**Supplementary Table S3.** Nutrient solution supply schedule for melon grown in hydroponics (10 plants) and in perlite substrate (60 plants) (Experiment I)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Vegetative growth stages (weeks)** | | | | **Reproductive growth stages (weeks)** | | | | | | |
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th | 11th |
| 50% standard nutrient solution | | \* | | 50% standard nutrient solution without KNO3 till harvest. | | | | | | |

\*Melon plants were supplied with KNO3 in four splits viz. 50, 75, 100 and 125% of required KNO3 (Asao et al., 2013);

\*The amount of KNO3 required per plant was calculated in hydroponic culture of melon;

\*Plants grown with 50% standard nutrient solution in perlite and in hydroponics were used as control.