

Selection for Early Heading and Correlated Response in Grain Yield and its Components in Durum Wheat

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Abstract

Two cycles of selection were applied to the F₃ generation of a cross between Bani Sweif 1/3/STJ3 and Bani Sweif 1/3/LKS4 lines to evaluate the effect of direct selection for heading date and correlated response in grain yield and its components. Significant differences among F₃ families were found for heading date, plant height, no. of kernels/spike, spikes/plant, 100-kernel weight and grain yield/plant. Estimates of the phenotypic and genotypic coefficients of variation indicated the presence of sufficient variability for heading date and other studied traits. Phenotypic and genotypic variances expressed as PCV% and GCV% decreased rapidly after two cycles of selection for early heading. The results indicate that the two cycles of selection were enough to identify the early genotypes. Flowering time was reduced by 3.53 and 7.45 days after two cycles of selection compared to the earliest parent and the bulk of the F₃-families, respectively. The results indicated that five out of the ten early selected families were significantly or highly significantly earlier than the earlier parent. Direct selection for early heading was accompanied by average decrease of 3.17, 3.76, 0.26 and 1.95% for plant height, no. of kernels/spike, 100 kernels weight and grain yield/plant, respectively, after two cycles of selection compared to the best parent. Direct selection for early heading significantly reduced grain yield/plant by 2.31, 2.45, 3.20, 5.72 and 6.98% for family no. 54, 76, 77, 68 and 50, respectively, compared with the best parent. The results should be indicated to the promising family no. 29 which was earlier and significantly increased in no. of kernels/spike, 100 grain weight and grain yield/plant.

Keywords: durum wheat, *Triticum turgidum*, correlated response

Introduction

Wheat is the most important grain crop in the world. It provides food to 36% of the global population, and contributes 20% of food calories, (Singh and Chaudhary, 2006). Durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum* var. *durum*), sometimes called macaroni wheat, covers about 9% of the wheat area. Modern durum wheat cultivars are higher in grain yield than bread wheat cultivars, and the kernels of durum wheat are typically larger, heavier, and harder than those of bread wheat. In Egypt, wheat crop is

considered as the essential strategic cereal crop for thousands of years. Egypt wheat yield annual consumption is about 13 million tons, while the annual local production is about 8.5 million tons in 2011 (Wheat Research, Department, Field Crops Research Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Egypt). Breeding for drought tolerance through to develop short season cultivars is nowadays widely adopted in different regions of the world where water supply is limited. A crop plant may overcome drought effects through drought

avoidance which involves mechanisms of reducing water loss from the plant and maintaining the water uptake. Another way is drought tolerance using a mechanism which enables the plant to withstand low tissue water potential. A third way is to escape drought through earliness of maturity (Clark and Townley-Smith, 1984). In Egypt, the success of wheat cultivars to be cultivated in the rainfed area of the northern coast, may depend entirely on the earliness of these genotypes which enables them to escape from drought that might occur late in the season.

Heading date in wheat is an easily identifiable character that can be modified through selection (Allard and Harding, 1963; Avey *et al.*, 1982; Frederickson and Kronstad, 1985 and May and Fan Sanford, 1992). Early flowering genotypes of cereal crops grow more successfully under water stress conditions than late flowering genotypes (Blum, 1970; Alessi and Power, 1976; Blum *et al.*, 1977 and Fischer & Maurer, 1978). Derara *et al.* (1969), Mahdy (1988) and Tahara *et al.* (1990) they found a negative correlation between grain yield and late maturity in wheat.

The aim of this work is to: 1- study the effect of two cycles of direct selection for heading date, 2- determine the effect of selection for early heading on yield and its components.

