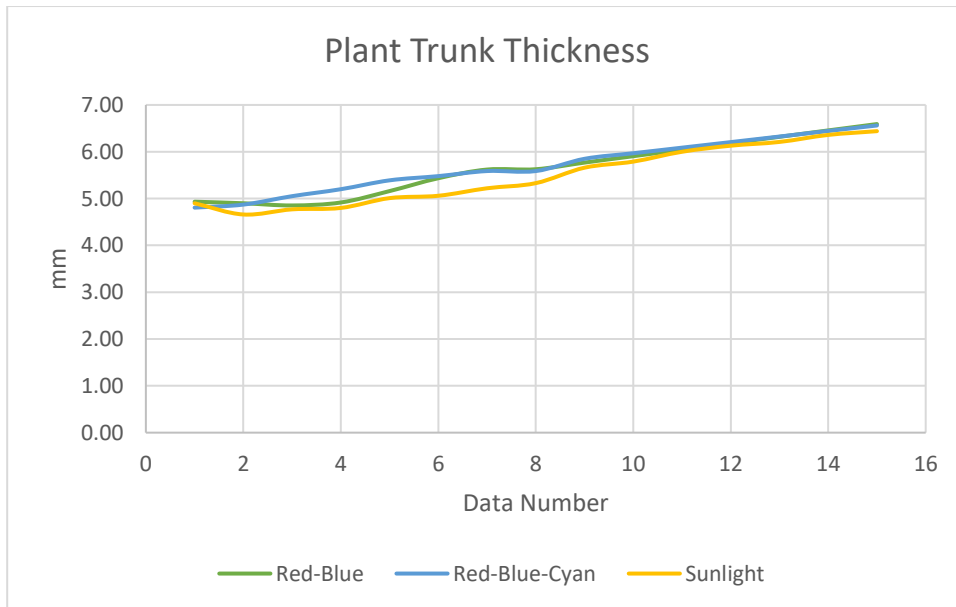


Figure 14: Plant Trunk Thickness

Average fruit number for red-blue lighting was calculated 1.66 for average of six plant and red-blue-cyan lighting was calculated 1.5 for average of six plants so supplementary cyan did not affect the average fruit number on the pepper.

DISCUSSION

Fruit weight in each section sunlight, red-blue lighting and red-blue-cyan lighting were measured 13.6 gr, 16.1 gr and 47 gr respectively. It is observed that supplementary cyan light has a dramatic effect on fruit weight. The main reason for this cyan lighting accelerates the plant growing [29]. Sunlight section is the weakest since it contains unnecessary light combination for plant growth and leads to light deficiency [8].

Cyan lighting affects the length of fruit positively since photosynthesis absorption occurs in chlorophyll b, chlorophyll a and carotenoids. Chlorophyll b and a highly absorb the light at 460 and 660 nm. But carotenoids absorb light at near green lights around 500 nm (cyan included) so that red-blue-cyan assembly has more impact on photosynthesis efficiency with activating the carotenoids, this provides more elongation on plant [8],[30].

Plant trunk thickness in each section became almost the same. Possible reason for this, plant trunk does not make photosynthesis reaction so that cyan light and other lighting or sunlight does not change on the trunk thickness [31]

The results are supporting supplementary cyan lighting to the red and blue lighting; but its cost also should be considered. To calculate the energy consumed, LEDs can be used as an operational cost for this lighting.

- For first section;
21.10 V, 195 Ma and one day its work 18 hours, total energy usage would indicate 0.074 kWh. The electricity price in Turkey is 0.714 TRY/kWh [32], daily cost of electricity approximate would indicate 0.052 TL/day. Consider that average price of pepper kilogram in Ankara Turkey is 8.40 TRY [33].
For second section;
21.11 V and 201 Ma and one day its work 18 hours, total energy usage would indicate 0.076 kWh. Then, the cost of electricity calculates as 0.054 TRY/day.

Six plants were grown in each section, considering lighting price $0.054 \text{ TRY}/6 = 0.009 \text{ TRY}$ cost added per pepper kilogram. The lighting lasted for 55 days so $0.009 \times 55 = 0.495 \text{ TRY}$ added the cost of pepper/kilogram to compensate of lighting. Improvement on elongation and efficiency on plant production considering the sunlight and red-blue lighting, supplementary of cyan lighting is evaluated as highly profitable.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, supplementary cyan light grew much better than the other section red-blue lights. According to elongation of fruit length (table 1), % 28 improvement with cyan light occurred in 55 days. Also, cyan increases the fruit weight %208 comparing to the red-blue lighting, the fruit weight is crucial for market and profit. So, addition of cyan light is highly profitable.

Although industrial application suggests that red and blue lighting are the best for greenhouse [38], the results of this experiment are like aforementioned findings of studies which are about green range lights [34], [35], [36], [37]. Supplementary cyan light can boast to length of fruit and weight of fruit comparing to the red-blue lighting.

Effect of cyan light with different time frame will be a topic on later studies. In this study 18 hours continuous lighting was provided. However, lighting with different time frame can affect more on the plant growth due to photosynthesis reaction.

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