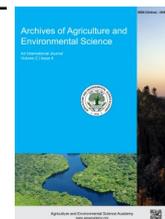




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ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE



Effects of mulching on growth and yield components of selected varieties of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) under field condition

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ABSTRACT

Wheat is facing increased high temperature during its grain filling period in Bangladesh which reduces yield drastically. Mulching may help to mitigate this problem. Therefore, a field experiment was carried out at the Agronomy Field Laboratory, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh during the period from November 2015 to March 2016 to find out growth and yield performance of wheat as influenced by mulching. The experiment comprised of two factors viz., variety and mulching. The variety comprised of BARI Gom-26, BARI Gom-27 and BARI Gom-28. Mulching comprised of four different levels of treatments viz. no mulch + no irrigation (control), water hyacinth mulch + no irrigation, rice straw mulch + no irrigation and two irrigations at CRI and flowering stage. The experiment was laid out in a randomized complete block design with three replications. BARI Gom-28 showed the highest values in growth parameters (plant height, number of total tillers hill⁻¹, LAI, chlorophyll content and total dry matter) at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. On the other hand, when mulching was compared, rice straw mulch gave higher yield compared to other treatments at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. The interaction effect of variety and mulching showed significant in relation to yield and yield components except plant height, spike length, 1000-grain weight and harvest index (%). The tallest plant (93.20 cm) was obtained from the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch. The highest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ (4.80), number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ (4.57), spike length (10.23), number of spikelets spike⁻¹ (21.15), 1000-grain weight (48.54 g), grain yield (5.20 t ha⁻¹), straw yield (7.27 t ha⁻¹), and harvest index (41.71%) were obtained from the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch. The lowest grain yield was obtained from BARI Gom-26 and control (no mulch + no irrigation). It may be concluded from the results of the study that, BARI Gom-28 with rice straw mulching treatment can be used for successful cultivation of wheat.

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INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is the second most important grain crop after rice in Bangladesh. It is used as principal food in most of the area of the world. Wheat belongs to the Grass family. It is grown on an around 220.4 million hectares land area. In 2016, wheat production around the world was 749 million tonnes which makes it the second most-produced cereal after maize (FAO, 2016). In Bangladesh the total area under wheat cultivation was 4,36, 814 hectares and average production was 3.086 metric tons per hectare (BBS, 2015). Wheat provides 21% of the food calories and 20% of the protein to more than 4.5 billion people in 94 developing countries (Braun *et al.*, 2010). Wheat

yields are significantly limited by the availability of water and nutrients, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. In regions with sufficient water and nutrient input, the water and nutrient use efficiencies of wheat are often low due to suboptimal management which leads to large losses in grain yield of wheat. Because of increased moisture scarcity throughout the growing season of wheat, it adversely affects the plant growth and development.

Surface-applied mulches provide several benefits to crop production through improving soil water, heat energy and nutrient status in soil, preventing soil and water loss, soil salinity from flowing back to surface, and controlling weeds. Mulching of

wheat increases grain yield in comparison with unmulched wheat due to soil and water conservation, improved soil physical and chemical properties, and enhanced soil biological activity. Mulching increased soil moisture, which in turn improve winter wheat grain yield and water use efficiency (Chen et al., 2015). Mulching could improve soil water retention (Stagnari et al., 2014). This effect reduces soil water evaporation losses and increases plant transpiration rates. When irrigation is limited, mulching increases wheat yield, water use efficiency, and soil organic carbon fixation (Hari et al., 2013). Straw mulching significantly increased winter wheat grain yield (Marbet et al., 2012). In the same cropping system, conservation tillage and straw mulching significantly boosted yields, improved the use efficiency of limited water resources in arid areas, and lowered carbon emissions from farming.

In Bangladesh, the total cultivable land has been decreasing day by day due to increasing population. Urbanization, industrialization and construction of various institutions are increasing rapidly due to over population. That's why agricultural land for crop production is decreasing. On the other hand, farmers have the tendency to cultivate *boro* rice in November-April of wheat growing period. In this situation wheat cultivation can play an important role for maintaining the nutritional demand of these over population. There is an opportunity to increase production of wheat per unit area through adoption of improved agronomic practices including high yielding variety and different types of mulching. The present study was, therefore, undertaken to observe the performance of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) released wheat varieties, to evaluate the effect of mulching on the yield of wheat and to find out the interaction effect of variety and mulching on the yield of wheat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted at the Agronomy Field Laboratory, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh during the period from November 2015 to March 2016. The experimental field was located at 24°75'N latitude and 90°50' E longitude at an elevation of 18m above the sea level belonging to non-calcareous dark grey floodplain soil under Old Brahmaputra Floodplain Agro-ecological zone-“AEZ 9”. The experimental plot was a medium high land with silty clay loam soil having pH 5.80. The experimental site belongs to the subtropical area characterized by heavy rainfall during *kharif* season (April to September) and scanty in the *rabi* season (October to March) associated with moderately low temperature and plenty of sunshine. The experimental treatments consisted of two factors viz., variety, V₁-BARI Gom-26, V₂-BARI Gom-27, V₃-BARI Gom-28 and mulching, M₁-no mulch + no irrigation (control), M₂-mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation, M₃-mulching with rice straw + no irrigation, M₄- two irrigations at CRI and flowering stage. The experiment was laid out in a randomized complete block design with three replications. The unit plot size was 4m×2.5 m. Plant to plant and row to row distance were 5 cm

and 20 cm, respectively.