Materials and Methods

The breeding materials used in this study consisted of 80 F₃-families traced back to a random sample from F₂ single plants originated from a cross between Bani Sweif 1/3/STJ3 and Bani Sweif 1/3/LKS4 lines. The

families and the parents were grown in 2009/2010 season at Sids, Bani Sweif, Res Sta. in a randomized complete block design of three replications. Each plot was single row 3 m long, 30 cm apart and 5 cm between grains within row. The cultural practices were carried out as recommended for wheat production.

Heading date was recorded on plot mean basis as days from planting to the day when 50% of the heads protruded from the flag leaf-sheath. The earliest head of each plot was labeled. At maturity, individual plant data were recorded on twenty random plants from the middle of each plot. The following traits were recorded on each plant, i.e. plant height (PH), number of spikes/plant (S/P), no. of kernels/spike (K/S), grain yield/plant (GY) and 100 kernel weight (KW) determined on plot mean basis. The earliest plant from each of the earliest 20 families were selected (C₂).

In 2010/2011 season, the bulk sample (C₀), parents, and the selected families (C₁) were evaluated for earliness, grain yield and its components. The earliest plant from the earliest 10 families were selected (C₂).

In 2011/2012 season, the bulk sample, parents and the selected families (C₂) were evaluated for earliness, grain yield and its components.

Data were subjected to analysis of variance on plot mean basis. The heritability in broad sense was estimated as the ratio of genotypic (σ^2_G) to the phenotypic (σ^2_P) ($\sigma^2_e/r + \sigma^2_g$) variance according to Walker (1960). Genotypic variance was computed from the expected mean squares from the analysis of variances. The geno-

typic (GCV%) and phenotypic (PCV%) coefficients of variability were calculated as $\sigma_{g/\bar{x}} \times 100$ and $\sigma_{p/\bar{x}} \times 100$, respectively. Phenotypic and genotypic variances, covariances and correlations were calculated on plot mean basis as outlined by Al-Jibouri *et al.* (1958). Realized heritability (h^2) was calculated as $h^2 = R/S$ (Falconer, 1989), where R= response to selection and S= selection differential. Significance of the observed response was calculated by using Rev. L.S.D.

Results and Discussion

1- Description of the base population (F₃-generation, season 2009/2010):

1.1- Means and variance:

The analyses of variance (Table 1) indicate significant differences among F₃ families for heading date, plant height, spikes/plant, 100-kernel weight and grain yield/plant. Estimates of the phenotypic and genotypic coefficients of variation indicate the presence of sufficient variability for all the studied traits. The obtained variability suggest that selection among the F₃-families may produce changes in this population. Estimates of broad sense heritability were high for the studied traits. Estimates of broad sense heritability at one locations in one year were biased upward due to confounding the effects of locations and years with the genetic variance estimates (O'Brien *et al.*, 1978). In general, high estimates of broad sense heritabilities (Table 1) indicate that the environmental effects were small compared to the genetic effects.

The average number of days to heading of P₁ was 100.0 compared to

91.6 days for P₂ with F₃-families mean of 105.98 days. Days to heading showed over-dominance towards lateness. The phenotypic (PCV%) and genotypic (GCV%) coefficients of variation for days to heading were 6.23 and 4.71%, respectively. Such magnitude of variability could be considered sufficient for selection for early heading.

The average no. of spikes/plant of P₁ was 4.67 compared to 6.00 for P₂ with F₃-families mean of 6.03. Number of spikes/plant of the F₃-families, tended to show complete dominance towards the higher parent. The phenotypic (PCV%) and genotypic (GCV%) coefficients of variation for this trait were 33.99 and 30.21%, respectively. These results are in agreement with those reported by Kheiralla *et al.* (2004), Mahdy (2007) and Mahdy (2012).

Plant height of P₁ was 90.0 compared to 88.3 cm for P₂ with F₃-population average of 98.45 cm (Table 1). Plant height showed over dominance towards tallness. The genetic coefficient of variation (GCV%) in plant height reached 7.72%.

