EVALUATION OF SOWING DATES AND PLANTING DEPTH ON EMERGENCE CHARACTERISTICS AND PRODUCING TUBER OF MEDICO-INDUSTRIAL PLANT OF *FERULA GUMMOSA*

**Zahra Bekzade**¹⁺, Feraidon Mellati¹, Kamal E Din Naseri¹, Mehdi Rastgoo²

¹Natural Resources and Environmental Faculty, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran
²Agriculture Faculty, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran
E-mail: z_beagzade@yahoo.com

To assessing the effects of planting dates and depths on emergence and tuber production of endangered medico-industrial *Ferula gummosa*, an outdoor pot experiment conducted in Natural Resources and Environment Faculty of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad at 2011. The experiment had done as Factorial in completely randomized design with 10 replications. Treatments contained 5 levels of planting dates (26 January, 10 March, 25 March, 15 April, 25 April) and 2 level of planting depths (2 and 4 cm). Results showed that sowing dates, depths, and their interactions have significant effect on the percentage and speed of seed germination of *Ferula gummosa*. The first sowing date (3 February) show the highest rate of emergence about 54% and no emergence observed at planting dates of April 3 and 13. Emergence rate was also higher a little but significant in 2cm than 4cm planting depth. The second planting date (26 January) with an average of 1.25 tubers per pots, shows the highest tuber production while no tuber production observed at two last sowing dates. Base of the results of this study, relatively deep planting of *ferula gummosa* in mid-winter, have more priority than spring sowing due to higher speed and percentage of germination and also tuber production.

**References**