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## **IMPROVING SOIL FERTILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF FLAME SEEDLESS GRAPEVINES GROWN UNDER SANDY SOIL BY APPLICATION OF HUMIC ACID**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Flame seedless grapevines grown under sandy soil were fertilized with the suitable amount of N (80 g / vine) through 20 to 100% inorganic and / or humic acid at 2.0 to 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup>/ vine as a trial for improving sandy soil fertility, vine nutritional status and productivity of the vines. The study also aimed to partially reduce the amount of inorganic N by using humic acid for decreasing pollution of the berries with nitrite and nitrate.

Results showed that reducing the amount of inorganic N from 100 to 50 % of the suitable N and increasing the amount of humic acid from 2.0 to 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup>/ vine were accompanied with improvement in soil fertility and growth , N, P and K content , yield, physical and chemical characters of the grapes. Reducing the amount of inorganic N from 50 to 20% of the suitable rate of N even with the application of humic acid had inferior effects on the studied parameters. Combined application of N in inorganic form and humic acid was favourable than using inorganic N alone in this respect.

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The best results with regard to soil fertility, and Flame seedless grapevines nutritional status and productivity of grown under sandy soil were obtained with supplying the vines with 1.5 g N/ vine as 0.5% inorganic plus humic acid at 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/ vine. This treatment greatly reduced nitrite and nitrate contents in the juice of the berries.

### INTRODUCTION

It was evidence in the last three decades that the reclamation and improvement of new lands in Egypt is an absolute must to face the ever increasing demands of the growing population. The majority of the new lands in Egypt was sandy saline soils. Poor structure and consequently low available water capacity are the main problems of the sandy saline soils. Other limitations are the low fertility and the higher salts contents (Nijjar, 1980). The reclamation of these soils in Egypt was mainly by addition of natural amendments such as organic materials in different forms (Mengel, 1984).

Nitrogen fertilization is an important and limiting factor for growth, nutritional status and fruiting of grapevines. Considerable amounts of N applied to the soil are lost through leaching, accordingly additional amount of N has to be added in different N sources namely organic and humic acids. Several studies were carried out for finding the best N management that is responsible for improving fruiting of different grapevine cvs. However, the high cost of inorganic fertilizers is a major problem facing grape growers in addition to their roles on health problems and environmental pollution. Therefore, great attention was paid to fulfill the nutrient requirements of grapevines from organic sources. Using of organic fertilizers not only increase the organic matter in the soil but also enhance the available P, K and most micronutrients perhaps through their effects on lowering soil pH. Using organic fertilizers also improve water use efficiency, and avoid all forms of pollution that may result from conventional agricultural techniques (Nijjar, 1980 and Miller *et al.*, 1990).

Applications of organic fertilizers in vineyards is a production system that avoids or largely excludes the use of mineral N fertilizer.

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Thus, produce uncontaminated fruits and juice. Organic fertilizers and humic acid had higher amounts of essential nutrients and growth regulators and also (Vercesi, ۲۰۰۰) beneficial in solving soil and water salinity and improving soil fertility physically and chemically (Nijjar, ۱۹۸۰ and Miller *et al.*, ۱۹۹۰).

The positive action of organic fertilizers on fruiting of fruit crops might be attributed to their positive action on improving the biological activity, water holding capacity of the soil, soil fertility, soil organic matter as well as their important roles in reducing soil erosion, (the deterioration of the soil structure) soil salinity and soil pH (Mengel and Kirkby, ۱۹۸۲; Mengel, ۱۹۸۴, Darwish, *et al.*, ۱۹۹۰; Dahama, ۱۹۹۹ and Vercesi, ۲۰۰۰).

Humic substances namely humic acid, fulvic acid and humin act as conditioners for the soil and as bio catalyst and improve soil structure, and increase root development. Also, addition of organic matter to organically deficient soils, increase root vitality, improve nutrient uptake, increase chlorophyll synthesis, better seed germination, increase fertilizer retention, stimulate beneficial microbial activity and produce healthier plants and improve yield. Humic acids, the fraction of humic substances that is not soluble in water under acidic conditions but is soluble at higher pH values, are dark brown to black in color. Fulvic acids, the fraction of humic substances that is soluble in water under all pH conditions, Fulvic acids are light yellow to yellow brown in color. Human, the fraction of humic substances that is not soluble in water at any pH value and in alkali are black in color. (Stevenson, ۱۹۸۲, Gaffney *et al.*, ۱۹۹۶, Hayes and Wilson, ۱۹۹۷, Davis and Ghabbour, ۱۹۹۸ and Kabeel *et al.*, ۲۰۰۸).

