

The Effect Of GA_3 And Iaa In The Growth And Yield Of Lettuce In Floating Hydroponic Systems

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Abstract: Research on the role of growth regulators GA_3 and growth regulators IAA on the growth and yield of lettuce is still limited. This study aimed to determine the role of GA_3 and IAA on the growth and yield of lettuce in floating hydroponic systems. The study employed a two-factor factorial randomized block design (RBD). The first factor, GA_3 , had three levels: g0 (0 ppm), g1 (10 ppm), and g2 (20 ppm). The second factor was IAA (i), which had three levels: i0 (0 ppm), i1 (1 ppm), and i2 (2 ppm). Observations were made on plant height, number of leaves, plant fresh weight, root dry weight, shoot dry weight and root-to-shoot ratio. The results showed that plant height had a significant effect on the interaction of GA_3 20 ppm and IAA 2 ppm. Applying a single factor, GA_3 had significantly affected plant height aged 7-35 DAP, number of leaves aged 21 and 35 DAP, plant fresh weight, shoot dry weight, root dry weight, and a very significant effect on root-to-shoot ratio. The administration of single factor IAA significantly affected plant height at 21 and 35 HST, number of leaves at 21 HST observations, shoot dry weight, root dry weight, and root-to-shoot ratio.

Key Words: Floating raft, GA_3 , Hydroponic, IAA, Lettuce

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I. Introduction

Lettuce is a variety of leafy vegetables that grow in temperate regions. According to historical archives, this plant has been cultivated for over 2,500 years. It can be traced back to the Americas, which Christopher Columbus discovered in 1493 in the western hemisphere and the Bahamas (Rukmana, 1994). Lettuce is a vegetable crop with high economic value. This plant is predominantly grown for its leaves, used as fresh vegetables, cooking accompaniments, and garnishes. Lettuce is also rich in nutrients and vitamins, including calcium, phosphorus, iron, and vitamins A, B and C (Setyaningrum and Saparianto, 2011).

Due to numerous obstacles in its cultivation, the demand for lettuce in Indonesia has not been adequately addressed. In 2010, lettuce production in Indonesia reached 41.11 tons per year, dropping to 39.284 tons in 2015. From 2010 to 2015, the rate of lettuce production varied between 5.19% and 6%. Despite declining lettuce production, consumption in Indonesia remains high at approximately 35.30 kg per capita per year. It caused lettuce imports in 2015 to reach 21.1 tons. Therefore, there is an opportunity to increase lettuce production in Indonesia (BPS, 2016).

One effort that can be made to increase the quality and quantity of plants is the administration of growth regulators. Growth regulators are non-nutritive organic compounds which, in low concentrations, can affect, stimulate or change the growth and development of plants qualitatively. Gibberellin (GA_3) is a commonly used growth regulator that significantly regulates numerous plant physiological processes. Gibberellins can stimulate stem growth, affect flowering initiation, stimulate seed germination, and stimulate fruit formation and growth in plants (Salisbury and Ross, 1995). According to (Linda Riza, 2018), by utilizing Gibberellin as a growth regulator, farmers and cultivators can optimize plant growth and development to increase crop yields and utilize plant genetic potential more effectively.

In plant growth, GA_3 does not work alone but interacts with other growth regulators, one of which is IAA. Plants quickly absorb IAA because its chemical structure is identical to the natural auxin in plants. However, it is easily decomposed by conjugate compounds produced by plants in the form of IAA oxidase. Forming vegetative organs such as roots and stems is the first step in propagation (Hartmann *et al.*, 2002). PGR auxin can aid in the growth of vegetative organs such as roots (Dewi, 2008). Auxin influences stem length, growth, differentiation, root branching, fruit development, apical dominance, phototropism and geotropism. In plant cultivation, the condition of the plant's roots must be given priority because it provides nutrients.

II. Materials and Method

This research was conducted from May to June 2023 at the Green House of SMK-PP Banjarbaru, Guntung Manggis Village, Landasan Ulin District, Banjarbaru City, South Kalimantan. This study used Batavia

type caipira lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.), AB mix fertilizer from the Goodplant brand, which functions as a nutrient in a hydroponic system, IAA and GA₃ growth regulators (ZPT) solutions, and water as a planting medium. The experimental design was a randomized block design (RBD) with two factors. The first factor was the administration of ZPT GA₃ (g) g0 = Control 0 ppm, g1 = ZPT GA₃ 10 ppm, g2 = ZPT GA₃ 20 ppm. The second factor was ZPT IAA (i), i0 = control 0 ppm, i1 = ZPT IAA 1 ppm, i2 = ZPT IAA 2 ppm.