The experimental field was prepared with power tiller followed by laddering. All the weeds and stubble were removed from the field and made ready for sowing. In case of irrigated plot, the land was uniformly fertilized with 180 kg urea, 180 kg triple super phosphate (TSP), 50 kg muriate of potash (MoP) and 120 kg gypsum ha⁻¹. On the other hand 180 kg urea, 180 kg triple super phosphate (TSP), 40 kg muriate of potash (MoP) and 90 kg gypsum was applied in case of without irrigated plot. Total amount of TSP, MoP and gypsum was applied in each plot at the time of final land preparation and the fertilizers were mixed thoroughly with soil by spading. Urea was top dressed in two equal splits. The seeds were sown in 25 cm apart rows by hand on 16th of November, 2015. Germination of wheat was started on 20th of November, 2015. Mulching such as water hyacinth and rice straw were applied on 26th November, 2015. First irrigation was applied at crown root initiation stage (CRI) on 6 December, 2015 and second irrigation was applied at flowering stage on 15 January, 2016. The experimental crop was harvested on 13 March, 2016 at maturity. Harvesting was done plot wise and threshing, cleaning and drying was done accordingly. Data on growth parameters, yield and yield components were recorded from the sample plots. The recorded data were statistically analyzed using the “Analysis of Variance” technique and the differences among treatment means were adjudged by Duncan's New Multiple Range Test and Least Significant Difference Test whenever necessary (Gomez and Gomez, 1984).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Growth parameters

Plant height (cm): The plant height was significantly affected by wheat variety and mulching at 1% level of probability at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing (DAS). BARI Gom-28 produced the longest plant of 36.83, 63.06 and 84.16 cm at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the shortest plant of 29.07, 43.22 and 72.63 cm at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 1). This is may be due to the genetic inheritance of the variety. The longest plant of 34.92, 53.96 and 83.62 cm was observed in rice straw mulch at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively. On the contrary, the shortest plant of 31.04, 52.03 and 71.65 cm was obtained from control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 2). Straw mulch conserved more soil moisture than control. The result is partially similar to that reported by Misra (1996), who found that soil mulching increased the availability of conserved moisture in the soil profile and significantly enhanced plant water use efficiency and plant height. There was significant difference in the plant height due to interaction of variety and mulching except 30 DAS (Table 1). However, numerically the tallest plant (91.07 cm) was found in V₃×M₃ and shortest plant (69.20 cm) was found in V₁×M₁ at 60 DAS.

Number of total tillers hill⁻¹: The number of total tillers hill⁻¹ was significantly affected by wheat variety and mulching at 1% level

of probability at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. BARI Gom-28 produced significantly the highest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 3.69, 5.30 and 6.02 at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI-Gom 26 gave the lowest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 3.385, 4.382 and 4.702 at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 3). The highest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 3.5, 4.98 and 5.59 was observed in rice straw mulch at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively. On the contrary, the lowest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 3.51, 4.51 and 4.85 was obtained from control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 4). Mulching might have reduced the fluctuation of soil temperature and increased the soil moisture and resulted more rapid crop growth and produced more number of tillers. The result was partially similar to the findings of Misra (1996) who stated that soil mulching significantly enhanced the number of tillers plant⁻¹. There was significant difference in the total number of tillers hill⁻¹ due to interaction of variety and mulching at 30, 45 & 60 DAS. BARI Gom-28 produced significantly the highest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 5.73 and 6.75 in rice straw mulch at 45 and 60 days after sowing respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ of 3.30, 4.20 and 4.45 in control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Table 2).

Leaf area index (LAI): The LAI was significantly affected by wheat variety and mulching at 1% level of probability at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. BARI Gom-28 produced significantly the highest LAI of 0.96, 3.79 and 6.51 at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest LAI of 0.56, 3.19 and 4.94 at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 5). The highest LAI of 0.6567, 3.443 and 6.127 was observed in rice straw mulch at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively. On the contrary, the lowest LAI of 0.73, 3.29 and 5.32 was obtained from control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 6). There was significant difference in the LAI due to interaction of variety and mulching during the growth stages of wheat at 30 and 60 DAS (Table 3). BARI Gom-28 produced the highest LAI of 1.10 and 6.88 in rice straw mulch at 30, and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest LAI of 3.01 and 4.09 in control at 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Table 3).

Chlorophyll content (SPAD value): The chlorophyll content was significantly affected by wheat variety and mulching at 1% level of probability at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. BARI Gom-28 produced significantly the highest chlorophyll content of 40.63, 45.62 and 48.41 at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest chlorophyll content of 35.25, 36.88 and 38.14 at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 7). The highest chlorophyll content of 39.79, 42.31 and 46.69 was observed in rice straw mulch at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively. On the contrary, the lowest chlorophyll content of 34.96, 39.20 and 41.05 was obtained from control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 8). There was significant difference in the chlorophyll content due to interaction of variety and mulching during the growth stages of wheat at 45 and 60 DAS

(Table 4). BARI Gom-28 produced the highest chlorophyll content of 55.88 in rice straw mulch at 60 DAS. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest chlorophyll content of 32.30, 33.20 and 35.20 in control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Table 4).

Total dry matter: The total dry matter was significantly affected by wheat variety and mulching at 1% level of probability at 30, 45 and 60 DAS. BARI Gom-28 produced significantly the highest dry matter of 1.30, 6.72 and 14.05 g at 30, 45 and 60 days after sowing, respectively. On the contrary, BARI Gom-26 gave the lowest dry matter of 4.200, 4.017 and 9.392 g was found at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 9). The highest dry matter of 1.10, 5.27 and 13.11 g was observed in water hyacinth mulch at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively. On the contrary, the lowest dry matter of .87, 4.93 and 10.67g was obtained from control at 30, 45 and 60 DAS, respectively (Figure 10). There was significant difference in the total dry matter due to interaction of variety and management practices at 30, 45 and 60 DAS (Table 5). The highest total dry matter (15.80 g) was found in V₃×M₃ and lowest total dry matter (8.60 g) was found in V₁×M₁ at 60 DAS (Table 5).

Yield and yield components

Plant height (cm): The effect of variety and mulching on plant height was significant at 1% level of probability (Table 6 and 7). The plant height ranged from 79.36 to 91.22 cm. The tallest plant (91.22 cm) was observed in BARI Gom-28 and shortest plant (79.36 cm) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (Table 6). This might be for the genetic make-up of the variety species. It was observed that the tallest plant (88.36 cm) was observed in rice straw mulch (M₃) and the shortest plant (82.09cm) was observed in control (M₁) (Table 7). There was no significant difference in the plant height due to interaction of variety and mulching (Table 8). However, numerically the tallest plant (93.20 cm) found in V₃×M₃ and the shortest plant (72.63 cm) found in V₁×M₁ (Table 8).