Humic acid and other organic fertilizers are essential in enhancing growth and fruiting of fruit crops growing under sandy soil (Ahmed *et al.*, ۱۹۹۶; Kose and Guleryuz, ۱۹۹۹; Ragab and Mohamed, ۱۹۹۹; Ahmed, *et al.*, ۲۰۰۰; Ezz- Thanaa, ۲۰۰۰; Krajnc, ۲۰۰۰; Dobrie *et al.*, ۲۰۰۱; Conradie, ۲۰۰۱; Zachariakis *et al.*, ۲۰۰۱; Kassem and Marzouk, ۲۰۰۲; Gobara *et al.*, ۲۰۰۲; Kamel, ۲۰۰۲;

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Salama , ٢٠٠٢ ; Abd El- Ghafar- Gehan, ٢٠٠٢ ; Ahmed, *et al.*, ٢٠٠٣; Abd El- Hameed and Rabea , ٢٠٠٥ ; El- Shenawy and Stino ٢٠٠٢a and ٢٠٠٢b; Omar and Abd Elaal, ٢٠٠٥ ; Omar, ٢٠٠٥; El- Hamady, *et al.*, ٢٠٠٥; Saleh *et al.*, ٢٠٠٦; El- Khafagy, ٢٠٠٦; Abd El-aal *et al.*, ٢٠٠٧; Masoud, ٢٠٠٨; Abada , ٢٠٠٩ and Gad El- Kareem, ٢٠٠٩).

The objective of this study was to examine the effect of humic acid on the improvement of soil fertility and the productivity of Flame seedless grapevines grown under sandy soil.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This investigation was carried out during three consecutive seasons of ٢٠٠٧, ٢٠٠٨ and ٢٠٠٩ on ١١٧ ten-years Flame seedless grapevines. The selected vines were visually uniform in vigour, grown in sandy soil at ٢ x ٣ m apart in a private vineyard located at Matay district, Minia Governorate. Irrigation was made by drip system. Short (spur) pruning method with Gable shape supporting system was followed. Pruning was made in the middle of Jan leaving ٧٢ eyes / vine ( on the basis of ١٥ fruiting spurs x four eyes + six replacement spares x two eyes) . Soil analysis before study start and at the end of each season was carried out according to the procedures of Page *et al.*, (١٩٨٢) and Wilde *et al.*, (١٩٨٥). The obtained data at the start of experiment are shown in Table (١) and at the end of each season are illustrated in Tables ٥ and ٦.

**Table ١ : Soil analysis at the trial location:**

Characters	Values
Sand %	٨١.٥
Silt %	٩.٠
Clay %	٩.٥
Texture	Sandy
O.M. %	١.٥
pH ( ١ : ٢.٥ suspension)	٧.٩٦

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<b>E.C. ( 1:2.5 extract) ( mmhos/1 cm/25°C)</b>	1.11
<b>CaCO<sub>3</sub> %</b>	1.52
<b>Total N %</b>	0.08
<b>Available K ( ammonium acetate ppm)</b>	50.5
<b>Available P ( Olsen method, ppm)</b>	3.5

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This experiment included the following thirteen treatments from inorganic N and humic acid applications:

- 1- Application of the suitable N ( 80 g vine) completely via inorganic form (300 g ammonium sulphate / vine)
- 2- Application of 50% of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine)
- 3- Application of 50% of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 2.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 4- Application of 50% of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 0.5 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 5- Application of 50% of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 1.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 6- Application of 0.5 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (100 g ammonium sulphate / vine).
- 7- Application of 0.5 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (100 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 0.5 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 8- Application of 0.5 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (100 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 1.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 9- Application of 0.5 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (100 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 2.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 10- Application of 50 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine).
- 11- Application 50% of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 1.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 12- Application of 50% of eth suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 2.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.
- 13- Application of 50 % of the suitable N via inorganic form (200 g ammonium sulphate / vine) + 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid / vine.

Each treatment was replicated three times, three vines per each. Inorganic N namely ammonium sulphate (20.6 % N) was divided into three unequal batches and applied as 40 % at growth start (3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb.), 30% just after berry setting (3<sup>rd</sup> week of Apr.) and 30% at one month later (3<sup>rd</sup> week of May). Humic acid was applied once at the last week of Jan. during the three seasons.

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All selected vines received common horticultural practices that already applied in the vineyard except those of the application of inorganic, organic fertilization and humic acid.

The design of this investigation was complete randomized block with three replicates. Each replicate consisted from three vines.

