**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.