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Seeding rate and physiological quality of dual purpose wheat seeds

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Wheat dual purpose (*Triticum aestivum* L.) has elevated biomass production, high tillering potential, long vegetative stage, short reproductive period. Therefore, this study aim to reveal the seeding rates effect on physiological attributes of wheat dual purpose seeds grown in three agricultural crops, and identify a population management strategy and check the response stability of the traits in southern Brazil. The tests were carried out during 2012, 2013 and 2014 agricultural crops. The experimental design was randomized blocks arranged in factorial scheme, being: three agricultural crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose (BRS Tarumã and BRS Umbu) x five seeding rates (75, 150, 225, 300, 375 seeds m⁻²), arranged in three repetitions. The variance analysis revealed significant interaction to p>0.05 of probability for agricultural crops x dual purpose wheat genotypes x seeding rates for the characters first germination counting (FGC), germinated seeds percentage (GP), seedlings dry mass (SDM), and field emergence (FE). The genotype BRS Tarumã with increases of seeding rates, reduced the magnitude of germination and first germination counting in all agricultural crops. For wheat dual purpose seedling dry mass and field emergence decreased with seeding rates increment. Management strategies to improve the physiological quality of seeds wheat with dual purpose are specific to agricultural crops, providing applications in scientific research and as agricultural.

Key words: Triticum aestivum L., growing plants, field crops, crop science.

INTRODUCTION

Wheat dual purpose (Triticum aestivum L.) belongs to the

the vegetative stages and by the grain yield, being considered of dual aptitude (Martin et al., 2010). Wheat dual purpose has elevated biomass production, high tillering potential, long vegetative stage and short reproductive period (Carvalho et al., 2016). This species presents tolerance to trampling, quick field establishment, grain yield, high protein values and good digestibility, allowing the crop-livestock integration and maximizing physical space on the farm (Martin et al., 2010; Martin et al., 2013). Its use occurs, in most cases, in the form of direct grazing, hay production (Fontaneli, 2007; Carvalho et al., 2015).

Wheat genotypes growth and development may be influenced by genetic and edaphoclimatic factors, genotype x environment interaction, management techniques (Zagonel et al., 2002). Among the influenced characters, it is highlighted the number of tillers per plant, ears per unit of area, plants grains mass and number (Martin et al., 2013). Among the management techniques that most influence these characters, seeding rate deserves attention (Valério et al., 2013). Seeding rate is characterized as determining for wheat crop, and can provide balance in the dynamics between characters of agronomic interest and grain yield (Valério et al., 2013; Ozturk et al., 2006; Benin et al., 2012). The seeding rate used for certain genotype is crucial for the magnitude of total tillers, viable tillers per plant, intraspecific and interspecific competition with weeds (Valério et al., 2013; Tavares et al., 2014).

The effects attributed to different wheat seeding rates may be defined as a change in the dynamics of plants competition, alteration in the photosynthetically active area, plants lodging, increase in incidence pests, unfavorable microclimate for plants growth, development, and increased competition for nutrients, that can reduce physiological seed quality (Carvalho et al., 2016). Low plant densities may reveal increased number of tillers and ears per plant, changing the direction of assimilates, their remobilization to seeds (Fioreze and Rodrigues, 2014). In contrast, plants density increase may result in a larger number of ears per unit of area, and grain yield (Da Silveira et al., 2010).