Main shoot length (cm) was measured at the last week of May in both seasons in eight main shoots in all directions of the vines.

Leaf area (cm<sup>2</sup>) was estimated in the twenty leaves per vine from those leaves opposite to the first clusters on each shoot (mid of May) and leaf area (cm<sup>2</sup>) was recorded according to the equation reported by Ahmed and Morsy (1999).

The selected leaf petioles in the same previous leaves (Balo *et al.*, 1988) were oven dried at 70°C and digested with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> according to the methods of Chapman and Pratt (1978). Nitrogen was determined colorimetrically using spectrophotometer (Wilde *et al.*, 1980). Phosphorus was determined colorimetrically using spectrophotometer according to Piper (1960). Potassium was determined using the Flame photometer according to Page *et al.*, (1982) and Wilde *et al.*, (1980).

Yield expressed in weight (kg.) and number of clusters per vine was recorded at harvesting date (mid. of June) when T.S.S. / acid in the berries of the check treatment reached at least 24%. Five clusters were taken from each vine for measuring average cluster weight (g.), average berry weight (g.), T.S.S. %, total sugars % and total acidity % (as g tartaric acid per 100 ml juice) (A.O.A.C., 1990).

Nitrite and nitrate contents in the juice (ppm) were determined according to the procedures outlined by Ridnour- Lisa *et al.*, (2000).

Data were statistically analyzed according to Snedecor and Cochran (1967). New L.S.D. test was used to determine the various differences between the various treatment means.

At the end of each season, analysis of the soil around each treated vines was carried out for determination of organic matter %, pH and E.C. (mmhos/cm/ 25°C) as well as soil content of N%, P (ppm) and K (ppm) (Chapman and Pratt, 1978).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The effect of humic acid on:

#### 1- Main shoot length and leaf area.

It is clear from the data in Table 2 that fertilizing the vines with the suitable N via 0.5 to 1.0% inorganic N plus humic acid at 2.0 to 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/vine significantly stimulated main shoot length and leaf area compared with applying inorganic N at 0.5 to 1.0% of the suitable N alone. The stimulation effect on growth characters was coincided with increasing humic acid levels from 2.0 to 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup>/vine and at the same time decreasing the amount of inorganic N from 1.0 to 0.5%. Using inorganic N at percentages lower than 0.5% of the suitable N even with the application of humic acid significantly reduced the two growth characters. The maximum values were recorded on vines fertilized with the suitable N as 0.5% inorganic plus 2.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid/vine, while, the minimum values were recorded on vines that fertilized with the suitable N as 1.0% inorganic without using humic acid. These results were true during the three seasons. The results are in harmony with those obtained by El-Hamady *et al.*, (2005) and Abada (2009).

#### 2- Leaf chemical composition.

It is clear from the data in Tables 3 and 4 that using the suitable N through 0.5 to 1.0% inorganic N plus humic acid at 2.0 to 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/vine significantly enhanced percentages of N, P and K in the leaves compared with using inorganic N alone at 0.5 to 1.0% of the suitable N. There was a gradual promotion on these nutrients with reducing inorganic N from 1.0 to 0.5% and at the same time increasing the amount of humic acid from 2.0 to 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup>/vine. A significant reduction on these nutrients was observed with using N as 1.0% inorganic source. Fertilizing of the vines with N as 0.5% inorganic plus 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid /vine had an obvious increase on these nutrients. The minimum values were recorded on the vines that received N as 1.0% inorganic form alone. Similar trend was observed during the three seasons. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Kabeel *et al.*, (2008) and Abada (2009).



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**Table ۲: Effect of humic acid application on the main shoot length (cm.), leaf area(cm<sup>۲</sup>) and percentages of N and P in the leaves of Flame seedless grapevines during ۲۰۰۷, ۲۰۰۸ and ۲۰۰۹ seasons.**