Number of effective tillers hill⁻¹: The effect of variety and mulching on number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ was significant at 1% level of probability. The highest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ (4.125) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V₃) and the lowest number of total tillers hill⁻¹ (2.41) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V₁) (Figure 11). It was observed that the highest number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ (3.61) was observed in rice straw mulch (M₃) and the lowest number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ (2.93) observed in control (M₁) (Figure 12). There was significant difference in the number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ due to interaction of variety and management practices (Table 8). It was observed that the highest number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ (4.57) was observed in V₃×M₃ and the lowest number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ (2.07) observed in V₁×M₁ (Table 8).

Spike length (cm): The effect of variety and mulching on spike length was significant (Table 6 and 7). The highest spike length

(9.93 cm) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest spike length (9.14 cm) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Table 6). The possible reason may be the genetic variation among the variety. It was observed that the highest spike length (9.81 cm) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) and the lowest spike length (9.23 cm) observed in control (M_1) (Table 7). The spike length increased with mulching treatment. There was no significant difference in the spike length due to interaction of variety and mulching (Table 8). The highest spike length (10.23cm) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$) and the lowest spike length (8.43 cm) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8).

Number of spikelets spike⁻¹: The effect of variety and mulching on number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ was significant at 1% level of probability (Figure 13 and 14). Higher number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ (20.11) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and lower number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ (15.32) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1). This may be the ability of variety. It was observed that the highest number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ (18.75) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) and the lowest number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ (16.67) observed in control (M_1) (Figure 14). The result is partially in agreement to the findings of Wang and Wang (1998) who reported that mulching accelerated greening, and increased the number of spikelets spike⁻¹ and number spike⁻¹. Number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ was significantly influenced by the interaction of variety and (Table 8). The highest no of spikelets spike⁻¹ (21.15) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$) and the lowest no of spikelets spike⁻¹ (14.37) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8). Rahman et al. (2005) reported straw mulch treatments brought about significantly higher spikes per unit area and kernel weight per spike than no-mulch treatment, but not in kernel weight.

Number of seeds spike⁻¹: The effect of variety and mulching on number of seeds spike⁻¹ was significant at 1% level of probability (Table 6 and 7). The highest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (50.90) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (38.33) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Table 6). It was observed that the highest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (47.05) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) and the lowest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (41.30) observed in control (M_1) (Table 7). There was significant difference in the number of seeds spike⁻¹ due to interaction of variety and mulching (Table 8). The difference was significant at 1% level of probability. The highest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (54.68) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$) and the lowest number of seeds spike⁻¹ (35.40) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8).

1000-grain weight: Variety and mulching showed significant effect on 1000-grain weight at 1% level of probability (Table 6 and 7). The highest 1000-grain weight (47.04 g) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest 1000-grain weight (36.32 g)

was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Table 6). It was observed that the highest 1000-grain weight (44.20 g) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) treatment and the lowest 1000-grain weight (39.50 g) observed in control (M_1). Weight of 1000-grains was not significantly influenced by the interaction of variety and mulching (Table 8). It was observed that the highest 1000-grain weight (48.54 g) was observed in ($V_3 \times M_3$) treatment and the lowest 1000-grain weight (32.00 g) observed in ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8).

Grain yield: Grain yield had significant effect with variety and mulching at 1% level of probability (Figure 15 and 16). The highest grain yield (4.7 t ha⁻¹) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest grain yield (3.23 t ha⁻¹) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Figure 15). These differences may be due to variation in response to variety and environmental condition at the experimental site. It was observed that the highest grain yield (4.27 t ha⁻¹) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) treatment and the lowest grain yield (3.53 t ha⁻¹) observed in control (M_1) (Figure 16). Similar results were observed by Sachan (1976), De et al. (1983), Chen (1996) and Upadhyay and Tiwari (1996). Authors observed that mulching with rice straw significantly increased the yields of wheat. There was significant difference in the grain yield due to interaction of variety and mulching (Table 8). The highest yield (5.20 t ha⁻¹) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$) and the lowest grain yield (2.87 t ha⁻¹) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8). This variation may be due to variation in response to variety and grain yield. Zamir et al. (2013) also reported similar findings and stated that the wheat straw mulch gave highest grain yield (6.33 t ha⁻¹), followed by sawdust (4.92 t ha⁻¹).

Straw yield: The effect of variety and mulching on straw yield was significant at 1% level of probability (Figure 17 and 18). The highest straw yield (6.89 t ha⁻¹) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest straw yield (5.01 t ha⁻¹) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Figure 17). The highest straw yield (6.26 t ha⁻¹) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) and the lowest straw yield (5.45 t ha⁻¹) was observed in control (M_1) (Figure 18). The result was partially similar to the findings of Sharma et al. (1998). They found that application of increased moisture extraction, water use efficiency and grain and straw yields of wheat. Straw yield was significant at 1% level of probability with the interaction effect of variety and mulching (Table 8). The highest straw yield (7.27 t ha⁻¹) was obtained in the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$) and the lowest straw yield (4.70 t ha⁻¹) was obtained in the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$) (Table 8).

Harvest index (%): The effect of variety and mulching on harvest index was significant (Table 6 and 7). The highest harvest index (40.49%) was observed in BARI Gom-28 (V_3) and the lowest harvest index (39.17) was observed in BARI Gom-26 (V_1) (Table 6). It was observed that the highest harvest index (40.46%) was observed in rice straw mulch (M_3) and the lowest

harvest index (39.21%) observed in control (M_1) (Table 7). Variety and mulching interacted not significantly for harvest index (Table 8). But numerically, the highest harvest index (41.71%) was

obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-28 and rice straw mulch ($V_3 \times M_3$). The lowest harvest index (37.91%) was obtained due to the interaction of BARI Gom-26 and control ($V_1 \times M_1$).

Table 1. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on plant height at different days after sowing of wheat.

