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## Economical Analysis of Chamomile (*Matricaria recutita* L.) Cultivars, Flower Yields Which are Obtained from Different Sowing Times and Row Spacing

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### ABSTRACT

This study was conducted with split-split plots experimental design based on four replications in the ecological conditions of Yalova in the area of Atatürk Central Horticultural Research Institute in growing seasons of 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.

In the study three chamomile (*Matricaria recutita* L.) cultivars (Bona, Bodegold and Zloty Lan) and a genotype, which was collected from the flora of Yalova Province, were used as material. There were four cultivars/genotypes, three sowing time (early November, early October, end of October) and four rows spacing (15 cm, 30 cm, 45 cm, 60 cm). Sowing times were constructed to main plots, cultivars/genotypes to sub plots and row spacing to sub-sub plots.

The highest gross profit was calculated as 8818.33 € ha<sup>-1</sup> in first time of Zloty Lan cultivar at 15 cm row spacing. Although the Yalova genotype has the lowest cost, the gross profit among the cultivars/genotypes has been the lowest genotype.

Keywords: Chamomile; *Matricaria recutita* L.; Economical analysis; Gross profit; Sowing time; Row spacing

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## 1. Introduction

Medicinal and aromatic plants are used as healing, medicine, food and condiment for centuries. For this reason, the cultivation of certain plants such as cumin, poppy, anise have been ongoing from prehistoric ages. Essential oils and aromatic extracts were used widely as the source of aromatic chemicals, as the starting synthesis material of natural identical or

semi-synthesized aromatic chemicals, as perfumes by smell and flavor industries, for the composition of food additives, cleaning products, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals (Güngör et al 2005; Bayram et al 2010).

Although more than 40% of drugs, which were listed in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, were herbal origin, this ratio was decreased further than 5% in the middle of the 1970s. However, especially after

the 1990s, the discovery of new areas of medicinal and aromatic plants, and the increasing demand for natural products increased the volume of use of these plants day by day (Bayram et al 2010). One of the plants, chamomile (*Matricaria recutita* L.), (Syn. *M. chamomilla*), has been using as folk medicine in Turkey and the World since ancient times. Thoughts on the power of treating are based on phytotherapy and ancient scientific studies, which was described by Hippocrates, Plinius, Dioscorides and Galen. These were also known by “Chamaemelon” who was known as Plinius, Dioscorides and Arabian doctors. The chamomile oil which was known as blue oil and important even today was discussed first time in 1588 (Gül 1995; Ceylan 1996). A famous Slovak proverb says: “An individual should always bow before the curative powers of the chamomile flower tea” (Salamon 2004).

Despite the growth of the world market, it is difficult to find chamomile’s production values worldwide. Because, chamomile is cultivated on a small scales and statistics are not given by separating other medicinal and aromatic plants. Today these plants are produced in countries with low labor costs and are exported to industrialized countries.

Although there have been about agronomic studies of chamomile on agriculture, there has not been much work on the economic analysis of camomile farming.

In this study, the effects of different sowing times and different row spacing on total cost, gross profit and net profit were investigated in chamomile cultivars/genotypes and the result was tried to

determine the highest gross profit. Thus, it is aimed to contribute to world literature on economical analysis of chamomile farming.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1. Material

In this study, the data obtained from the study which was carried out according to with split-split plots experimental design based on four replications in the ecological conditions of Yalova in the area of Atatürk Central Horticultural Research Institute in growing seasons of 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 were used as material.

### 2.2. Method

The data obtained from the field research below is analyzed according to the gross margin analysis method.

The field research was conducted with split-split plots experimental design based on four replications in the ecological conditions of Yalova in the area of Atatürk Central Horticultural Research Institute in growing seasons of 2008-2009 and 2010-2011. In the study, there were four cultivars/genotypes, three sowing time and four rows spacing. Sowing times were constructed to main plots, cultivars to sub plots and row spacing to sub-sub plots.