Seed quality is determined by elevated genetic, physical integrity, sanity and differential physiological performance (Barbieri et al., 2013). Low quality seeds may reduce seedling emergence speed, resulting in lower growth of the aerial part, and root system, thus compromising growth and crop development (Scheeren et al., 2010; Peske et al., 2012). Therefore, this study aim to reveal the seeding rates effect on physiological attributes of wheat dual purpose seeds grown in three agricultural crops, and identify a population management strategy and check the response stability of the traits in southern Brazil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in 2012, 2013 and 2014 agricultural crops, in the Federal University of Santa Maria, in Frederico Westphalen southern Brazil, the geographic coordinates of 27°23'26"S, 53°25'43"O, and altitude of 461 m. The soil is classified as ferric aluminicoxisol (Embrapa, 2006), and the climate, according to Köppen's characterization, as Cfa subtropical. The experimental design was randomized blocks arranged in factorial scheme, being: three agricultural crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose (BRS Tarumã and BRS Umbu) x five seeding rates (75, 150, 225, 300, 375 seeds m⁻²), arranged in three repetitions. The experimental units were composed by 12 lines with two meters length, spaced 0.17 m. System direct seeding was used in all agricultural crops, with NPK base fertilization of 250 kg ha⁻¹ (10-20-20), and 90 kg ha⁻¹ of nitrogen (N) in top-dressing at full tillering stage, in urea form (45% of N). The harvest was manually done, being considered the plants present in the six central lines of each experimental unit, disregarding 0.5 meters of each extremity aiming to minimize the border effects (Martin et al., 2010). Posteriorly, the seeds were accommodated in a chamber with constant temperature of 25°C during 15 days in order to homogenize the humidity, which is determined by the official oven method, at 105°C for 24 h, occurring the standardization at 13% of humidity (Brasil, 2009).

The physiological germination tests, first counting and dry mass were carried out with four sub-samples of 100 seeds for each experimental unit. The seeds were accommodated in rolls formed by three germination paper sheets of the *germitest* type, moistened with distilled water in a proportion of 2.5 times the mass of the dry paper. The rolls were wrapped in polyethylene envelopes aiming to keep the humidity, and were subsequently allocated in a B.O.D at 20°C (Brasil, 2009).

Germination (G) was evaluated eight days after sowing, and the data was measured by the percentage of normal seedlings (Brasil, 2009). Collectively, four days after sowing, it was evaluated the first germination counting (FGC), measured by the percentage of normal seedlings (Brasil, 2009). Determination of seedlings dry mass (SDM) occurred from ten normal seedlings at eight days after sowing. For this, the seedlings were dried in an oven with forced ventilation at temperature of 70°C until constant weight, and the results are expressed in grams (g). For field emergence (FE) evaluation, it was proceeded the sowing of four hundred seeds disposed in four repetitions, with one hundred seeds for each experimental unit. The number of emerged seedlings counting was performed on the twentieth-first day after sowing, and the results expressed as a percentage.

The data was submitted the normality test of Shapiro and Wilk (1965), and homogeneity variance by Bartlett (Steel et al., 1996). It was found interaction for agricultural crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates, at 5% of probability. The characters that revealed significance were deployed to simple effects for qualitative factors. The quantitative factor was subjected to linear regression analysis, identifying the most significant polynomial degree, and the results were expressed in graphs. The analyses were performed using statistic software Genes (Cruz, 2013).

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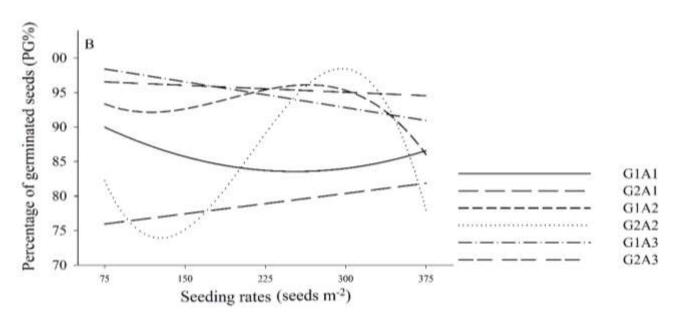


Figure 1. Regression equations for the character germinated seeds percentage (GP). Graph B. G1Y1 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop $2011(y=96.55-0.10x+0.002x^2 R^2=0.30)$; G2Y1 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop $2011(y=74.47+0.01x R^2=0.09)$; G1Y2 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop $2012 (y=103,86-0.23x+0.00x^2-0.00x^3 R^2=0.73)$; G2Y2 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop $2012 (y=248.66-3.95x+0.02x^2-0.00x^3+0.00x^4 R^2=0.92)$; G1Y3 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop $2013 (y=91.26+0.07-0.0002 R^2=0.54)$; G2Y3 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop $2013 (y=97.03-0.006x R^2=0.04)$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of variance for traits

Analysis of variance revealed significant interaction at p>0.05 probability for agricultural crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates for the characters first germination counting (FGC), germinated seeds percentage (GP), seedlings dry mass (SDM), and field emergence (FE). The coefficients of variation obtained for the measured characters ranged from 4.53 to 16.53%, indicating reliable inferences about the results and good experimental precision (Pimentel Gomes, 2000).