The average number of grains/spike was higher for P₂ than P₁. Number of grains/spike of P₁ was 73.3 compared to 81.6 for P₂. This could be due to the difference in spike length. The phenotypic (PCV%) and genotypic (GCV%) coefficient of variations for number of grains/spike were 18.55 and 18.09% for P₁ and P₂, respectively. P₁ had high 100-grain wheat (Table 3) compared to P₂. The F₃-families tended to show over dominance towards the lower grain weight parent.

The average grain yield/plant was larger for P₁ than P₂. Grain yield/plant of P₁ was 32.35 compared to 30.53 gm for P₂. F₃-families (34.14 m) tended to show over dominance towards the highest grain yield parent. The phenotypic (PCV%) and genotypic (GCV%) coefficient of variations for grain yield/plant were 26.12 and 25.74%, respectively. This indicates that selection of grain yield may increase grain yield/plant.

1.2- Phenotypic and genotypic correlations:

Phenotypic and genotypic correlation coefficients among all possible pairs of the studied traits in F₃ population are presented in Table (2). The improvement of one character by selection frequently causes simultaneous changes in other characters. The effect is the result of correlations between characters, which may be genetic or environmental in nature. Genetic correlations arise from pleiotropy, linkage between loci controlling the

characters or from random genetic drift (Tomas *et al.*, 1994). According to Simmonds (1979) and Falconer (1989), pleiotropy is the chief cause of genetic correlations, while Mather and Jinks (1982) have argued that linkages are the more likely explanation.

Results in Table (2) indicated negative and low phenotypic correlations between heading date and each of No. of spikes/plant (-0.32), No. of kernels/ spike (-0.01), 100-kernel weight (-0.06) and grain yield/plant (-0.43). While genotypic correlation values were -0.41, -0.08, -0.12 and -0.34 between heading date and each of the above mentioned traits, respectively, indicating that selection for earliness may decrease any of these traits in these materials. These results are in general agreement with those reported by Wells and Kofoid (1986) who found that the genotypic correlation value among heading date and grain yield was negative.

Table 1. Means, mean squares, phenotypic (P.C.V. %) and genotypic (G.C.V. %) coefficients of variability and heritability values for the studied traits in the F₃ families.

Trait	Mean			Mean squares			P.C.V %	G.C.V %	h ²
	F ₃ families	P ₁	P ₂	Reps.	Families	Error			
Heading date	105.98	100	91.6	34.25	93.67**	18.79	6.25	4.71	57.05
Plant height	98.45	90.0	88.3	7.529	191.14**	18.05	8.84	7.72	76.17
No. of spikes/ plant	6.029	4.67	6.0	1.679	10.837**	0.882	33.99	30.21	79.00
No. of kernels/ spike	64.15	73.3	81.6	15.52	411.09**	6.901	18.55	18.09	95.13
100-kernel weight	3.551	5.31	5.104	0.031	1.791**	0.031	22.13	21.57	94.98
Grain yield/ plant	34.14	32.35	30.53	0.657	207.31**	3.035	26.12	25.74	87.11

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

Table 2. Phenotypic correlation (above diagonal) and genotypic correlation (below diagonal) values estimated from the F₃ families.

Trait	Heading date	Plant height	No. of spikes/plant	No. of kernels/ spike	100-kernel weight	Grain yield/plant
Heading date	-	0.165	-0.318	-0.008	-0.055	-0.43
Plant height	0.057	-	0.232	0.099	0.054	0.21
No. of spikes/plant	-0.414	0.236	-	0.029	0.170	0.679
No. of kernels/spike	-0.081	0.098	0.040	-	0.042	0.110
100-kernel weight	-0.124	0.034	0.209	0.016	-	0.173
Grain yield/plant	-0.34	0.010	0.811	0.120	0.180	-

Low and positive genotypic correlations were obtained between plant height and each of No. of spikes/plant (0.23), 100-kernel weight (0.034), grain yield/plant (0.01), heading date (-0.057) and No. of kernels/ spike (0.01) while phenotypic correlation values were 0.23, 0.05, 0.21, 0.16 and 0.10 between plant height and each of the above mentioned traits in durum wheat, respectively.