The groups were classified as; Cultivars/genotypes: Bona, Bodegold, Zloty Lan, Yalova

Sowings times are done in three different times. Sowing dates are presented as in following:

Sowing time	2008-2009 growing season	2010-2011 growing season
1. Sowing time	10 November 2008	10 November 2011
2. Sowing time	02 December 2008	30 November 2011
3. Sowing time	26 December 2008	23 December 2011

It was planned 15 cm, 30 cm, 45 cm and 60 cm as row spacing.

The trail was established in 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 growing seasons. Sowing lines was

prepared in a way to prevent seeds from flying from the winds. 1.5 g seeds were used in each parcel by calculating 278 g seeds in each ha<sup>-1</sup>. All seed quantities were calculated one by one for all

distances between rows. The amount of seed in each row seed was weighted in 0.0001 sensitivities due to the number of sowing rows. The weighed seeds were mixed with fine wood flour and then packed ready for planting. In both two seasons, 60 kg N, 40 kg P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and 40 kg K<sub>2</sub>O were given to ha<sup>-1</sup> according to Johri et al (1991). Also, fertilizers including phosphorus and potassium was given to soil before sowing. Nitrogenous fertilizer was given 40 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> before sowing and remaining amount was given one month after the emergence. 26% ammonium nitrate was used for the remaining 20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> nitrogenous fertilizer. The necessary maintenance and irrigation procedures from the planting stage have been carried out until harvesting time. Any disease was not observed in the trail; however, aphid pest was found at the beginnings of april and may in both two seasons, against to this, a chemical struggle was carried out with an agricultural drug including diazinon-acting substance. With this chemical struggle, plant was prevented from negative effects of this pest.

Gross profit, which is suitable to compare profitability of companies, was used to make economic analysis. Gross profit was calculated by using the formula;

$$\text{Gross profit} = \text{Gross production value} - \text{Variable costs} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Gross margin} = \text{Total production} - \text{Indirect costs} \quad (2)$$

When the sum of the gross margins of the company's production is equal to the indirect costs, it is in dead or is operating breakeven or zero point (Karagölge 2001). Gross profit in the short-term value of agriculture products can be an important benchmark criterion. The data related to four chamomile cultivar/genotypes was coded into computer in terms of production cost, row spacing and cultivars to analyse them with different time and sowing distances. Then variable costs (seed bed preparation, sowing, irrigation, weed control, pest control, fertilizer, labor costs) and total production costs were calculated with respect to groups. In addition to gross margin analysis techniques, simple percent calculations were done during analysis.

The gross profit per hectare has been calculated by multiplication of yield by price by attempting to sell wholesale to the herbalists in Turkey. Kruskal Wallis test was also used to identify statistically different groups by using some sample of data. The Kruskal-Wallis test is a non-parametric method for testing whether samples originate from the same distribution. It is used for comparing two or more independent samples of equal or different sample sizes (Kruskal & Wallis 1952).

### 3. Results and Discussion

Table 1 demonstrates the data obtained from different chamomile cultivar productions used in the study. The costs related to tillage, fertilizing, spraying and watering for all independent variables which were chamomile cultivars, sowing times, and row spacing were calculated equal to each other. Additionally; variable expenses, which were sowing costs and seed expenses for Bodegold, Bona and Zloty Lan, were 769.23 € ha<sup>-1</sup> for each one. Seed expense for Yalova genotype population was 316.74 € ha<sup>-1</sup>. The seed costs of foreign cultivars were higher than that of domestic genotype, because foreign cultivars of chamomile seed were imported from outside countries and they include Chamazulene in essential oil.