Humic acid treatment	Main shoot length (cm.)			Leaf area (cm <sup>۲</sup> )		
	۲۰۰۷	۲۰۰۸	۲۰۰۹	۲۰۰۷	۲۰۰۸	۲۰۰۹
۱۰۰ % inorganic	۱۳۱.۰	۱۳۲.۰	۱۳۰.۰	۱۰۳.۰	۱۰۸.۰	۱۱۲.۰
۷۵ % inorganic N	۱۲۹.۵	۱۳۰.۰	۱۲۸.۰	۱۰۱.۸	۱۰۵.۰	۱۱۰.۰
۷۵ % inorg. + ۲.۵ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۳۳.۰	۱۳۴.۰	۱۳۲.۰	۱۰۵.۳	۱۱۰.۰	۱۱۴.۰
۷۵ % inorg. + ۵.۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۳۴.۵	۱۳۶.۰	۱۳۳.۹	۱۰۸.۰	۱۱۲.۰	۱۱۶.۰
۷۵ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۳۶.۰	۱۳۷.۹	۱۳۶.۰	۱۱۰.۰	۱۱۳.۵	۱۱۸.۰
۵۰ % inorganic N	۱۲۷.۵	۱۲۸.۰	۱۲۶.۳	۹۸.۹	۱۰۳.۵	۱۰۸.۰
۵۰ % inorg. + ۵.۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۳۷.۹	۱۴۰.۰	۱۳۸.۰	۱۱۲.۰	۱۱۵.۰	۱۲۰.۰
۵۰ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۴۰.۰	۱۴۲.۰	۱۴۰.۰	۱۱۴.۹	۱۱۷.۵	۱۲۲.۰
۵۰ % inorg. + ۲۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۴۴.۰	۱۴۳.۸	۱۴۲.۲	۱۱۷.۰	۱۱۹.۰	۱۲۵.۰
۲۵ % inorganic N	۱۲۰.۵	۱۲۲.۰	۱۱۹.۵	۹۱.۰	۹۶.۳	۱۰۱.۰
۲۵ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۲۲.۰	۱۲۳.۵	۱۲۱.۵	۹۳.۳	۹۷.۵	۱۰۳.۰
۲۵ % inorg. + ۲۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۲۳.۹	۱۲۵.۰	۱۲۳.۵	۹۵.۰	۹۸.۵	۱۰۵.۰
۲۵ % inorg. + ۴۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱۲۵.۹	۱۲۷.۰	۱۲۴.۵	۹۷.۰	۱۰۰.۵	۱۰۷.۰
New L.S.D. at ۵ %	۱.۰	۱.۱	۱.۰	۱.۵	۱.۰	۱.۲
	Leaf N %			Leaf P %		
۱۰۰ % inorganic	۲.۱۰	۲.۲۵	۲.۲۰	۰.۳۱	۰.۳۲	۰.۳۱
۷۵ % inorganic N	۲.۰۱	۲.۱۵	۲.۱۰	۰.۲۹	۰.۲۹	۰.۲۸
۷۵ % inorg. + ۲.۵ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۲۰	۲.۳۵	۲.۳۱	۰.۳۳	۰.۳۵	۰.۳۳
۷۵ % inorg. + ۵.۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۳۱	۲.۴۵	۲.۴۰	۰.۳۶	۰.۳۸	۰.۳۵
۷۵ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۳۹	۲.۵۵	۱.۴۹	۰.۳۸	۰.۴۰	۰.۳۸
۵۰ % inorganic N	۱.۹۴	۲.۰۵	۲.۰۲	۰.۲۷	۰.۲۶	۰.۲۶
۵۰ % inorg. + ۵.۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۵۰	۲.۶۲	۲.۶۰	۰.۴۰	۰.۴۵	۰.۴۱
۵۰ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۶۱	۲.۷۰	۲.۷۰	۰.۴۲	۰.۴۸	۰.۴۲
۵۰ % inorg. + ۲۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۲.۶۷	۲.۸۱	۲.۸۱	۰.۴۴	۰.۵۱	۰.۴۴
۲۵ % inorganic N	۱.۶۰	۱.۶۹	۱.۷۲	۰.۱۸	۰.۱۶	۰.۱۶
۲۵ % inorg. + ۱۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱.۶۹	۱.۸۰	۱.۸۰	۰.۲۰	۰.۱۹	۰.۱۸
۲۵ % inorg. + ۲۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱.۷۸	۱.۸۷	۱.۸۷	۰.۲۲	۰.۲۱	۰.۲۱
۲۵ % inorg. + ۴۰ cm <sup>۳</sup> Humic	۱.۸۶	۱.۹۵	۱.۹۴	۰.۲۵	۰.۲۳	۰.۲۴
New L.S.D. at ۵ %	۰.۰۶	۰.۰۶	۰.۰۶	۰.۰۲	۰.۰۲	۰.۰۲

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Table ٢: Effect of humic acid application on the percentage of K in the leaves, yield and cluster weight (g.) of Flame seedless grapevines during ٢٠٠٧, ٢٠٠٨ and ٢٠٠٩ seasons.