Interaction (Variety \times mulching)	Plant height (cm)		
	Days after sowing (DAS)		
	30	45	60
$V_1 \times M_1$	27.50	40.80 f	69.20 h
$V_1 \times M_2$	29.88	43.70 de	73.30 fgh
$V_1 \times M_3$	30.50	45.67 d	76.40 efg
$V_1 \times M_4$	28.40	42.70 ef	71.60 gh
$V_2 \times M_1$	30.20	49.80 c	75.50 efg
$V_2 \times M_2$	34.80	51.2 c	79.20 de
$V_2 \times M_3$	35.40	50.50 c	83.40 cd
$V_2 \times M_4$	32.40	50.67 c	78.20 ef
$V_3 \times M_1$	35.43	65.50 a	70.2 h
$V_3 \times M_2$	36.83	60.20 b	89.83 ab
$V_3 \times M_3$	38.87	65.65 a	91.07 a
$V_3 \times M_4$	36.20	60.89 b	85.50 bc
LSD _{0.05}	2.15	2.71	4.66
Level of sig.	NS	**	**
CV (%)	3.88	3.07	3.50

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT); ** = Significant at 5% level of probability, NS = Not significant; V_1 = BARI Gom-26, V_2 = BARI Gom-27, V_3 = BARI Gom-28 M_1 = no mulch + no irrigation; M_2 = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M_3 = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation; M_4 = two irrigation atCRI and flowering stage.

Table 2. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on number of total tillers hill⁻¹ at different days after sowing of wheat.

Interaction (Variety \times mulching)	No. of total tillers hill ⁻¹		
	Days after sowing (DAS)		
	30	45	60
$V_1 \times M_1$	3.30 f	4.20 f	4.45 e
$V_1 \times M_2$	3.41 def	4.45 def	4.76 de
$V_1 \times M_3$	3.44 def	4.47 def	4.88 cd
$V_1 \times M_4$	3.39 ef	4.41 ef	4.72 de
$V_2 \times M_1$	3.47 def	4.50 def	4.92 cd
$V_2 \times M_2$	3.60 bcd	4.69 cde	5.10 c
$V_2 \times M_3$	3.68 bc	4.75 cd	5.15 c
$V_2 \times M_4$	3.56 cde	4.65 cde	4.98 cd
$V_3 \times M_1$	3.77 ab	4.83 c	5.20 c
$V_3 \times M_2$	3.87 a	5.23 b	6.50 a
$V_3 \times M_3$	3.60 bcd	5.73 a	6.75 a
$V_3 \times M_4$	3.53 cde	5.44 b	5.65 b
LSD _{0.05}	0.16	0.27	0.30
Level of sig.	**	*	**
CV (%)	2.81	3.47	3.46

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT); * = Significant at 5% level of probability, ** = Significant at 1% level of probability, NS = Not significant; V_1 = BARI Gom-26, V_2 = BARI Gom-27, V_3 = BARI Gom-28; M_1 = no mulch + no irrigation; M_2 = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M_3 = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation; M_4 = two irrigation atCRI and flowering stage.

Table 3. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on leaf area index at different days after sowing of wheat.

Interaction (Variety × mulching)	Leaf area index (LAI)		
	Days after sowing (DAS)		
	30	45	60
V ₁ ×M ₁	0.83bc	3.01	4.09 h
V ₁ ×M ₂	0.48fg	3.25	5.20 fg
V ₁ ×M ₃	0.55f	3.33	5.50ef
V ₁ ×M ₄	0.40g	3.20	4.97g
V ₂ ×M ₁	0.60ef	3.31	5.68de
V ₂ ×M ₂	0.72cde	3.44	5.88cde
V ₂ ×M ₃	0.75cd	3.50	6.00cd
V ₂ ×M ₄	0.69de	3.37	5.76de
V ₃ ×M ₁	0.78bcd	3.56	6.20bc
V ₃ ×M ₂	1.09a	3.96	6.55ab
V ₃ ×M ₃	1.10a	3.87	6.88a
V ₃ ×M ₄	0.88b	3.76	6.44 b
LSD _{0.05}	0.11	0.21	0.38
Level of sig.	**	NS	**
CV (%)	9.43	3.64	4.01

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT); ** =Significant at 1% level of probability, NS = Not significant; V₁- = BARI Gom-26, V₂- = BARI Gom-27, V₃- = BARI Gom-28 M₁ = no mulch + no irrigation; M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M₃ = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation; M₄= two irrigation at CRI and flowering stage.

Table 4. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on chlorophyll content at different days after sowing of wheat.

Interaction (Variety × mulching)	Chlorophyll content		
	Days after sowing (DAS)		
	30	45	60
V ₁ ×M ₁	32.30	33.20h	35.20e
V ₁ ×M ₂	36.20	38.50fg	39.20d
V ₁ ×M ₃	37.20	39.40ef	40.40 cd
V ₁ ×M ₄	35.30	36.40g	37.77de
V ₂ ×M ₁	35.97	40.07def	41.47cd
V ₂ ×M ₂	38.40	41.30de	41.70cd
V ₂ ×M ₃	39.28	42.30cd	43.80bc
V ₂ ×M ₄	37.23	40.40def	41.60 cd
V ₃ ×M ₁	36.60	44.33bc	46.47b
V ₃ ×M ₂	42.70	48.70a	45.55b
V ₃ ×M ₃	42.88	45.23b	55.88a
V ₃ ×M ₄	40.33	44.20bc	45.75b
LSD _{0.05}	2.59	2.37	3.54
Level of sig.	NS	**	**
CV (%)	4.04	3.41	4.88

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT); ** =Significant at 1% level of probability, NS = Not significant; V₁- = BARI Gom-26, V₂- = BARI Gom-27, V₃- = BARI Gom-28 M₁ = no mulch + no irrigation; M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M₃ = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation; M₄= two irrigation at CRI and flowering stage.

Table 5. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on total dry matter at different days after sowing of wheat.