Seed quality

Germination is crucial for commercializing seeds, which must provide minimum percentage of 80% (Brasil, 2003). Among seeding rates for germinated seeds percentage (GP) (Figure 1), it is observed that the genotype BRS Tarumã in agricultural crops 2011 (G1Y1) and 2013 (G1Y3), as well as the genotype BRS Umbu, in the agricultural crops of 2013 (G2Y3), reduced germination with the increase of seeding rates. However, the genotype BRS Umbu, in 2011 (G2Y1) revealed germination increase with the elevation of seeding rates. The genotype BRS Tarumã in 2012 (G1Y2), revealed germination increment when cultivated in the density of 225 seeds per square meter. It is observed differential behavior of genotypes at different sowing densities. The quality of the wheat seeds produced is closely related to plant density, where random plants reductions adversely affect seeds physiological quality (Barbieri et al., 2013).

It was verified superior germination performance for the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2011 and 2012 agricultural crops. However, in 2013, the genotypes behaved similarly, where the genotype BRS Umbu revealed superiority at density of 375 seeds per square meter. Between agricultural crops, the genotype BRS Tarumã revealed superiority in 2012 and 2013, while the genotype BRS Umbu presented higher percentages in 2013 (Table 2). Germination is evaluated under ideal conditions; however, it cannot be regarded as absolute because their results should be related to complementary vigor testing in order to better represent the seedlings performance in the field (Douradinho et al., 2015). The first germination counting consists of a vigor indicative test, the ability of quickly germinate relates to the vigor and can be an indicative of higher physiological quality (Marcos Filho, 2015).

Among seeding rates, it is observed for the character first germination counting (FGC), that the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2012 (G1Y2) and 2013 (G1Y3) agricultural crops (Figure 2), and BRS Umbu in 2013 (G2Y3) revealed an increase for first germination counting at density of 300 seeds per square meter, while the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2011 (G1Y1) demonstrated reduction of values in response to seeding rates increment. The genotype BRS Umbu in 2012 (G2Y1) incremented the character FGC. The results evidence

	2011		2012		2013		
Seeding rates seeds (m ²)	Agricultural crops / Dual purpose wheat genotypes						
	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	
75	89.2 ^{Αα}	71.7 ^{Βγ}	94.5 ^{Αα}	82.5 ^{Ββ}	97.5 ^{Αα}	97.5 ^{Αα}	
150	78.2 ^{Αβ}	85.7 ^{Αβ}	92.2 ^{Αα}	82.4 ^{Αα}	96.2 ^{Αα}	97.5 ^{Αα}	
225	74.5 ^{Ββ}	86.5 ^{Αβ}	89.2 ^{Αα}	83.9 ^{Αβ}	97.2 ^{Αα}	97.2 ^{Αα}	
300	81.2 ^{Αβ}	7 9.0 ^{Αβ}	94.9 ^{Αα}	94.9 ^{Αα}	98.2 ^{Αα}	85.9 ^{Ββ}	
375	74.2 ^{Ββ}	83.7 ^{Αβ}	85.5 ^{Αα}	78.2 ^{Αβ}	88.9 ^{Αα}	93.2 ^{Αα}	
CV (%)	6.26						

Table 1. Interaction for agriculture crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates, for the character first germination counting (FGC).

*Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the line, for genotypes, and the same Greek letter for agricultural years, did not statistically differ by Tukey test at 5% of probability.

Table 2. Interaction for agriculture crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates, for the character germinated seeds percentage (GP).