Humic acid treatment	Leaf K %			No. of clusters / vine		
	٢٠٠٧	٢٠٠٨	٢٠٠٩	٢٠٠٧	٢٠٠٨	٢٠٠٩
١٠٠ % inorganic	١.٨٠	١.٩٠	٢.٠٠	٢٦.٠	٣٠.٠	٣٠.٠
٧٥ % inorganic N	١.٧٢	١.٨٢	١.٩٢	٢٦.٠	٣٠.٠	٣٠.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٢.٥ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٨٧	١.٩٦	٢.٠٥	٢٧.٠	٣١.٠	٣١.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٩٤	٢.٠٢	٢.١٠	٢٧.٠	٣٢.٠	٣٢.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٢.٠٠	٢.١٠	٢.١٥	٢٧.٠	٣٢.٠	٣٢.٠
٥٠ % inorganic N	١.٦٦	١.٧٥	١.٨٦	٢٦.٠	٢٩.٠	٣٠.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٢.٠٦	٢.١٦	٢.٢٠	٢٧.٠	٣٣.٠	٣٢.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٢.١٢	٢.٢٢	٢.٢٦	٢٧.٠	٣٣.٠	٣٣.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٢.١٨	٢.٣٠	٢.٣٢	٢٧.٠	٣٤.٠	٣٣.٠
٢٥ % inorganic N	١.٤١	١.٥٢	١.٦٠	٢٥.٠	٢٨.٠	٢٨.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٤٧	١.٥٧	١.٦٥	٢٥.٠	٢٨.٠	٢٩.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٥٢	١.٦٣	١.٧٠	٢٥.٠	٢٨.٠	٢٩.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ٤٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٥٨	١.٦٩	١.٨٠	٢٥.٠	٢٩.٠	٢٩.٠
New L.S.D. at ٥ %	٠.٠٤	٠.٠٥	٠.٠٥	NS	١.٠	١.٠
	Yield / vine (kg.)			Cluster weight (g.)		
١٠٠ % inorganic	١٠.١	١٢.٠	١١.٧	٣٩٠.٠	٤٠٠.٠	٣٩١.٠
٧٥ % inorganic N	٩.٩	١١.٧	١١.٤	٣٨١.٠	٣٩٠.٠	٣٨١.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٢.٥ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١٠.٨	١٢.٧	١٢.٤	٤٠٠.٠	٤١٠.٠	٤٠٠.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١١.١	١٣.٤	١٣.١	٤١٠.٠	٤٢٠.٠	٤١٠.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١١.٣	١٤.١	١٣.٤	٤٢٠.٠	٤٤٠.٠	٤٢٠.٠
٥٠ % inorganic N	٩.٦	١١.٠	١١.٣	٣٧٠.٠	٣٨١.٠	٣٧٥.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١١.٦	١٤.٥	١٣.٨	٤٣٠.٠	٤٤٠.٠	٤٣١.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١١.٩	١٤.٩	١٤.٧	٤٤٠.٠	٤٥٠.٠	٤٤٥.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١٢.٤	١٦.٠	١٥.٥	٤٦٢.٠	٤٧٠.٠	٤٧١.٠
٢٥ % inorganic N	٨.٣	٩.٣	٩.٢	٣٣١.٠	٣٣١.٠	٣٢٨.٠

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٢٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٨.٥	٩.٥	٩.٩	٣٤١.٠	٣٤٠.٠	٣٤٠.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٩.٨	٩.٩	١٠.٤	٣٥٠.٠	٣٥٥.٠	٣٥٧.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ٤٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٩.٠	١٠.٥	١٠.٦	٣٦٠.٠	٣٦٢.٠	٣٦٦.٠
New L.S.D. at ٥ %				١٥.٠	١٥.٢	١٦.٠

### ٣- Yield and cluster weight:

Data in Table ٣ clearly show that fertilizing the vines with the suitable N through ٥٠ to ٧٥% inorganic N plus humic acid at ٢.٥ to ٢٠ cm<sup>٣</sup>/vine significantly improved yield expressed in weight and number of clusters per vine and cluster weight compared with using inorganic N at ٢٥ to ١٠٠% of the suitable rate without using humic acid. The promotion on yield and cluster weight was associated with reducing the amount of inorganic N from ١٠٠ to ٥٠% and at the same time increasing the amount of humic acid from ٢.٥ to ٢٠ cm<sup>٣</sup>/vine. Using the suitable N as ٢٥% inorganic form even at the higher amount of humic acid significantly decreased the yield. The maximum yields during the three seasons ١٢.٤, ١٦.٠ and ١٥.٥ kg were recorded on vines received the suitable N as ٥٠% inorganic source plus ٢٠ cm<sup>٣</sup> humic acid/vine. The lowest yields of ٨.٣, ٩.٣ and ٩.٢ kg for the three seasons were obtained on vines received the suitable N as ٢٥% inorganic form alone (without humic acid). The studied treatments had no effect on the number of clusters per vine in the first season of study. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Kose and Guleryuz (١٩٩٩); Kabeel *et al.*, (٢٠٠٨) and Abada (٢٠٠٩).

