

CONTENTS

	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
III. MATERIAL AND METHODS	23
IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	36
1. Growth and yield characteristics	37
A. Analysis of variance, means and heterosis	37
Parental performance	37
F ₁ hybrid performance	41
Parents vs. hybrids	41
Heterotic effects	41
B. Analysis of variance for combining ability	47
C. Genetic component analysis	54
D. Graphical analysis	60
2. Shedding	73
A. Analysis of variance, means and heterosis	73
Parental performance	73
F ₁ hybrid performance	73
Parents vs. hybrids	76
Heterotic effects	76
B. Analysis of variance for combining ability	79
C. Genetic component analysis	85
D. Graphical analysis	89
V. SUMMARY	94
VI. LITERATURE CITED	101
ARABIC SUMMARY.	