Results of the base population for both the phenotypic and genotypic correlation coefficients among No. of spikes/plant and the other studied traits are presented in Table (2). The data showed that No. of spikes/plant exhibited low and positive phenotypic correlation with each of plant height (0.23), No. of kernels/spike (0.03) and 100-kernel weight (0.17), while it was high and positive with grain yield/plant (0.68). The results of genotypic correlation indicated low and positive values between No. of spikes/plant and each of No. of kernels/spike (0.04) and 100-kernel weight (0.21), but it was high and positive with grain yield/plant (0.81). This indicates that selection for no. of spikes/plant may increase grain yield/plant.

The results of phenotypic and genotypic correlations between No.

of kernels/spike and other studied traits for the base population, showed low and positive phenotypic and genotypic correlations values, while the phenotypic and genotypic correlated values between no. of kernels/spike and grain yield (0.11 and 0.12), respectively.

The phenotypic and genotypic correlations values between grain yield and 100-kernel weight were low and positive (0.17 and 0.18), respectively.

2- Response to selection for early heading:

2.1- Variability, phenotypic (P.C.V.%), genotypic (G.C.V.%) coefficient of variations and heritability:

The mean squares of the selected families for early heading after cycle 1 and cycle 2 of selection in the F₄ and F₅ generations are shown in Table (3). The results indicated highly significant differences among families. The results also indicated that phenotype and genotype coefficients of variability for days to heading in F₄ (C₁) were 3.66 and 2.10% while they were 3.04 and 2.01% for F₅ (C₂) selected families (Table 4).

Table 3. The analysis of variance of early heading for early selected families of F₄ (C₁) and F₅ (C₂) generations in 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 seasons.

Gen.	S.O.V.	d.f	Mean squares
F₄	Rep.	2	13.97
	Genotype	22	27.05**
	Error	44	8.23
F₅	Rep.	2	5.840
	Genotype	12	40.85**
	Error	24	3.54

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability.

The results showed small differences between P.C.V. and G.C.V.% for all generations, indicating the importance of genetic effects in controlling the inheritance of days to heading. Meanwhile, the phenotypic and genotypic variations as indicated by P.C.V.% and G.C.V.% decreased after two cycles of selection and the genetic variation for earliness was exhausted, so, the selection for this trait may not be effective in the following generations. These results are in agreement with the findings of Busch and Kofoid (1982) who found, in spring wheat, that the genotypic variances for heading date were 1.75 and 2.10 in the first and second cycles of recurrent selection, respectively. Kheiralla *et al.* (1993) studied, in bread wheat, the effect of two cycles of direct selection on heading date and reported that P.C.V.% and G.C.V.% were (3.94 and 3.70), (1.44 and 1.17%) and (1.46 and 1.04%) for C₀, C₁ and C₂ cycles, respectively, indicating that C₀ and C₁ families possessed considerable amount of genetic variability more than the C₂ families for days to heading. Mahdy *et al.* (1996) found that phenotypic and genotypic coefficients of variation for days to heading in durum wheat were (7.19 and 6.63%) and (4.08 and 3.46%) in the C₁ and C₂, respectively. Attia (2003), in wheat, reported that p.c.v.% and g.c.v.% for days to heading were (5.15 and 4.85%) for F₃ families and (4.74 and 4.55%) for F₄ families under normal and drought conditions, respectively.

The realized heritability for F₄ was 51.14%, Table (4) and for F₅ selected families it was 49.40%. It is of

interest to note that heritability estimates were decreased from the F₄ to the F₅ generation for days to heading. This could be due to the increase in the experimental error, in other words, the environmental variation as the homozygosity of the lines, which maximized the phenotypic relative to the genotypic variance.