Interaction (Variety × mulching)	Total dry matter (g)		
	Days after sowing (DAS)		
	30	45	60
V ₁ ×M ₁	0.74f	4.04ef	8.60g
V ₁ ×M ₂	0.70f	4.05ef	9.65ef
V ₁ ×M ₃	0.76ef	4.10ef	9.88ef
V ₁ ×M ₄	0.68 f	3.88 f	9.44f
V ₂ ×M ₁	0.88de	4.20de	10.44e
V ₂ ×M ₂	0.99d	4.86c	13.26c
V ₂ ×M ₃	0.96 d	4.85c	13.64bc
V ₂ ×M ₄	0.87de	4.44d	11.65d
V ₃ ×M ₁	1.00d	6.55b	12.96c
V ₃ ×M ₂	1.40b	6.76ab	14.30b
V ₃ ×M ₃	1.60a	6.88a	15.80a
V ₃ ×M ₄	1.20c	6.70ab	13.15c
LSD _{0.05}	0.11	0.28	0.79
Level of sig.	**	*	**
CV (%)	7.29	3.28	3.93

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT); * =Significant at 5% level of probability, ** = Significant at 1% level of probability; NS = Not significant; V₁- = BARI Gom-26, V₂- = BARI Gom-27, V₃- = BARI Gom-28; M₁ = no mulch + no irrigation; M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M₃ = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation; M₄ = two irrigation at CRI and flowering stage.

Table 6. Effect of variety on yield and yield contributing characters of wheat.

Variety	Plant height (cm)	Spike length (cm)	No. of seeds spike ⁻¹	1000 seed weight (g)	Harvest Index (%)
BARI Gom 26	79.36c	9.14b	38.33c	36.32c	39.17b
BARI Gom 27	86.51b	9.63a	43.90b	42.79b	40.10a
BARI Gom 28	91.22a	9.93a	50.90a	47.04a	40.49a
LSD _{0.05}	2.66	0.30	0.76	1.10	0.71
Level of significance	**	**	**	**	**
CV (%)	3.67	3.75	2.03	3.10	2.12

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT) ** =Significant at 1% level of probability.

Table 7. Effect of mulching on yield and yield contributing characters of wheat.

Mulching	Plant height (cm)	Spike length (cm)	No. of seeds spike ⁻¹	1000 seed weight (g)	Harvest Index (%)
M ₁	82.09b	9.23b	41.30d	39.50c	39.21b
M ₂	86.71a	9.68a	45.43b	43.04a	40.17a
M ₃	88.36a	9.81a	47.05a	44.20a	40.46a
M ₄	85.63a	9.54ab	43.73c	41.47 b	39.83ab
LSD _{0.05}	3.07	0.35	0.88	1.27	0.82
Level of significance	**	**	**	**	*
CV (%)	3.67	3.75	2.03	3.10	2.12

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT) ** =Significant at 1% level of probability, * = Significant at 5% level of probability; M₁ = no mulch + no irrigation; M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation, M₃ = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation, M₄ = two irrigation at CRI and flowering stage.

Table 8. Interaction effects of variety and mulching on yield and yield contributing characters of wheat.

Interaction (Variety x mulching)	Plant height (cm)	No. of effective tiller hill ⁻¹	Spike length (cm)	No. of spikelets spike ⁻¹	No. of seeds spike ⁻¹	1000 seed weight (g)	Grain yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Straw yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Harvest Index (%)
V ₁ ×M ₁	72.63	2.07l	8.43	14.37h	35.40 j	32.00	2.87h	4.70f	37.91
V ₁ ×M ₂	81.57	2.53j	9.43	15.69fg	39.33hi	37.96	3.40f	5.18e	39.62
V ₁ ×M ₃	83.37	2.73i	9.47	15.92fg	40.73gh	39.40	3.50f	5.27e	39.91
V ₁ ×M ₄	79.87	2.33k	9.24	15.30g	37.87i	35.93	3.17g	4.91f	39.23
V ₂ ×M ₁	84.50	2.93h	9.52	16.23f	41.71g	41.10	3.53f	5.32e	39.91
V ₂ ×M ₂	87.03	3.33f	9.68	18.73d	44.67 ef	43.39	4.00de	5.90d	40.41
V ₂ ×M ₃	88.50	3.53e	9.73	19.17cd	45.73 de	44.66	4.13de	6.26c	39.76
V ₂ ×M ₄	86.00	3.13g	9.61	17.60e	43.47f	42.00	3.93e	5.82d	40.34
V ₃ ×M ₁	89.15	3.80d	9.76	19.40bcd	46.80d	45.40	4.20d	6.35c	39.81
V ₃ ×M ₂	91.53	4.13b	9.95	20.19b	52.28b	47.77	4.90b	7.20a	40.49
V ₃ ×M ₃	93.20	4.57a	10.23	21.15a	54.68a	48.54	5.20a	7.27a	41.71
V ₃ ×M ₄	91.01	4.00c	9.80	19.70 bc	49.84c	46.47	4.50c	6.77 b	39.93
LSD _{0.05}	5.32	0.09	0.60	0.76	1.52	2.20	0.20	0.21	1.43
Sx	1.81	0.03	0.20	0.26	0.52	0.75	0.07	0.07	0.48
Level of sig.	NS	*	NS	*	*	NS	*	*	NS
CV (%)	3.67	1.70	3.75	2.54	2.03	3.10	3.09	2.16	2.12

In a column, figures with same letter (s) or without letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letter differ significantly (as per DMRT) * =Significant at 5% level of probability, NS = Not significant; V₁- = BARI Gom-26, V₂- = BARI Gom-27, V₃- = BARI Gom-28; M₁ = no mulch + no irrigation M₂= mulching with water hyacinth + no irrigation; M₃ = mulching with rice straw + no irrigation M₄ = two irrigation at CRI and flowering stage.

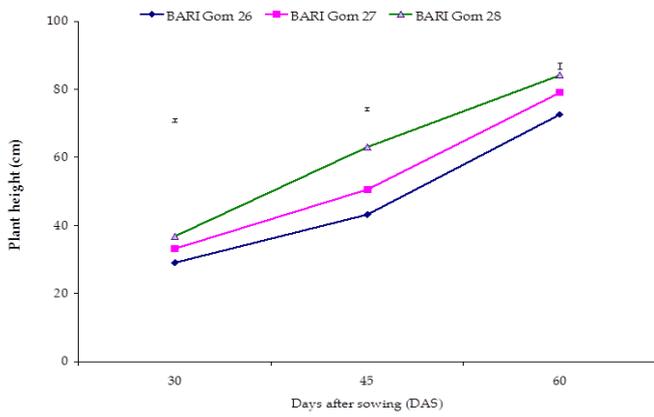


Figure 1. Effect of variety on plant height at different DAS of wheat.

