

Impact of NPS Fertilizer and Plant Spacing on Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.) Yield and Quality

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ABSTRACT

Coriander (Coriandrum sativum L.) is a widely cultivated herb valued for its aromatic leaves and seeds, which are used in culinary and medicinal applications. Optimizing its cultivation practices, particularly in terms of nutrient management and plant spacing, is crucial for maximizing yield and quality. This review comprehensively examines the effects of NPS (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulfur) fertilizer and plant spacing on the growth, yield, and quality of coriander. It aims to synthesize recent research findings, highlight the optimal fertilizer rates and spacing configurations, and discuss their implications for sustainable coriander production.

Keywords: Coriander, *Coriandrum sativum*, NPS fertilizer, plant spacing, yield, quality, sustainable agriculture.

Introduction

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.), also known as cilantro, is an indispensable herb used extensively in culinary traditions and traditional medicines around the world. Its leaves, seeds, and essential oils are valued for their distinctive flavor and therapeutic properties. The productivity and quality of coriander are influenced by various agronomic practices, with fertilizer application and plant spacing playing pivotal roles. Fertilizers, particularly those providing essential nutrients such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and sulfur (S), are crucial for promoting vigorous plant growth, enhancing yield, and improving quality. NPS fertilizers, which combine these three nutrients, have shown promise in optimizing coriander cultivation [1-3]. Simultaneously, appropriate plant spacing is essential to ensure that coriander plants receive adequate sunlight, nutrients, and water, thereby reducing competition and promoting healthier growth. This review aims to comprehensively examine the effects of NPS fertilizer application and plant spacing on coriander's growth, yield, and quality. By synthesizing recent research findings, this review seeks to provide insights into the best practices for maximizing coriander production while maintaining sustainability and economic viability [4].

NPS Fertilizer and Its Importance

NPS fertilizer is an integral component of modern agronomy, providing a balanced source of three essential nutrients that are critical for plant growth and development. Nitrogen (N) is vital for vegetative growth, as it is a major component of chlorophyll, the compound responsible for photosynthesis, and it plays a significant role in the synthesis of amino acids, proteins, and nucleic acids [5-6]. Phosphorus (P) is crucial for energy transfer processes within the plant, including the formation of ATP, and is essential for the development of robust root systems, which

enhance the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients. Additionally, phosphorus is important for flowering and seed production. Sulfur (S) is another essential nutrient, involved in the synthesis of certain amino acids and proteins, as well as in various enzymatic processes. It is also important for the formation of chlorophyll and aids in the overall health and resilience of the plant [7-8]. The balanced application of NPS fertilizer ensures that coriander plants receive these vital nutrients in appropriate proportions, promoting optimal growth, improving yield, and enhancing the quality of the produce. By understanding and utilizing the benefits of NPS fertilizer, farmers can achieve healthier and more productive coriander crops, contributing to both agricultural sustainability and economic profitability. Recent studies have shown that NPS fertilizers can significantly enhance coriander's growth and yield. This review will analyze the optimal application rates and timing to maximize these benefits.

Effect of Plant Spacing

Plant spacing plays a crucial role in the growth and development of coriander by influencing several key factors such as light interception, air circulation, and nutrient availability. Proper spacing ensures that each coriander plant receives adequate sunlight, which is essential for photosynthesis and healthy growth [9]. Additionally, good air circulation around plants helps reduce the incidence of diseases by minimizing the humidity levels that can promote fungal and bacterial growth. Adequate spacing also allows plants to access sufficient nutrients and water from the soil, reducing competition and ensuring that each plant can thrive [10]. Various spacing configurations have been studied to determine their impact on coriander yield and quality. Close spacing may lead to competition for resources, resulting in weaker plants and lower yields, while too wide spacing can lead to underutilization of

available land. Optimal spacing, therefore, is a balance that maximizes resource use efficiency and promotes healthy, robust plants.

Combined Effects of NPS Fertilizer and Spacing

The interaction between NPS fertilizer application and plant spacing is complex and pivotal in optimizing coriander production. Properly balanced NPS fertilizer enhances nutrient availability, which, when coupled with optimal plant spacing, can significantly boost coriander's growth parameters, yield components, and essential oil content [11]. Different combinations of NPS fertilizer rates and plant spacing have been shown to influence various aspects of coriander growth. For instance, high NPS fertilizer rates may increase vegetative growth and yield, but if plants are spaced too closely, competition for light, air, and nutrients can negate these benefits. Conversely, wider spacing with appropriate NPS fertilization can maximize individual plant growth and essential oil production by ensuring each plant has sufficient resources. Research indicates that specific combinations of NPS fertilizer and plant spacing can enhance both the quantity and quality of coriander yield, including improved seed weight, higher essential oil concentration, and better overall plant health.

Implications for Sustainable Agriculture

Optimizing the use of NPS fertilizer and plant spacing has significant environmental and economic implications for sustainable agriculture. By ensuring precise application of NPS fertilizer, farmers can reduce the risk of nutrient runoff and soil degradation, which are common issues associated with over-fertilization. This careful management helps maintain soil health and protect surrounding ecosystems from nutrient pollution. Additionally, proper plant spacing reduces the need for excessive inputs, such as water and pesticides, by promoting healthier plant growth and natural resistance to pests and diseases [12-17]. Economically, these sustainable practices can lead to higher yields and better-quality produce, thereby increasing farmers' profitability. By maximizing resource efficiency and minimizing waste, farmers can achieve more cost-effective production systems. This review will discuss strategies for implementing sustainable NPS fertilizer and plant spacing practices, such as precision agriculture techniques and integrated nutrient management, which aim to optimize resource use while preserving environmental integrity [18-20]. By adopting these practices, farmers can achieve sustainable and profitable coriander production, contributing to long-term agricultural sustainability and food security.

Conclusion

Optimizing NPS fertilizer application and plant spacing is crucial for enhancing the yield and quality of coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.). This review synthesizes current research findings, offering valuable insights into how these agronomic practices impact coriander cultivation. Properly balanced NPS fertilizer ensures that coriander plants receive essential nutrients, promoting vigorous growth and high-quality produce. Additionally, optimal plant spacing enhances light interception, air circulation, and nutrient availability, leading to healthier plants and improved yields. By adopting the recommended practices, farmers, agronomists, and researchers can achieve sustainable and profitable coriander production. Implementing these strategies not only boosts productivity but

also supports environmental sustainability and economic viability in coriander farming.

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