Similar results were obtained by Kheiralla *et al.* (1993) who found, in bread wheat, that estimates of heritability for days to heading were 88, 67 and 49% for C₀, C₁ and C₂ cycles of selection, respectively. Also, Ismail (1995) reported that estimates of heritability in broad sense were 87, 70 and 51% for F₃ bulk (C₀), F₄ families (C₁) and F₅ families (C₂), respectively.

The efficiency of selection procedure for decreasing days to heading as the deviation percentage from the bulk sample and the earlier parent are presented in Table (4). The results showed that direct selection for early heading decreased the efficiency by (7.00 and 1.44%) for F₄ selected families (cycle 1) and by (7.45 and 3.53%) for F₅ selected families (cycle 2) from the bulk sample and the early parent, respectively. These results agree with other studies on response to selection for early heading date (Avey *et al.*, 1982; Frederickson and Kronstand, 1985; Mahdy, 1988; Younis *et al.*, 1988; May and Fan Sanford, 1992; Kheiralla *et al.*, 1993; Zakaria *et al.*, 2008; Ali, 2011; Mahdy *et al.*, 2012a and Mahdy, R. 2012, in which they reported that earliness could be improved by selection for days to heading, in bread wheat.

2.2- Means and direct observed gain in days to heading:

Means of the early heading selected families in the F₅-generation after two cycles of selection are shown in Table (6). Days to heading varied from 87.33 for family no. 29 to 94.33 days for family no. 50 with an average of 91.00 days after the second cycle of selection for earliness.

The observed direct response in percentage from the bulk sample and earlier parent for the selected families for days to heading are presented in Tables (7 and 8). All of the ten early selected families were earlier than the bulk sample ($P < 0.01$). The direct response to selection for days to heading ranged from -4.00 to -11.00% from the bulk sample. Meanwhile, five out of the ten early selected families were significant or highly significant earlier than the earliest parent.

2.3-Means and correlated response of traits for early selected families:

The analysis of variance for the correlated traits to earliness selected F₅ families (Table 5) indicated highly significant differences among genotypes for the studied traits.

Direct selection for early heading was accompanied by decrease of 2.17, 3.76, and 1.39% for plant height, no. of kernels/spike and grain yield/plant, respectively, after two cycles of selection compared to the bulk sample (Table 7). Such decrease was accompanied with highly significant decrease in plant height by 10.67% for Fam. No. 50. These results revealed that selection for earliness highly significant decreased no. of kernels/spike by 5.33, 5.66, 7.66,

8.00 and 9.66% for family no. 54, 76, 77, 68 and 50, respectively. The results for 100-grain weight indicate that 3 and 4 families out of ten were significant and highly significant less than the bulk sample.

Direct selection for early heading significantly decreased grain yield/plant by 1.75, 1.87, 1.89, 2.64, 5.16 and 6.42% for family no. 54, 66, 76, 77, 68 and 50, respectively. One promising family (Family no. 29) was earlier than the bulk sample and surpassed it in plant height, no. of kernels/spike, 100 grain weight and grain yield/plant by 11.00, 2.33, 4.00, 1.07 and 2.32%, respectively, (Table 7).

Direct selection for early heading was accompanied by an average decrease of 3.17, 3.76 and 1.95% for plant height, no. of kernels/spike and grain yield/plant, respectively, after two cycles of selection compared to the earliest parent (Table 8). These results revealed that the family no. 50 was significantly decreased by 11.67% in plant height compared with the earlier parent. These results indicated that the decrease in early heading was significantly accompanied by decrease in no. of kernels/spike by 5.33, 5.66, 7.66, 8.00 and 9.66% for families no. 54, 76, 77, 68 and 50, respectively. Five out of the ten early selected families were significantly heavier in 100-kernels weight.