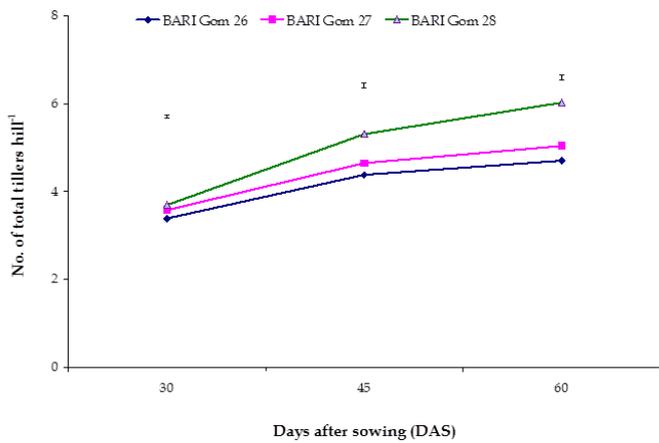


Figure 3. Effect of variety on number of total tillers hill⁻¹ at different DAS of wheat.

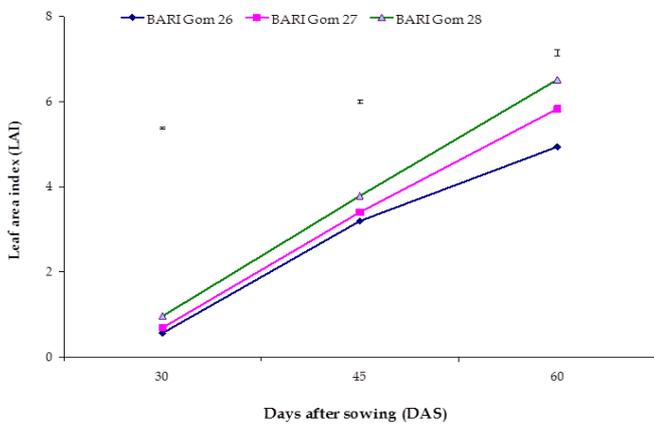


Figure 5. Effect of variety on leaf area index (LAI) at different DAS of wheat.

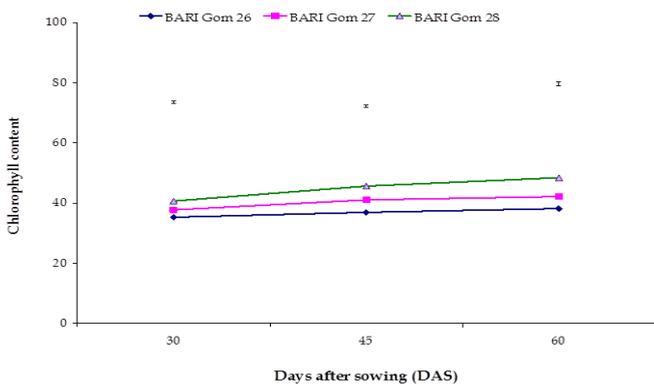


Figure 7. Effect of variety on chlorophyll content at different DAS of wheat.

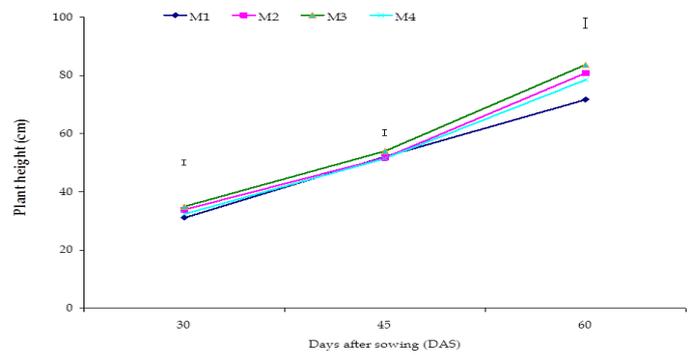


Figure 2. Effect of mulching on plant height at different DAS of wheat (M₁ = control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

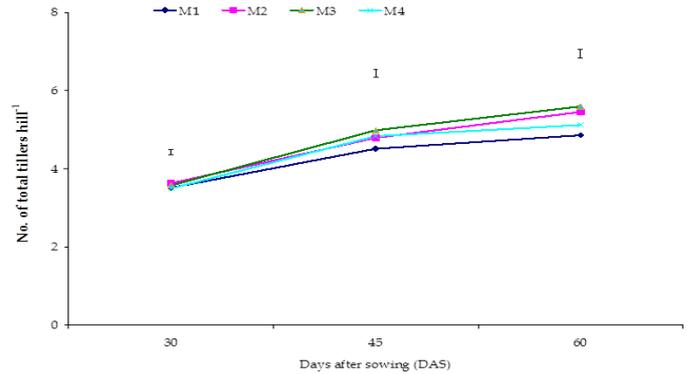


Figure 4. Effect of mulching on number of total tillers hill⁻¹ at different DAS of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

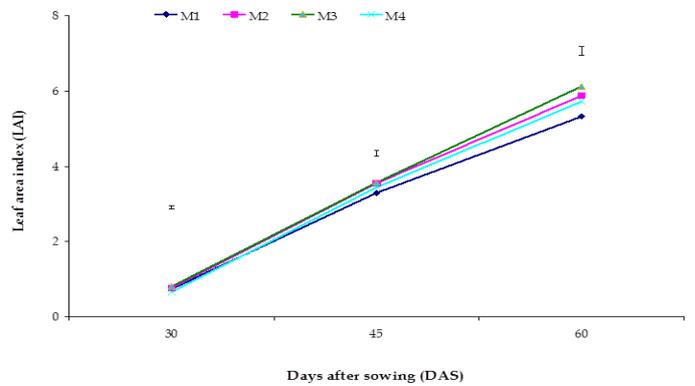


Figure 6. Effect of mulching on Leaf Area Index (LAI) at different DAS of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