The growth parameters observed were plant height and number of leaves. This observation is carried out once a week until harvesting. The yield parameters observed included plant fresh weight, root dry weight, shoot dry weight and root-to-shoot ratio. Observational data were initially examined using the Bartlett test for homogeneity. If the data are homogeneous, the variance analysis (ANOVA) is performed; if the data are not homogeneous, data transformation is conducted. The variance analysis was conducted using the F-test at the levels of 0.05 and 0.01. Furthermore, if the treatment has a significant or very significant effect, it will be continued with Tukey's HSD (Honestly Significant Difference) test. Data was processed using Minitab 19 software.

III. Results and Discussion

Based on the research carried out, the results of observations and analysis of variance are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1. Analysis of variance on plant height 7 DAP (x1), plant height 14 DAP (x2), plant height 21 DAP (x3), plant height 28 DAP (x4), plant height 35 DAP (x5), number of leaves 7 DAP (x6), number of leaves 14 DAP (x7)

Sk	db	Middle Square							F-Table	
		X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	0.05	0.01
Group	2	0.47 _{ns}	0.02 _{ns}	0.1 _{ns}	0.60 _{ns}	0.18 _{ns}	0.22 _{ns}	0.49 _{ns}	3.63	6.23
G	2	6.14**	14.08**	13.11*	7.21*	7.24*	0.34 _{ns}	0.49 _{ns}	3.63	6.23
I	2	0.88 _{ns}	1.36 _{ns}	13.47*	3.75 _{ns}	5.80*	0.34 _{ns}	0.70 _{ns}	3.63	6.23
G*I	4	0.34 _{ns}	1.63 _{ns}	1.65 _{ns}	3.89*	1.99 _{ns}	0.05 _{ns}	0.50 _{ns}	3.01	4.77
Error	16	0.34	1.17	2.77	1.23	1.41	0.11	0.27		
KK (%)		10.42	13.08	14.13	28.42	6.10	7.14	8.04		

Note:

ns = No significant effect

* = Significant effect

** = Very significant effect

Table 2. Analysis of variance: number of leaves 21 DAP (x8), number of leaves 28 DAP (x9), number of leaves 35 DAP (x10), fresh weight 35 DAP (x11), shoot dry weight 35 DAP (x12), root dry weight 35 DAP (x13) and root-to-shoot ratio 35 DAP (x14).

sk	db	Middle Square							F-Table	
		X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀	X ₁₁	X ₁₂	X ₁₃	X ₁₄	0,0 5	0,0 1
Group	2	0.11 _{ns}	0.17 _{ns}	0.08 _{ns}	13.97 _{ns}	0.3485 _{ns}	0.0003 _{ns}	0.5889 _{ns}	3.6 3	6.2 3
G	2	1.71*	0.97 _{ns}	6.85*	172.71**	5.3876**	0.0445**	4.4179* *	3.6 3	6.2 3
I	2	1.29*	0.52 _{ns}	1.88 _{ns}	33.92 _{ns}	2.9250**	0.0289*	2.2515*	3.6 3	6.2 3
G*I	4	0.21 _{ns}	0.32 _{ns}	0.68 _{ns}	29.71 _{ns}	0.6147 _{ns}	0.0018 _{ns}	1.4196 _{ns}	3.0 1	4.7 7
Error	16	0.32	0.65 _{ns}	1.43	11.96	0.2814	0.0068	0.6125		
KK (%)		6.50	7.07	7.47	9.72	14.43	11.89	15.02		

Note:

ns = No significant effect

* = Significant effect

** = Very significant effect

Plant Height

The interaction of GA₃ with IAA resulted in a significant response to plant height at 28 DAP, according to the data. The interaction of GA₃ 20 ppm and IAA 2 ppm produced more growth than the other treatments on the average plant height measure. It is likely because GA₃ and IAA have nearly identical roles in plant growth,

mainly stem growth (plant height). Auxin is involved in cell division, whereas gibberellins is involved in cell growth. Cell size increases as a result of the synergy between auxin and gibberellin. The exogenous addition of growth hormone gibberellins causes cell size to increase due to cell division and expansion. Cell walls with weak intercellular connections generate an increase in cell walls and cell membranes. This, in turn, affects the increase in plant height physiologically (Wijiyanti and Soedradjad, 2019). The effect of gibberellin on plant growth is far greater than the effect of auxin when given independently. Auxin, even in tiny amounts, is required for GA₃ to function optimally (Kunta *et al.*, 2015).

