

## THE INFLUENCE OF SOWING TIME AND PLANT POPULATION ON KENAF GROWTH AND YIELDS

Efthimia Alexopoulou, Myrsini Christou, Anastasia Nicholaou and Michalis Mardikis  
Center for Renewable Energy Sources -19<sup>th</sup> Km Marathonos Ave., 190 09 Pikermi, Greece  
Tel: + 30 210 6609382, Fax: + 30 210 6603301, e-mail: [ealex@cres.gr](mailto:ealex@cres.gr)

**ABSTRACT:** Kenaf is a multi-purpose crop since the two stem fractions (bark and core) can be used for a number of industrial applications. The main aim of this work was to investigate the effect of sowing time (17/6/03 and 6/7/03) and plant population (200,000 and 400,000 plants/ha) on growth and yields of two kenaf varieties (Tainung 2 and Everglades 41) in the pedoclimatic conditions of central Greece. A large number of measurements (plant height, stem diameter and leaf area meter) and harvests were carried out throughout the growing season in order to monitor the growth and yields of kenaf. It was found that between the two sowing times the early sowing resulted in higher yields, while between the two plant populations the most productive was the high one. It should be pointed out that in both cases statistically significant differences were recorded only in very few cases ( $P < 0.05$ , LSD Test). Further to that the peak yields for the early sowing came up to 23.2 t/ha, while for the late sowing was 18 t/ha. At the same time the peak yields for the plots with the high density was 20.2 t/ha, while for the plots with the low density was 19 t/ha. It's worth mentioning that both varieties gave almost the same growth and productivity with a small superiority of Tainung 2 over Everglades 41 (20 versus to 19.2 t/ha).

**Keywords:** kenaf, biomass production, yields