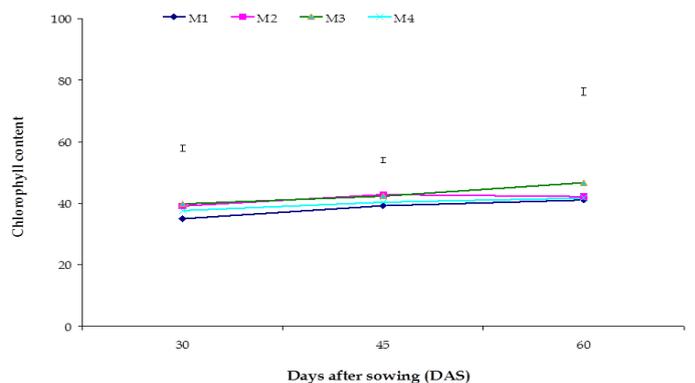


Figure 8. Effect of mulching on chlorophyll content at different DAS of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

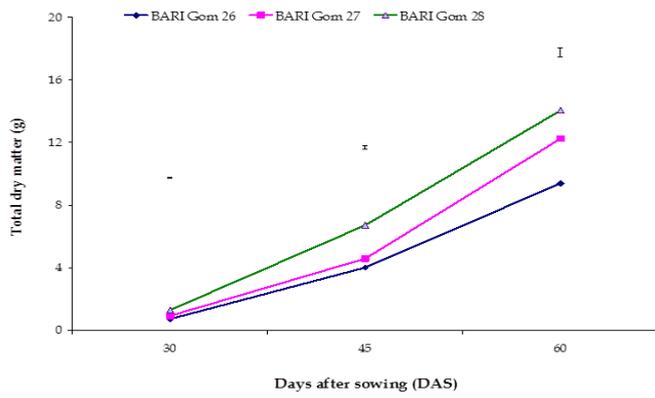


Figure 9. Effect of variety on total dry matter at different DAS of wheat.

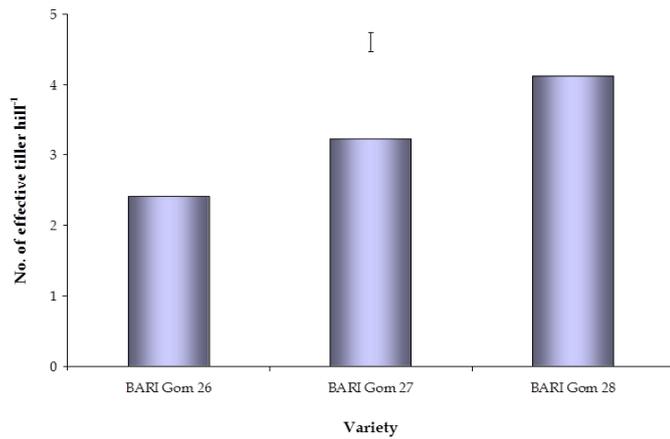


Figure 11. Effect of variety on number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ of wheat.

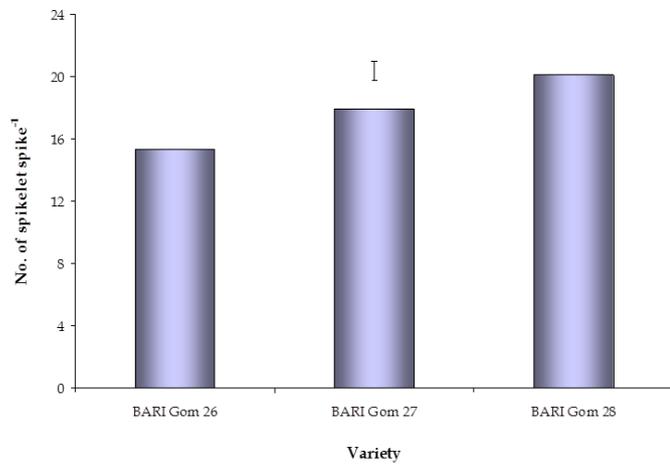


Figure 13. Effect of variety on number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ of wheat.

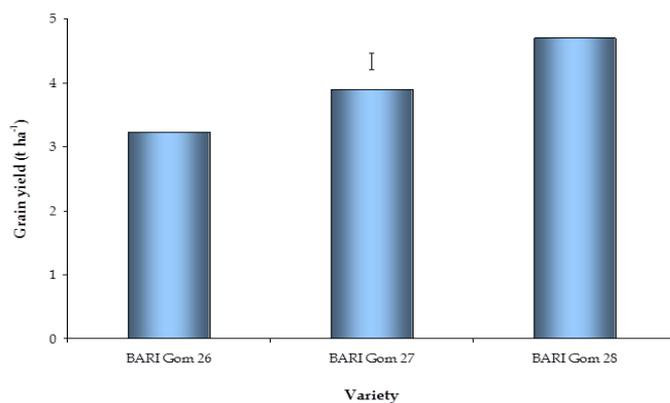


Figure 15. Effect of variety on grain yield of wheat.

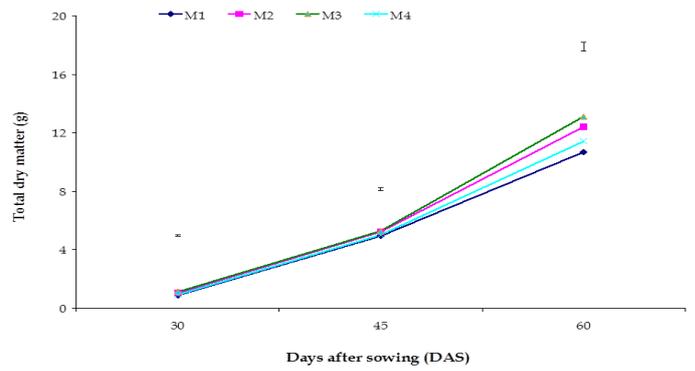


Figure 10. Effect of mulching on total dry matter at different DAS of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