Direct selection for early heading significantly reduced grain yield/plant by 2.31, 2.45, 3.20, 5.72 and 6.98% for family no. 54, 76, 77, 68 and 50, respectively. It should be indicated to the promising family no. 29 which was significantly increased

in no. of kernels/spike, 100-grain weight and grain yield/plant compared with the best parent. These results are in agreement with Kheiralla (1993), Ismail (1995), Mahdy *et al.* (1996), Talbert *et al.* (2001), Mobarrek (2007), El-Morshidy *et al.* (2010), Ali (2011) and Mahdy *et al.* (2012b)

and Mahdy, R. (2012) who reported that earliness could be improved by selection for days to heading. Otherwise, they noted that improving earliness was accompanied with adverse effects on yield and other correlated traits.

Table 4. Mean, phenotypic (P.C.V.%), genotypic (G.C.V.%) coefficient of variability, realized heritability (h^2) and realized gain for early selected families in C_1 (F_4 -generation) and C_2 (F_5 -generation)

Cycle	Mean				P.C.V. %	G.C.V. %	h^2	Realized gain from:	
	P ₁	P ₂	Selected families	Bulk sample				Bulk	The early parent
C_1 (F_4)	96.33	93.90	92.55	99.50	3.66	2.10	51.14	7.00	1.44
C_2 (F_5)	96.66	94.33	91.00	98.33	3.04	2.01	49.30	7.45	3.53

Table 5. The analysis of variance for the correlated traits to selected F_5 families in 2011/2012.

S.O.V.	d.f	Mean square			
		Correlated traits to earliness selected families			
		PH	No. of Kernels/ sp	100 Kw	GY/P
Rep.	2	2.154	9.564	0.014	0.54
Genotype	12	73.29**	343.06**	2.717**	245.67**
Error	24	16.876	6.98	0.02	1.23

Table 6. Means of selected families for early heading in F_5 generation and correlated traits in season 2011/2012.

Fam. No.	Criterion of selection HD	Correlated traits			
		PH	No. of kernel/ sp.	100 GW	GY/P
27	90.67	95.00	79.33	5.20	41.09
29	87.33	98.00	86.33	6.20	44.10
40	88.67	96.67	80.67	5.86	42.71
50	94.33	85.00	72.67	4.41	35.36
54	91.67	95.00	77.00	5.14	40.03
65	89.33	96.33	79.67	5.34	41.30
66	88.33	97.33	84.33	5.94	43.65
68	93.67	90.00	74.33	4.89	36.62
76	92.67	91.67	76.67	5.12	39.89
77	93.33	90.00	74.67	4.90	39.14
Average	91.00	93.50	78.60	5.30	40.40
Bulk	98.33	95.67	82.33	5.13	41.78
P ₁	96.66	96.67	77.67	5.04	40.67
P ₂	94.33	91.67	82.33	4.67	42.34
Rev. 5%	2.90	7.14	3.86	0.20	1.62

LSD	1%	3.90	9.76	5.13	0.26	2.16
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Table 7. The observed direct gain and correlated response as percentage from the bulk sample of the early heading selected families in the F₅ generation.

Fam. No.	Criterion of selection HD	Correlated traits			
		PH (cm)	No. of kernel/ sp.	100 GW (gm)	GY/P (gm)
27	-7.66**	-0.67	-3.00	0.07	-0.69
29	-11.00*	2.33	4.00*	1.07**	2.32**
40	-9.66**	1.00	-1.66	0.73**	0.93
50	-4.00**	-10.67**	-9.66**	-0.72**	-6.42**
54	-6.66**	-0.67	-5.33**	0.01	-1.75*
65	-9.00**	0.66	-2.66	0.21*	-0.48
66	-10.00**	1.66	2.00	0.81**	1.87*
68	-4.66**	-5.67	-8.00**	-0.24*	-5.16**
76	-5.66**	-4.00	-5.66**	-0.01	-1.89*
77	-5.00*	-5.67	-7.66**	-0.23*	-2.64**
Average	-7.33	-2.17	-3.76	0.17	-1.39

* and ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively.