According to Table 1, the minimum maintenance costs are seen with 4.42% at second sowing time of Bodegold cultivar at 60 cm row spacing, and maximum one is seen with 17.27% at second sowing time of Yalova genotype at 15 cm row spacing. Another cost, harvesting and marketing costs, for first sowing time of Bodegold cultivar at 60 cm row spacing were found as minimum with 13.26%, while the maximum one was second sowing time of Yalova population at 15 cm row spacing with 25.90%. In this study, all of the harvests were made by hand. Manual harvesting is more costly in terms of time and energy than machine harvesting (Stričik & Salamon 2007). But for one ha and less, manual harvest is more profitable than machine harvest. On the other hand, for higher production areas, machine harvest is more profitable than manual harvest (Ivanović et al 2014). It is thought that the ratio of

**Table 1- Variable costs and ratios for groups (€ ha<sup>-1</sup>, %)**

Sowing time	Cultivars	Row spacing (cm)	Maintenance costs		Harvesting and marketing costs		Other variable costs		Total variable costs	
			EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
I. Time	Bodegold	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Bona	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Zloty Lan	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
Yalova	15	361.99	17.27	542.99	25.90	1191.18	56.83	2096.15	100.00	
	30	271.49	14.30	452.49	23.83	1174.89	61.87	1898.87	100.00	
	45	181.00	10.64	361.99	21.27	1158.60	68.09	1701.58	100.00	
	60	90.50	6.02	271.49	18.05	1142.31	75.94	1504.30	100.00	
II. Time	Bodegold	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Bona	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Zloty Lan	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
Yalova	15	361.99	17.27	542.99	25.90	1191.18	56.83	2096.15	100.00	
	30	271.49	14.30	452.49	23.83	1174.89	61.87	1898.87	100.00	
	45	181.00	10.64	361.99	21.27	1158.60	68.09	1701.58	100.00	
	60	90.50	6.02	271.49	18.05	1142.31	75.94	1504.30	100.00	
III. Time	Bodegold	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Bona	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
	Zloty Lan	15	361.99	13.72	542.99	20.58	1733.71	65.70	2638.69	100.00
		30	271.49	11.12	452.49	18.53	1717.42	70.35	2441.40	100.00
		45	181.00	8.07	361.99	16.13	1701.13	75.80	2244.12	100.00
		60	90.50	4.42	271.49	13.26	1684.84	82.31	2046.83	100.00
Yalova	15	361.99	17.27	542.99	25.90	1191.18	56.83	2096.15	100.00	
	30	271.49	14.30	452.49	23.83	1174.89	61.87	1898.87	100.00	
	45	181.00	10.64	361.99	21.27	1158.60	68.09	1701.58	100.00	
	60	90.50	6.02	271.49	18.05	1142.31	75.94	1504.30	100.00	

the cost of harvest in total variable costs may be lower when the harvest is mechanized.

In the study, the production values were calculated separately for different sowing times (I., II., III.), cultivars/genotype (Bodegold, Bona, Zloty Lan and Yalova) and row spacing (15, 30, 45 and 60 cm).

According to Table 2, for all three cultivars except Yalova genotype, the total production and variable costs were found to be the highest at the row spacing of 15 cm in every three-sowing time. While the production cost per unit was considered the most cost was 44.62 € ha<sup>-1</sup> at third sowing time of Bodegold cultivar at 30 cm row spacing, the lowest one was 18.10 € ha<sup>-1</sup> at first sowing time of Zloty Lan cultivar at 15 cm row spacing.

When the differences among cultivars/genotypes were examined at the end of the statistical analysis; while there was no statistical significance between sowing time and total variable costs, there was significance of production cost per unit in terms of sowing times. When the cultivars/genotype were evaluated in terms of the differences on costs; the differences among total variable costs, total production costs and production cost per unit was found as statistically significant. When row spacing among groups were examined; total variable costs and total production costs were found as significance, but production costs per unit was not found significant (Table 2). While analysing gross margins; sale prices as flos chamomillae of Bodegold, Bona, Zloty Lan was 6.79 € kg<sup>-1</sup>, that of Yalova genotype was 4.53 € kg<sup>-1</sup>. The main reason of that price difference is cultivars that used as a material in this study include chamazulene inside, but Yalova population do not contain this matter. This situation results with lower selling price for Yalova genotype relatively. When the efficiency, gross production value, gross profit and net profit were examined; the maximum result for these variables was found for first sowing time of Zloty Lan cultivar at 15 cm row spacing. The minimum efficiency, gross profit and net profit were calculated for third sowing time of Bodegold cultivar at 30 cm

row spacing. The minimum gross production value was 3900.45 € ha<sup>-1</sup> for third sowing time of Yalova genotype at 30 cm row spacing.

