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Crop growth rate, leaf area index as affected by sowing dates in linseed (Linum usitatissimum L.)

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ABSTRACT: Experiment was laid out in Split Plot Design with three replications. The treatments consisted of 6 dates of sowing D₁: 40th MW, D₂: 41st MW, D₃: 42nd MW, D₄: 43rd MW D₅: 44th MW and D₆: 45th MW as main plot treatment and 3 cultivars V₁: Kiran V₂: Garima V₃: RLC-4 as sub plot treatment at college of Agriculture Latur during Rabi season. The data revealed that the LAI increased remarkably upto 75 DAS. The LAI increase in treatment D, was highest as compared to late sown crop. The LAI revealed increasing trend upto 75 days in treatment D₁. However, the other treatments followed this trend upto 60 days. The LAI reported considerable decrease, which was due to of senescences. LAI was recorded significantly higher in cv. GARIMA followed by cv. KIRAN. cv. RLC-4 recorded lowest LAI. Crop sown in treatment D₁ and D₂ reported a remarkable increase particularly during reproductive stage. In the early period CGR reported gradual increase, however, the increase was at higher rate in treatment D and D₂. The crop growth rate of cultivars was increased upto 75 DAS and thereafter started decreasing. cv. GARIMA recorded more crop growth rate at all stages of crop growth upto 90 DAS than other cultivars.

KEY **W**ORDS: Crop growth rate, Leaf area index, Linseed

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