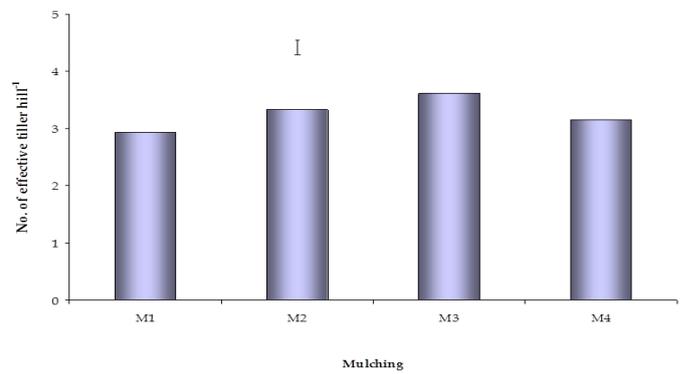


Figure 12. Effect of mulching on number of effective tillers hill⁻¹ of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

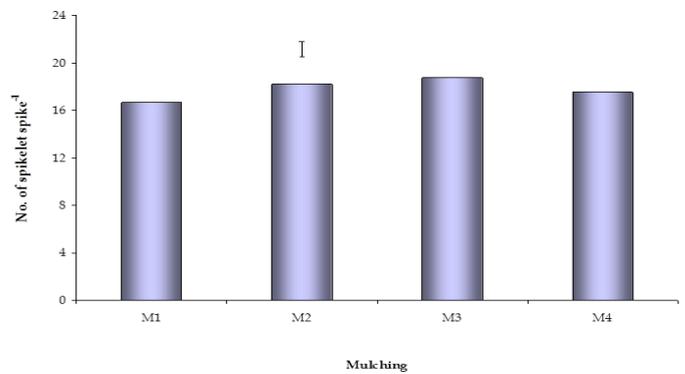


Figure 14. Effect of mulching on number of total spikelets spike⁻¹ of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

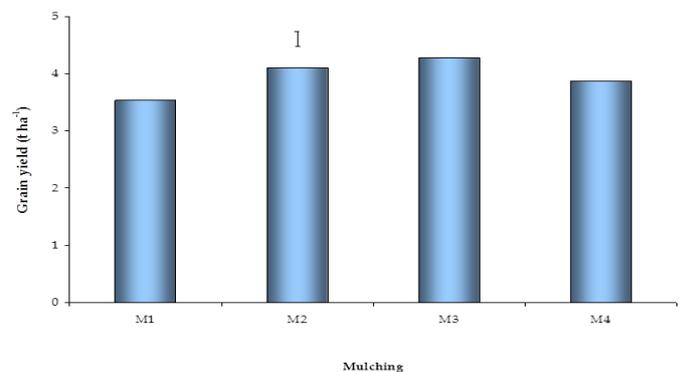


Figure 16. Effect of mulching on grain yield of wheat (M₁= control, M₂ = mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄ = two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

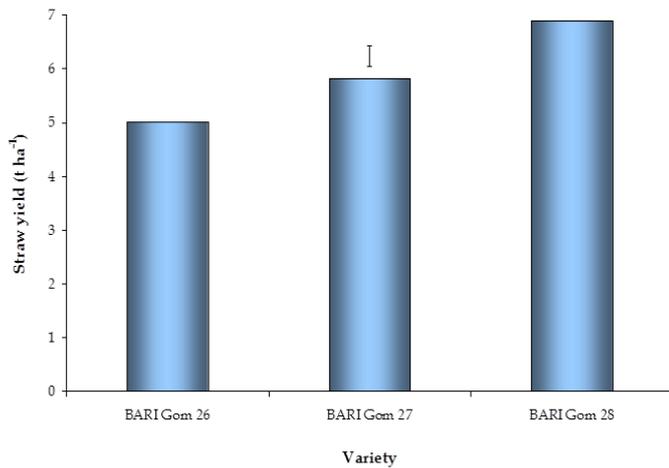


Figure 17. Effect of variety on straw yield of wheat.

Conclusion

Wheat varieties showed statistically significant variation on the growth, yield and yield contributing characteristics. BARI Gom-28 produced highest yield and yield contributing parameters while lower value of all those parameters was recorded at BARI Gom-26. Similarly, mulching has profound effect on growth; yield and yield contributing characters and straw mulch seemed to be helpful for better yields. The interaction effect of varieties and mulching showed significant in relation to yield and yield components except plant height, spike length, 1000 seed weight and harvest index (%). The highest values were obtained BARI Gom-28 with rice straw mulch. Therefore, in order to obtain higher grain yield, farmers may be advised to grow BARI Gom-28 with rice straw mulch. Therefore, it may be concluded that mulching with rice straw treatment can be used successfully in an integrated way for the successful cultivation of wheat.

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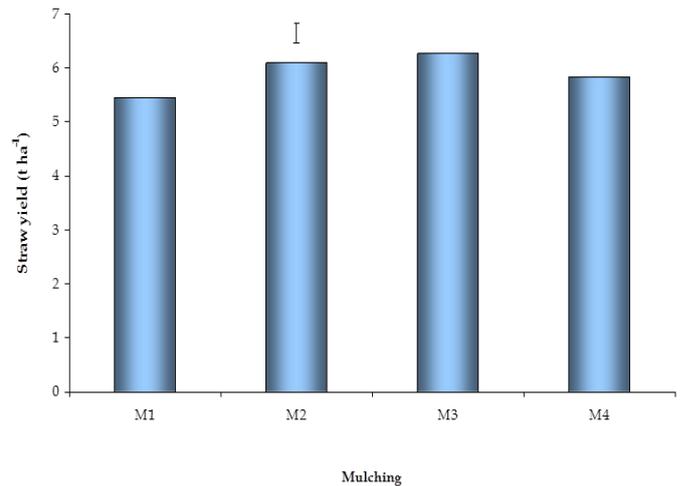


Figure 18. Effect of mulching on straw yield of wheat (M₁= control, M₂= mulching with water hyacinth, M₃= mulching with rice straw, M₄= two irrigations atCRI and flowering stage).

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