### ٤- Quality of the berries and juice content of nitrite and nitrate.

Data in Tables ٤ and ٥ reveal that the physical and chemical characters of the berries and juice content of nitrite and nitrate were significantly affected by humic application.

Using the suitable N via ٥٠ to ٧٥% inorganic N plus humic acid at ٢.٥ to ٢٠ cm<sup>٣</sup>/vine significantly improved berries quality in terms of increasing berry weight, total soluble solids and total sugars content and reducing total acidity and juice content of both nitrite and nitrate rather than no application of humic acid with N. The promotion on berry weight and total sugars as well as the reduction on total acidity

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and nitrite and nitrate content was associated with reducing the amount of inorganic N and at the same time increasing the amount of humic acid. For enhancing fruit quality and reducing at the lower extent the juice content of nitrite and nitrate. It was advised to use the suitable N as 0.5 % inorganic + 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid per vine.

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Table 4: Effect of humic acid application on some physical and chemical characters of the berries of Flame seedless grapevines during 2007, 2008 and 2009 seasons.

Humic acid treatment	Berry weight (g.)			T.S.S. %		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
100 % inorganic	2.18	3.13	3.10	18.0	18.8	18.7
70 % inorganic N	3.10	3.03	3.00	18.0	18.8	18.7
70 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.20	3.20	3.16	19.0	19.4	19.0
70 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.32	3.30	3.22	19.3	19.8	19.4
70 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.40	3.37	3.30	19.6	20.2	19.8
50 % inorganic N	3.00	2.96	2.92	18.0	18.8	18.6
50 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.00	3.44	3.38	20.0	20.6	20.3
50 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.06	3.00	3.40	20.4	21.0	20.7
50 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	3.62	3.06	3.02	20.9	21.4	21.2
20 % inorganic N	2.71	2.71	2.68	17.0	17.6	17.0
20 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.80	2.77	2.74	17.8	18.0	17.9
20 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.86	2.84	2.80	18.1	18.4	18.3
20 % inorg. + 4.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.92	2.90	2.86	18.0	18.7	18.6
New L.S.D. at 0 %	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.3	0.3	0.3
	Total acidity %			Total sugars %		
100 % inorganic	0.60	0.64	0.642	16.8	17.0	17.0
70 % inorganic N	0.60	0.64	0.642	16.8	17.0	17.0
70 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.63	0.62	0.62	17.0	17.3	17.0
70 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.61	0.60	0.60	17.3	17.6	17.7
70 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.59	0.58	0.571	17.0	17.9	17.9
50 % inorganic N	0.60	0.64	0.642	16.8	17.0	17.0
50 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.57	0.56	0.50	17.8	18.2	18.1
50 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.50	0.541	0.53	18.1	18.0	18.3
50 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.53	0.52	0.51	18.3	18.8	18.0
20 % inorganic N	0.70	0.70	0.704	16.0	16.0	16.2
20 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.680	0.68	0.682	16.2	16.3	16.0
20 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.669	0.66	0.662	16.0	16.6	16.8
20 % inorg. + 4.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.60	0.64	0.642	16.8	16.9	17.0
New L.S.D. at 0 %	0.014	0.010	0.010	0.2	0.2	0.2

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Table 5: Effect of humic acid application on juice content of nitrite and nitrate (ppm) as well as soil organic matter and soil pH in Flame seedless vineyard during 2007, 2008 and 2009 seasons.