Seedingrates — seeds (m ²) —	2011		2012		2013			
	Agricultural crops / Dual purpose wheat genotypes							
	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu		
75	91.0 ^{Αα}	71.7 ^{Βγ}	92.9 ^{Αα}	82.5 ^{Ββ}	96.2 ^{Αα}	96.9 ^{Αα}		
150	83.5 ^{Αβ}	80.5 ^{Αβ}	92.2 ^{Αα}	70.6 ^{By}	95.9 ^{Αα}	94.5 ^{Αα}		
225	84.2 ^{Αβ}	83.0 ^{Αβ}	94.9 ^{Αα}	93.2 ^{Αα}	96.2 ^{Αα}	96.5 ^{Αα}		
300	85.5 ^{Αβ}	79.7 ^{Ββ}	94.9 ^{Αα}	94.9 ^{Αα}	95.9 ^{Αα}	91.5 ^{Αα}		
375	85.7 ^{Αα}	79.5 ^{Ββ}	85.5 ^{Αα}	78.2 ^{Ββ}	86.9 ^{Βα}	95.9 ^{Αα}		
CV (%)	4.53							

*Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the line, for genotypes, and the same Greek letter for agricultural years, did not statistically differ by Tukey test at 5% of probability.

that the vigor attributed to wheat dual purpose seeds are linked with intrinsic characteristics of the genotype, and also with seeding rates and agricultural crops. Marcos Filho (2015), the evaluation of vigor has many implications in the seed sector as a basic monitoring of physiological potential during different stages of seed production, being an apparatus for strategic decisions regarding the selection of seeds with high physiological potential, aiming to meet the consumer's demand.

Vigor assigned seeds

For the character first germination counting (FGC) in 2011 agricultural crops, the genotype BRS Tarumã was inferior at densities of 275 and 375 seeds per square meter. In the agricultural crops of 2012, the genotype BRS Umbu reached lower values for FGC at density of 75 seeds per square meter. In 2013, the genotype BRS Umbu was inferior at density of 300 seeds per square meter (Table 1). Among agricultural crops, it is observed that the genotype BRS Tarumã was superior in 2012 and 2013. For the genotype BRS Umbu the superiority occurred only in 2013. The highest values of first

germination counting report to the greater seed vigor and are indicative of higher capability of available reserves utilization, metabolic reactivation and the cellular structure of the seed, resulting in the formation of a seedling with proportional, well defined root and aerial structures (Bewley et al., 2013).

Among seeding rates for the character seedling dry mass (SDM), both genotypes in the agricultural crops of 2011 (G1Y1 and G2Y2) revealed no significant response for densities (Figure 3). The genotype BRS Umbu in 2012 (G2Y2), and the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2013(G1Y3) revealed reduction of seedlings dry mass with the increase of seeding rates. On the other hand, the genotype BRS Umbu in 2013 (G2Y3), demonstrated dry mass increment with seeding rates increase. In the agricultural crops of 2011, seedlings dry mass (SDM) did not differ for both genotypes. In 2012 the genotype BRS Umbu presented the highest magnitudes, however, it revealed superiority only at density of 150 seeds per square meter. In 2013 the genotype BRS Umbu revealed superiority for seedlings dry mass (Table 3). Between agricultural crops, it was observed superiority for the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2012, and the genotype BRS Umbu in 2013 (Table 3).

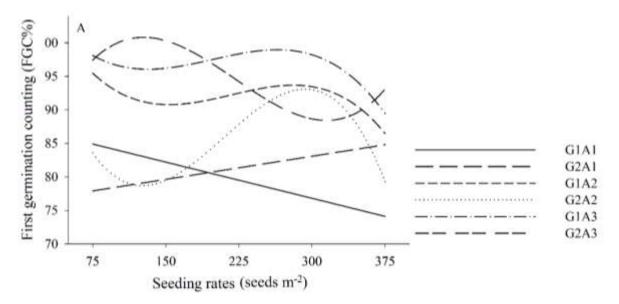


Figure 2. Regression equations for the character first germination counting (FGC). Graph A: G1Y1 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2011(y=87.6-0.03x R²=0.19); G2Y1 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2011(y=76.17+0.02x R²=0.08); G1Y2 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2012 (y=54.33+1.12x-0.01x²+0.00x³-0.00x⁴ R²=0.84); G2Y2 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2012 (y=30.33+1.44-0.01x²+0.00x³-0.004x⁴ R²=0.84); G1Y3 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2013 (y= 110.40-0.26x+0.01x²-0.00x³ R²=0.86); G2Y3 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2013 (y= 110.40-0.26x+0.01x²-0.00x³ R²=0.86); G2Y3 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2013 (y= 148.66-1.37x+0.01x²-0.01x-0.00x⁴ R²=0.73).