In the statistical analysis to identify the differences between group for yield and production value; the differences among all sowing times were found as significant (Table 3). Additionally, the statistical analysis for cultivars/genotype were also significant. According to Table 3 statistical analysis for row spacing demonstrated that just there is a significant difference for yield and no significant difference was found for gross production value, gross profit and net profit. As a conclusion, there were four cultivars/genotype, three sowing time (early November, early October, end of October) and four rows spacing (15 cm, 30 cm, 45 cm, 60 cm) in the study and the gross margin analyses were done and the most important costs in variable expenses were found as seed cost, maintenance costs and harvesting costs. The important reason of why variable costs was important was different row spacing. As decrease the row spacing had increased both yield and maintenance costs in this study.

While other researchers (Kwiatkowski 2015) obtained the highest yield at 35 and 45 cm row spacing, the highest yield in our study was obtained from the lowest row spacing of 15 cm. It is presumed that this is caused by the fact that Kwiatkowski (2015)'s study is different in sowing time (in April) and different cultural practices (different growth stimulators).

Finally, although the differences among groups were not high ratios and statistically significant, the maximum gross profit was calculated for first sowing time of Zloty Lan cultivar at 15 cm row spacing and the minimum one was found for third sowing time of Bodegold cultivar at 30 cm row spacing.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this study, three of the four different types of chamomile used as material are imported. The Yalova genotype is domestic. Therefore, the seed costs of imported varieties are higher than those of the domestic genotype. As a result of the statistical

**Table 2- Variable costs, total production costs and production cost per unit for groups**

<i>Sowing time</i>	<i>Cultivars</i>	<i>Row spacing (cm)</i>	<i>Variable cost (€ ha<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<i>Total production cost (€ ha<sup>-1</sup>)</i>	<i>Production cost per unit (€ ha<sup>-1</sup>)</i>
I. Time	Bodegold	15	2638.69	3057.19	25.34
		30	2441.40	2854.03	30.00
		45	2244.12	2650.81	28.46
		60	2046.83	2447.60	28.14
	Bona	15	2638.69	3057.19	21.09
		30	2441.40	2854.03	22.81
		45	2244.12	2650.81	24.84
		60	2046.83	2447.60	21.13
	Zloty Lan	15	2638.69	3057.19	18.10
		30	2441.40	2854.03	25.57
		45	2244.12	2650.81	22.49
	Yalova	60	2046.83	2447.60	24.48
15		2096.15	2498.42	24.07	
30		1898.87	2295.20	18.46	
45		1701.58	2091.99	22.35	
60		1504.30	1888.78	18.73	
15		2638.69	3057.19	20.68	
II. Time	Bodegold	30	2441.40	2854.03	23.94
		45	2244.12	2650.81	26.20
		60	2046.83	2447.60	26.24
		15	2638.69	3057.19	28.42
	Bona	30	2441.40	2854.03	27.69
		45	2244.12	2650.81	24.21
		60	2046.83	2447.60	22.35
		15	2638.69	3057.19	22.26
	Zloty Lan	30	2441.40	2854.03	27.78
		45	2244.12	2650.81	26.15
		60	2046.83	2447.60	21.22
	Yalova	15	2096.15	2498.42	24.25
30		1898.87	2295.20	26.47	
45		1701.58	2091.99	21.18	
60		1504.30	1888.78	19.28	
15		2638.69	3057.19	37.29	
30		2441.40	2854.03	44.62	
III. Time	Bodegold	45	2244.12	2650.81	33.35
		60	2046.83	2447.60	37.33
		15	2638.69	3057.19	27.60
		30	2441.40	2854.03	33.85
	Bona	45	2244.12	2650.81	39.00
		60	2046.83	2447.60	32.62
		15	2638.69	3057.19	28.73
		30	2441.40	2854.03	25.38
	Zloty Lan	45	2244.12	2650.81	22.31
		60	2046.83	2447.60	25.75
		15	2096.15	2498.42	22.94
	Yalova	30	1898.87	2295.20	26.61
45		1701.58	2091.99	23.67	
60		1504.30	1888.78	20.45	