Humic acid treatment	Nitrite (ppm)			Nitrate( ppm)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
100 % inorganic	2.56	2.80	2.70	10.2	11.0	12.0
75 % inorganic N	2.48	2.70	2.50	8.2	10.0	9.9
75 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.40	2.50	2.40	6.0	6.6	7.0
75 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.30	2.40	2.20	5.1	6.0	6.2
75 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	2.20	2.25	2.00	4.0	5.8	5.7
50 % inorganic N	2.00	2.00	1.80	3.2	4.0	4.2
50 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.90	1.80	1.70	2.7	3.0	3.3
50 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.50	1.60	1.50	2.4	2.7	3.0
50 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.40	1.40	1.10	2.0	2.2	2.4
25 % inorganic N	1.30	1.20	1.00	1.6	1.9	2.0
25 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.16	1.00	0.92	1.4	1.5	1.8
25 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.90	0.82	0.71	1.2	1.0	1.5
25 % inorg. + 4.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	0.71	0.64	0.60	1.0	1.0	0.9
New L.S.D. at 5 %	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.7	1.0	1.1
	O.M. %			Soil pH		
100 % inorganic	1.50	1.52	1.53	7.90	7.80	7.71
75 % inorganic N	1.50	1.52	1.54	7.91	7.81	7.73
75 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.60	1.58	1.61	7.88	7.80	7.70
75 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.69	1.64	1.70	7.82	7.77	7.67
75 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.74	1.70	1.76	7.80	7.75	7.65
50 % inorganic N	1.50	1.52	1.54	7.91	7.80	7.71
50 % inorg. + 0.5 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.77	1.76	1.83	7.77	7.72	7.63
50 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.81	1.82	1.90	7.77	7.70	7.60
50 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.87	1.87	1.97	7.72	7.68	7.58
25 % inorganic N	1.50	1.52	1.54	7.91	7.81	7.72
25 % inorg. + 1.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.92	1.92	1.99	7.71	7.66	7.55
25 % inorg. + 2.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.96	1.97	1.99	7.70	7.64	7.52
25 % inorg. + 4.0 cm <sup>3</sup> Humic	1.98	1.97	1.99	7.70	7.62	7.50
New L.S.D. at 5 %	0.04	0.05	0.06	-	-	-

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These results were true during the three seasons. The results are in agreement with those obtained by Kose and Guleryuz (1999); Kabeel *et al.*, (2008) and Abada (2009).

### •- Soil fertility:

It is clear from the data in Tables 5 and 6 that the application of humic acid beside inorganic N significantly improved soil fertility at the end of each season, in terms of increasing organic matter as well as soil content of N, P and K and in reducing electrical conductivity and soil pH. The promotion on soil fertility was associated with reducing the amount of inorganic N from 100 to 20% and at the same time increasing the amount of humic acid from 2.0 to 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup>/vine. Using 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup> humic acid vine along with inorganic N at 20% of the suitable N gave the best results with regard to soil fertility.

Fertilizing the vines with the suitable N through 100% inorganic without humic acid gave unfavourable effects on soil fertility. The results of soil analysis after the end of each season were the same. Mengel (1982) and Nijjar (1980) reported the beneficial effect of humic acid on soil fertility.

The positive effects of humic acid on growth, vine nutritional status and fruiting of Flame seedless grapevine might be attributed to its essential role in enhancing soil fertility in terms of increasing organic matter, microbial activity, water holding capacity and the availability of different nutrients as well as reducing soil pH and electrical conductivity (El-Shenawy and Stino 2000 a and b).

As a conclusion, fertilizing Flame seedless grapevines grown in sandy soil with the suitable N (8.0 g /vine) through 20% inorganic N plus humic acid at 4.0 cm<sup>3</sup> /vine is recommended for improving both soil fertility and productivity of the vines.

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Table ٦: Effect of humic acid application on E.C.(mmhos/١ cm/٢٥°C), percentages of N, P and K in the soil in Flame seedless vineyard during ٢٠٠٧, ٢٠٠٨ and ٢٠٠٩ seasons.