Administration of ZPT GA₃ as a single factor resulted in a significant response on all plant height. Higher concentrations are thought to affect lettuce plant height, allowing it to absorb nutrients more quickly (Nurlatifah & Setiati, 2016). GA₃ is a growth regulator that plays a physiological role in the elongation of plant stems and shoots. The action of GA₃ is most noticeable in the elongation of plant segments, where the size and quantity of cells increase. Apart from playing a role in stem elongation, gibberellin also contributes to increasing leaf area in various types of plants. In addition, GA₃ can also affect the growth of plant organs as a whole and influence other physiological processes.

The single factor of IAA administration resulted in a significant response to observing plant heights aged 21 and 35 DAP. It is suspected that auxin could stimulate the growth of new shoots. This hormone is concentrated in the young shoots and meristem tissue in plant shoots. The primary function of auxin is to regulate cell enlargement and stimulate cell elongation behind the end meristem. Furthermore, auxin is involved in stem development (Hasibuan, 2014).

Number of Leaves

The results showed no significant response to the interaction between GA₃ and IAA. The effect of a single factor of GA₃ administration had a significant effect at the age of 21 and 35 DAP. It is suspected that gibberellins applied directly to plant water can cause an increase in the number of leaves because when the stomata are open, gibberellins will enter through the stomata and accelerate the uptake of GA₃. Gibberellins can also increase auxin levels in plants, which play a role in differentiating plant cells and organs (Arsy and Barunawati, 2018).

The single factor of ZPT IAA resulted in no significant response at observations 7, 14, 28 and 35 DAP. It is presumed that treatment with growth regulators did not produce significant changes in growth parameters because the plants already had sufficient endogenous hormones. Therefore, exogenous hormone administration may not have a significant effect (Agusti Apriliani *et al.*, 2015). At 21 DAP, IAA growth regulators had a significant effect. It is suspected that auxin could also affect leaf growth. Leaves are one of the essential plant organs that play a crucial role in photosynthesis to produce food and ensure optimal plant growth. The more the number of leaves and the greater the length and width of the leaves, the greater the effect on plant growth (Sylvia, 2009). According to (Zaini *et al.*, 2017), 1-3 ml of auxin per 1 L of water is optimal for promoting plant growth. The addition of excessive IAA could inhibit stem cell elongation.

Plant Fresh Weight

The interaction of GA₃ with IAA resulted in an insignificant response, whereas the single factor administration of GA₃ resulted in a significant response on the fresh weight yield of lettuce plants. It is suspected that gibberellin in lettuce plants has an effect that inhibits leaf loss and increases the number of leaves, thereby increasing the plant's weight. GA₃ regulates plant growth, particularly by stimulating leaf formation. With gibberellins, plant cells are induced to grow larger, resulting in a larger overall plant size. In addition, administering gibberellin increases metabolic activity and the rate of photosynthesis, increasing the formation of carbohydrates, which are utilized in plant development (Triani Nova *et al.*, 2020).

According to (Febrianto *et al.*, 2019), administering GA₃ to plants during the vegetative phase (rapid growth) can increase their fresh weight. GA₃ can stimulate the production of endogenous growth substances in plants, increasing cell differentiation activity and plant growth and development. The new cell produced by cell enlargement is larger than the parent cell. This increase in cell size increases the size of tissues and organs and the overall size and weight of the plant. Additionally, an increase in cell division results in an increase in cell number. This increase in the number of cells in leaf tissue permits photosynthesis to generate carbohydrates. These carbohydrates can influence the plant's overall mass (Salisbury and Ross, 1995).