**Table 3- Yield, gross production value, gross profit and net profit values for groups**

Sowing time	Cultivars	Row spacing (cm)	Yield (ton ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross production value (€ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross profit (€ ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Net profit (€ ha <sup>-1</sup> )
I. Time	Bodegold	15	1.21	8192.31	5553.62	5135.11
		30	0.95	6454.75	4013.35	3600.72
		45	0.93	6325.79	4081.67	3674.98
	Bona	60	0.87	5904.98	3858.14	3457.38
		15	1.45	9848.42	7209.73	6791.22
		30	1.25	8497.74	6056.33	5643.71
	Zloty Lan	45	1.07	7242.08	4997.96	4591.27
		60	1.16	7866.52	5819.68	5418.91
		15	1.69	11457.01	8818.33	8399.82
	Yalova	30	1.12	7581.45	5140.05	4727.42
		45	1.18	7995.48	5751.36	5344.66
		60	1.00	6787.33	4740.50	4339.73
II. Time	Bodegold	15	1.04	4692.31	2596.15	2193.89
		30	1.24	5628.96	3730.09	3333.76
		45	0.94	4235.29	2533.71	2143.30
	Bona	60	1.01	4561.09	3056.79	2672.31
		15	1.48	10031.67	7392.99	6974.48
		30	1.19	8090.50	5649.10	5236.47
	Zloty Lan	45	1.01	6861.99	4617.87	4211.18
		60	0.93	6332.58	4285.75	3884.98
		15	1.08	7303.17	4664.48	4245.97
	Yalova	30	1.03	6990.95	4549.55	4136.92
		45	1.10	7432.13	5188.01	4781.31
		60	1.10	7438.91	5392.08	4991.31
III. Time	Bodegold	15	1.37	9325.79	6687.10	6268.60
		30	1.03	6970.59	4529.19	4116.56
		45	1.01	6875.57	4631.45	4224.75
	Bona	60	1.15	7827.15	5780.32	5379.55
		15	1.03	4660.63	2564.48	2162.22
		30	0.87	3923.08	2024.21	1627.87
	Zloty Lan	45	0.99	4466.06	2764.48	2374.07
		60	0.98	4429.86	2925.57	2541.09
		15	0.82	5565.61	2926.92	2508.42
	Yalova	30	0.64	4343.89	1902.49	1489.86
		45	0.80	5395.93	3151.81	2745.11
		60	0.66	4452.49	2405.66	2004.89
III. Time	Bodegold	15	1.11	7513.57	4874.89	4456.38
		30	0.84	5721.72	3280.32	2867.69
		45	0.68	4615.38	2371.27	1964.57
	Bona	60	0.75	5090.50	3043.67	2642.90
		15	1.06	7221.72	4583.03	4164.52
		30	1.13	7635.75	5194.34	4781.72
	Zloty Lan	45	1.19	8063.35	5819.23	5412.53
		60	0.95	6454.75	4407.92	4007.15
		15	1.09	4932.13	2835.97	2433.71
	Yalova	30	0.86	3900.45	2001.58	1605.25
		45	0.88	4000.00	2298.42	1908.01
		60	0.92	4176.47	2672.17	2287.69

analysis, it is meaningful that significant differences were found between product and total variable costs. The reason for the high gross profit and net profit obtained from the import varieties used as the material in the study is that the selling price of the product is higher than the domestic genotype. The fact that imported varieties can be sold at 50% more price than the Yalova genotype is the most important reason for this difference. This result supports the fact that the difference between the groups in terms of yield and production values is significant in terms of statistical analysis.

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