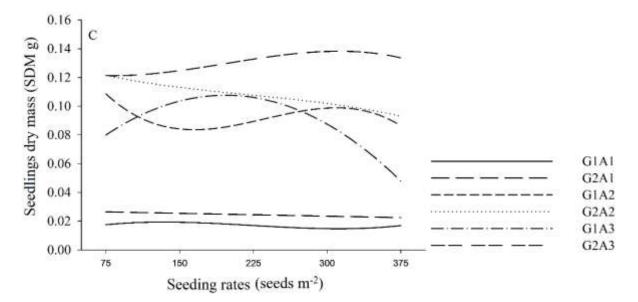


Figure 3. Regression equations for the character seedling dry mass (SDM). Graph C: G1Y1 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2011(y=0.007+0.0002x-0.000x²+0.00x³ R²=0.47); G2Y1 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2011(y=0.02-0.00 R²=0.29); G1Y2 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2012 (y=0.18-0.001x+0.00x²-0.00x³ R²=0.73); G2Y2 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2012 (y= $-0.24+0.009x-0.00x^{2}+0.00x^{3}-0.004x^{4}$ R²=0.84); G1Y3 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2013 (y= $0.03+0.0007-0.00x^{2}$ R²=0.45); G2Y3 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2013 (y= 0.11+0.00005x R²=0.11).

The character seedlings dry mass is also considered a vigor attribute because it constitutes a form of evaluation that relates more to seeds physiological performance, and plants in the field, depending on edaphoclimatic

growing conditions, proper genotype positioning in micro regions, fertilization, harvest close to physiological maturity, and appropriate management techniques (Peske et al., 2012). The allocation of dry matter in seeds

	2011		2012		2013		
Seeding rates seeds (m ²)	Agricultural crops / Dual purpose wheat genotypes						
	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	
75	0.017 ^{Αγ}	0.027 ^{Αβ}	0.107 ^{Αα}	0.118 ^{Αα}	0.086 ^{Ββ}	0.121 ^{Αα}	
150	0.018 ^{Αβ}	0.025 ^{Αβ}	0.084 ^{Βα}	0.124 ^{Αα}	0.093 ^{Βα}	0.122 ^{Αα}	
225	0.018 ^{Αβ}	0.023 ^{Ay}	0.088 ^{Αα}	0.089 ^{Αβ}	0.094 ^{Βα}	0.135 ^{Αα}	
300	0.014 ^{Αβ}	0.024 ^{Ay}	0.099 ^{Αα}	0.113 ^{Αβ}	0.111 ^{Βα}	0.136 ^{Αα}	
375	0.016 ^{Ay}	0.022 ^{Ay}	0.085 ^{Αα}	0.089 ^{Αβ}	0.037 ^{Ββ}	0.133 ^{Αα}	
CV (%)	16.53						

Table 3. Interaction for agriculture crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates, for the character seedlings dry mass (SDM).

*Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the line, for genotypes, and the same Greek letter for agricultural years, did not statistically differ by Tukey test at 5% of probability.

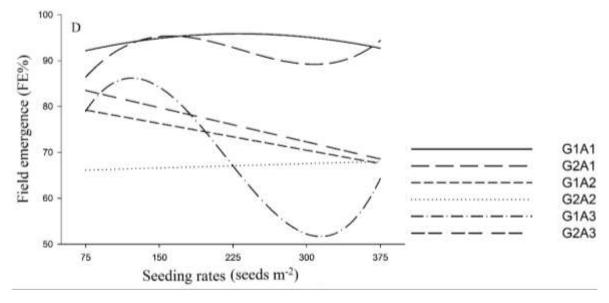


Figure 4. Regression equations for the character field emergence (FE). Graph D: G1Y1 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2011(y= $87.73+0.07x-0.801x^2$ R²=0.27); G2Y1 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2011(y= $56.26+0.58x-0.002x^2+0.00x^3$ R²=0.45); G1Y2 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2012 (y=82.11-0.03x R²=0.12); G2Y2 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2012 (y=65.66+0.006x R²=0.004); G1Y3 genotype BRS Tarumã agriculture crop 2013 (y= $326.66-6.41x+0.05x^2-0.00x^3+0.00x^4$ R²=0.86); G2Y3 genotype BRS Umbu agriculture crop 2013 (y=87.20-0.04x R²=0.16).

