
UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

Most of the data presented in this report is subjected to statistical analysis. Statistical procedures are a combination of logic and arithmetic that allow us to interpret information gathered from experiments. We most frequently use Fisher's Least Significant Difference Test to explain our test data.

Fisher's Least Significant Difference Test is a statistical procedure that determines if the difference found between two treatments is due to the treatment or if the difference is simply due to random chance. For each set of data a value ($LSD_{0.05}$) is calculated at a chosen level of significance. If the difference between two treatment means is greater than this calculated value then it is said to be a 'significant difference' or a *difference not due to random chance*. For each set of data, a letter(s) is placed by each treatment mean to show its relationship to every other treatment mean. If two means have one or more letters in common, it is probable that any difference between them is not significant but is the result of random chance. The level of significance that we use is 0.05 ($LSD_{0.05}$). In other words, 95% of the time these treatments are compared this difference will occur. If no letters accompany the means and 'NS' is reported at the top of the column as a footnote marker then no significant difference was found among the means in this group of data.