Table 8. The observed direct gain and correlated response as percentage from the best parent sample of the early heading selected families in the F₅ generation.

Fam. No.	Criterion of selection HD	Correlated traits			
		PH (cm)	No. of kernel/ sp.	100 GW (gm)	GY/P (gm)
27	-3.66*	-1.67	-3.00	0.16	-1.25
29	-7.00**	1.33	4.00*	1.16**	1.76*
40	-5.66**	0.00	-1.66	0.82**	0.36
50	0.00ns	-11.67**	-9.66**	-0.63**	-6.98**
54	-2.66ns	-1.67	-5.33**	0.10	-2.31**
65	-5.00**	-0.34	-2.66	0.30**	-1.04
66	-6.00**	0.66	2.00	0.90**	1.31
68	-0.66ns	-6.67	-8.00**	-0.15	-5.72**
76	-1.66ns	-5.00	-5.66**	0.08	-2.45**
77	-1.00ns	-6.67	-7.66**	-0.14	-3.20**
Average	-3.53	-3.17	-3.76	0.26*	-1.95

* and ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of probability, respectively.

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الانتخاب للتبكير والاستجابة المرتبطة في المحصول ومكوناته في قمح المكرونة
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الملخص

أجريت دورتي انتخاب علي الجيل الثالث الناتج من التهجين بين السلالة بني سويف 1/3/STJ3 ، السلالة بني سويف 54 1/3/LK لتقييم تأثير الانتخاب المباشر للتبكير في التزهير وأثر ذلك علي الاستجابة المرتبطة للمحصول ومكوناته. وجدت اختلافات معنوية بين عائلات الجيل الثالث قبل الانتخاب لصفات التزهير وطول النبات ، عدد السنابل لكل نبات، وعدد حبوب السنبل، ووزن المائة حبة، ومحصول حبوب النبات الفردي. وأشارت تقديرات معاملي الاختلاف المظهري والوراثي إلي وجود اختلافات مرضية لصفة ميعاد التزهير والصفات الأخرى المدروسة. وبعد ممارس الانتخاب للتبكير لمدة دورتين متتاليتين تناقص بسرعة كلا من معامل الاختلاف المظهري والوراثي لهذه الصفة. وتشير النتائج إلي أن دورتي الانتخاب كانتا كافيتين لاستفاد التباين الوراثي لصفة التبكير. وأدي الانتخاب للتبكير في التزهير بنقص مقداره ٣.٥٣ ، ٧.٤٥% يوم بعد دورتي الانتخاب مقارنة بالأب المبكر ومتوسط عشيرة الجيل الثالث قبل الانتخاب علي التوالي. وتشير النتائج إلي أن ٥ من ١٠ عائلات منتخبة للتبكير أعطت كانت أكبر معنوياً مقارنة بالأب المبكر وكان الانتخاب المباشر للتبكير مصحوب بنقص مقداره ٣.١٧ ، ٣.٧٦ ، ١.٩٥% لكلا من ارتفاع النبات، عدد حبوب السنبل، ومحصول حبوب النبات الفردي علي التوالي بعد دورتين من الانتخاب مقارنة بالأب الأفضل.

الانتخاب المباشر للتبكير أدي إلي نقص معنوي في محصول الحبوب بمقدار ٢.٣١ ، ٢.٤٥ ، ٣.٢٠ ، ٥.٧٢ ، ٦.٩٨% للعائلات رقم ٥٤ ، ٧٦ ، ٧٧ ، ٦٨ ، و ٥٠ علي التوالي مقارنة بالأب الأفضل. وتشير النتائج أن العائلة رقم ٢٩ محتمل أن تكون مبشرة وذلك لأنها أبكر العائلات كما أنها متفوقة معنوياً في عدد حبوب السنبل ووزن الـ ١٠٠ حبة، ومحصول حبوب النبات الفردي.