Shoot Fresh Weight

The results showed that the interaction of GA₃ with IAA resulted in an insignificant response. In contrast, the effect of a single factor of GA₃ administration showed a significant response on the yield of the dry weight of lettuce plant shoots. It is suspected that the organic matter produced by photosynthesis influences the dry weight of the shoot. Ideally, increased cell size accumulation due to the administration of gibberellin can impact shoot

dry weight. It is consistent with the findings of (Riko *et al.*, 2019), who found that an increase in cell size and cytoplasm could affect the dried weight of plant shoots.

The influence of a single factor of IAA administration showed a very significant response on the yield of the dry weight of lettuce plant shoots. Auxin is synthesized close to the shoot meristem, especially in the shoots of stems and young tissues, such as young leaves. Auxin undergoes polar transport, which proceeds downward along the stem. This results in varying auxin concentrations between root tips, stem tips, and other plant parts. Although auxin is translocated to all plant parts, each part receives a different quantity. The variation in auxin concentration induces distinct responses in each plant part. Positive responses stimulate growth, whereas negative responses inhibit growth (Adamowski and Friml, 2015).

Root Dry Weight

According to the findings, the interaction between GA₃ and IAA did not respond significantly. In contrast, the effect of a single factor of GA₃ administration resulted in a very significant response in the yield of the dry weight of lettuce plant roots. Gibberellin growth regulators are suspected to stimulate metabolic activity, supporting higher growth and accumulation of biomass (dry weight). This statement aligns with (Basri, 2018) which states that gibberellins' administration can increase seed metabolic activity. This metabolic activity will support the growth and accumulation of higher biomass (dry weight) if there is an adequate supply of water, moisture, and nutrients from the growing medium.

The effect of a single factor of IAA administration on the root dry weight of lettuce plants was very significant. It is believed that auxin, which affects root growth by stimulating root elongation (root initiation), is responsible for root dry weight. Several auxins can influence this process, including NAA, IAA, and IAN. The administration of IAA at high concentrations can increase the number of roots but also inhibit root elongation. Stem growth has a close relationship with auxin.

Root-to-Shoot Ratio

The results indicated that the interaction between GA₃ and IAA did not produce a significant effect. In contrast, the root-to-shoot ratio of lettuce responded significantly to the effect of a single factor of GA₃ administration. According to (Suprianto, 1998) the root-to-shoot ratio can be determined by comparing the root and shoot dried weights. If root development is more active than shoot development, the root-to-shoot ratio will be greater (Kakanga *et al.*, 2017). The comparison between the size of the shoot and the root plays an essential role in plant growth because it indicates the plant's ability to absorb nutrients. The relative dry weight of the plant's upper (shoots) and lower (roots) portions indicates the roots' ability to absorb water and nutrients, which are then transferred to the plant's shoots. An increase in plant shoot mass is typically accompanied by an increase in root mass (Astuti Prami *et al.*, 2015).

The single factor of ZPT IAA gave a significant response to the root-to-shoot ratio. It is because photosynthesis runs optimally so that plants can produce the energy sources needed for growth and the formation of phytohormones which act as growth stimulants. According to (Dewi, 2007) if growth hormone is added to a plant at modest concentrations when photosynthetic conditions are optimal, the hormone concentration in the plant's body will be optimal. According to (Karjadi and Buchory 2008), the accuracy of adding Plant Growth Substance (ZPT) is crucial for organogenesis because ZPT and endogenous substances in plant tissues interact. If ZPT is administered outside the recommended dosage range, the interaction will not occur as intended. It could cause plant growth to slow down and even be inhibited.

IV. Conclusion

The application of growth regulators GA₃ with IAA did not show a significant effect on plant height at 7, 14, 21 and 35 DAP, number of leaves at 7,14,21,28 and 35 DAP, plant fresh weight, shoot dry weight, and root-to-shoot ratio except for plant height at 28 DAP. Application of growth regulator GA₃ had a significant effect on plant height aged 7, 14, 21, 28 and 35 DAP, number of leaves 21 and 35 DAP, plant fresh weight, shoot dry weight, root dry weight, and root-to-shoot ratio. The application of IAA growth regulators had a significant effect on plant height aged 21 and 35 DAP, number of leaves 21 and 35 DAP, root dry weight, and root-to-shoot ratio.

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