has close relationship with the area of leaves available for photosynthetic process, which may be benefited by the crop population density. Plants with proper spacing tend to make better use of mineral resources, water and light, producing more assimilated (Lopes and Lima, 2015). In appropriate environmental and management conditions, the assimilates partitioning is sequential throughout the development, being the seeds favored in bigger or smaller intensity, depending on the level of competition between structures (Pedó et al., 2016).

Among seeding rates for the character field emergence (FE), the genotype BRS Tarumã in 2012 and 2013 (G1Y1 and G1Y3) agricultural crops, and the genotype BRS Umbu in 2013 (G2Y3), revealed reduction of vigor with

seeding rates increment (Figure 4). On the other hand, the genotype BRS Umbu in 2012 (G2Y2) revealed seedlings emergence increment with density increases. The genotype BRS Tarumã in 2011 (G1Y1), and the genotype BRS Umbu in 2012 (G2Y2) presented higher magnitudes for seedlings emergence at density of 225 seeds per square meter. The character field emergence, in 2011 agricultural crops evidenced no difference between genotypes, in 2012 superiority was revealed for the genotype BRS Tarumã. In 2013, the genotypes behaved similarly, and BRS Umbu was superior only at density of 300 seeds per square meter (Table 4).

Between agricultural crops it is observed that BRS Tarumã genotype was superior in 2011. In 2012 and

	2011		201	12	2013				
Seeding rates seeds (m ²)	Agricultural crops / Dual purpose wheat genotypes								
	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu	BRS Tarumã	BRS Umbu			
75	92.0 ^{Αα}	86.0 ^{Αα}	84.0 ^{Αα}	68.6 ^{Ββ}	81.3 ^{Αα}	81.3 ^{Ααβ}			
150	95.3 ^{Αα}	96.6 ^{Αα}	72.0 ^{Αβ}	70.6 ^{Αβ}	74.6 ^{Αβ}	78.6 ^{Αβ}			
225	95.3 ^{Αα}	90.6 ^{Αα}	68.6 ^{Αβ}	59.3 ^{Ay}	81.3 ^{Αβ}	77.3 ^{Αβ}			
300	95.3 ^{Αα}	90.6 ^{Αα}	76.8 ^{Αβ}	60.6 ^{Ββ}	42.6 ^{Βγ}	81.3 ^{Αα}			
375	92.6 ^{Αα}	94.0 ^{Αα}	68.6 ^{Αβ}	76.0 ^{Αβ}	66.6 ^{Αβ}	61.3 ^{Ay}			
CV (%)	9.83								

Table 4. Interaction for agriculture crops x two wheat genotypes dual purpose x seeding rates, for the character field emergence (FE).

*Means followed by the same uppercase letter in the line, for genotypes, and the same Greek letter for agricultural years, did not statistically differ by Tukey test at 5% of probability.

2013 agricultural crops, no difference was found for this character. The same behavior was observed for BRS Umbu genotype (Table 4).

Guedes et al. (2015), the character field emergence enables to evaluate the real physiological potential of when sown seeds. because, in non-controlled environmental conditions, seeds are subjected to a range of adverse factors, which could compromise the plants stand. Moreover, it should be noted that field emergence relates to the ability of metabolizing reserves, membrane reorganization and carbon allocation in seedlings. The main factors that determine seed vigor are determined in the field of production during the mother plant or seed development (Bewley et al., 2013). Therefore, plants grown in more appropriate densities and management tend to produce seeds with greater vigor and lower mass allocation.

Conclusion

The genotype BRS Tarumã with increases of seeding rates, reduced the magnitude of germination and first germination counting in all agricultural crops.

For wheat dual purpose seedling dry mass and field emergence decreased with seeding rates increment. Management strategies to improve the physiological quality of seeds wheat with dual purpose are specific to agricultural crops, providing applications in scientific research and as agricultural.

Conflict of Interests

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

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