Humic acid treatment	Soil E.C (mmhos/١ cm/ ٢٥°C)			Soil N %		
	٢٠٠٧	٢٠٠٨	٢٠٠٩	٢٠٠٧	٢٠٠٨	٢٠٠٩
١٠٠ % inorganic	١.١٠	١.٠٨	١.٠٨	٠.٠٩	٠.١٠	٠.١٠
٧٥ % inorganic N	١.١٠	١.٠٧	١.٠٧	٠.٠٩	٠.١٠	٠.١٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٢.٥ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٠٧	١.٠٣	١.٠٣	٠.١١	٠.١٢	٠.١٢
٧٥ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٠٤	٠.٩٩	١.٠٠	٠.١١	٠.١٤	٠.١٢
٧٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	١.٠١	٠.٩٦	١.٠٠	٠.١٢	٠.١٤	٠.١٢
٥٠ % inorganic N	١.١٠	١.٠٧	١.٠٧	٠.٠٩	٠.١١	٠.١١
٥٠ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٩	٠.٩٢	٠.٩٦	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٢
٥٠ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٧	٠.٩٠	٠.٩٣	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٣
٥٠ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٤	٠.٨٧	٠.٩٣	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٤
٢٥ % inorganic N	١.١٠	١.٠٧	١.٠٧	٠.٠٩	٠.١١	٠.١١
٢٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٢	٠.٨٦	٠.٩٠	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٤
٢٥ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٠	٠.٨٦	٠.٨٧	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٤
٢٥ % inorg. + ٤٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٠.٩٠	٠.٨٦	٠.٨٧	٠.١٣	٠.١٤	٠.١٤
New L.S.D. at ٥ %	٠.٠٢	٠.٠٣	٠.٠٣	٠.٥	٠.٠٢	٠.٠٢
	Soil P (ppm)			Soil K (ppm)		
١٠٠ % inorganic	٣.٥٠	٣.٥٠	٣.٥١	٥١.٠	٥١.٢	٥١.٠
٧٥ % inorganic N	٣.٥١	٣.٥١	٣.٥٢	٥١.٠	٥١.٥	٥١.٠
٧٥ % inorg. + ٢.٥ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٥	٤.٠٠	٥١.٦	٥٢.٠	٥١.٤
٧٥ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٥	٤.١١	٥٢.٣	٥٢.٦	٥١.٨
٧٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٣	٣.٩٥	٤.١١	٥٣.٠	٥٣.٢	٥٢.٣
٥٠ % inorganic N	٣.٥٠	٣.٥٠	٣.٥٢	٥١.٠	٥١.٥	٥١.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ٥.٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٣	٣.٩٦	٤.٢٠	٥٣.٦	٥٤.٠	٥٣.٠
٥٠ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٧	٤.٣٠	٥٤.٠	٥٤.٥	٥٣.٤
٥٠ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٥	٤.٤٩	٥٤.٠	٥٥.١	٥٤.٠
٢٥ % inorganic N	٣.٥٠	٣.٥٥	٣.٥٥	٥١.٢	٥١.٥	٥١.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ١٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٥	٤.٦٢	٥٤.٢	٥٥.٢	٥٤.٥
٢٥ % inorg. + ٢٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٥	٣.٩٥	٤.٧١	٥٤.٢	٥٥.٣	٥٥.٠
٢٥ % inorg. + ٤٠ cm <sup>٣</sup> Humic	٣.٩٦	٣.٩٥	٤.٨٠	٥٤.٠	٥٥.٩	٥٥.٧



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New L.S.D. at 5 %	0.14	0.14	0.20	0.4	0.5	0.3
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### تحسين خصوبة التربة وإنتاجية كرمات العنب الفلام سيدلس النامية في التربة الرملية باستخدام حامض الهيوميك

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الزراعية- الجيزة- مصر

تم تسميد كرمات العنب الفليم سيدلس النامية في التربة الرملية بالكمية المناسبة من النيتروجين ( ٨٠ جرام / الكرمة) من خلال ٢٥ الى ١٠٠% صورة غير عضوية بدون او مع حامض الهيوميك بمعدل ما بين ٢.٥ الى ٤٠ سم<sup>٣</sup> / كرمة كمحاولة لتحسين خصوبة التربة الرملية ، والحالة الغذائية للكرمات وإنتاجية الكرمات ، ولقد تركزت الدراسة على تقليل كمية النيتروجين الغير عضوى جزئيا عن طريق استخدام حامض الهيوميك وذلك لتقليل تلوث الحبات بالنترت والنترات.

أشارت نتائج الدراسة أن تقليل كمية النيتروجين الغير عضوى من ١٠٠ الى ٥٠% من الكمية الموصى بها من النيتروجين وفى نفس الوقت زيادة كمية حامض الهيوميك المستخدمة من ٢.٥ الى ٤٠ سم لكل كرمة كان مصحوبا بتحسين خصوبة التربة، النمو، النسب المئوية للنيتروجين والفوسفور والبوتاسيوم وكمية المحصول والخصائص الطبيعية والكيميائية للثمار أدى تقليل الكمية المستخدمة من النيتروجين الغير عضوى من ٥٠ الى ٢٥% من الكمية الموصى بها حتى مع استخدام حامض الهيوميك الى آثار غير مرغوبة على الصفات تحت الدراسة وكان الاستخدام المشترك للنيتروجين الغير عضوى مع حامض الهيوميك مفضلا عن استخدام النيتروجين الغير عضوى فقط فى هذا الصدد

أمكن الحصول على أفضل النتائج بخصوص خصوبة التربة والحالة الغذائية للكرمات والإنتاجية لكرمات العنب الفليم سيدلس النامية فى التربة الرملية عند تسميد الكرمات بالنيتروجين بمعدل ٨٠ جرام للكرمة على أساس ٥٠% ، فى الصورة الغير عضوية مع حامض الهيوميك بمعدل ٢٠ سم<sup>٣</sup> / الكرمة وهذه المعاملة تقلل كثيرا من محتوى عصير الحبات من النيتريت والنترات.