THE EFFECT OF PREHARVEST FACTORS ON L-ASCORBIC ACID CONTENT OF *L. SATIVA, S. OLERACEA* AND *A. CEPA*

— research paper —

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Abstract: the present paper deals with the content of one of the most important antioxidant vitamins in fruits and vegetables -vitamin C, also known as L-ascorbic acid from active plant tissues of lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), spinach (*Spinacia oleracea)* and onion (*Allium cepa)*, in the seedling stage. It is known that content of vitamin C varies with plant species and different environmental factors. Quantitative determination of L-ascorbic acid in the investigated plants showed in all studied species a slightly increased content of vitamin C when growing on natural soil without chemical fertilization compared to the nitrogen fertilized soil. We obtained a higher content of vitamin C in case of *Allium cepa,* because of better conditions of growth and development and climate conditions. The obtained results of the present study confirm the importance of the nutrients content and antioxidant properties (L-ascorbic acid, respectively) for plants grown in organic agriculture (ecological).

Keywords: L-ascorbic acid, *Lactuca sativa*, *Spinacia oleracea*, *Allium cepa*, preharvest factors

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