

# **Snow Quality Influence on Overwintering of Winter Cereal**

**Nekovář J., Kott I.**

# PHYSICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Snow is a bad heat conductor; it protects the soil from cooling if the air temperature and the snow surface are below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- The insulation effect of the snow is the stronger the brighter it is; in snow filled with water or icy the insulation effect goes down;
- At the temperature above  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the effect of snow on soil temperature is the opposite. It continues even after melting, because at the time the top layer of soil is saturated with water.

## PHYSICAL KNOWLEDGE – CONTINUED

- Snow reduces soil temperature fluctuations, i.e. soil temperatures fluctuations without snow cover are much higher;
- The warming effect of the snow exceeds the cooling effect, the longer the snow cover lies after the frost.

# SNOW DENSITY

- Snow density is the ratio of the volume of snow water equivalent to the taken snow volume.
- For freshly caught snow it is from 0.04 to 0.10 (60 to 100 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>).
- Mellow snow density is 0.6 to 0.7 (up to 300 kg.m<sup>-3</sup>).



# DENSITY OF FRESHLY SNOWED SNOW DEPENDING ON AIR TEMPERATURE

Air temperature	Snow density		
	Minimum	Middle	Maximum
< -10	0,01	0,07	0,23
-10 to -5	0,01	0,09	0,30
-5 to +5	0,04	0,11	0,45
0 to 2	0,07	0,18	0,53
> 2	0,16	0,20	0,59

## FURTHER ON THE DENSITY OF THE SNOW

- During winter, the density of snow cover increases by 10% per month.
- In the winter months, there is an average of 0.2, at the end of winter 0.3 (or more).
- The thermal conductivity of the snow is 10x higher than air and 10x lower than the mineral soil particles.

# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT

- The heat transfer coefficient expresses the properties of the interfaces of two substances of different states in terms of heat dissipation by convection;
- It depends on the type of substances, their states, temperatures and the shape of the interface;
- It is determined by the ratio of the heat flux density at the interface and the temperature difference between the respective substances.

# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT

- $\alpha = \varphi / \Delta T$ ,  
where  $\varphi$  ... heat density
- Expresses heat output per unit area;
- It is determined by the proportion of the heat flow and the area through which it flows perpendicularly.

# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT

- In monitoring of the dynamics of snow cover changes, we preferred a more accurate monitoring of its density and water equivalent, through which it was possible to determine
- HEAT EXCHANGER COEFFICIENT, important for assessing the conditions for wintering of winter cereals.

# HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT

- At a snow density of 0.20, the heat transfer coefficient  $\alpha = 16.75 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{deg}^{-1}$
- At a density of 0.30,  $\alpha = 25.13 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{deg}^{-1}$
- At a density of 0.40,  $\alpha = 33.51 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{deg}^{-1}$
- According to G. A. Abels, the heat transfer coefficient  $\alpha = 280,64 \cdot d^2 \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{deg}^{-1}$  and therefore is directly proportional to the density quadrate of the snow cover.



## TABLE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT

density of snow	coefficient of heat transfer	
0,1	$\alpha_1 =$	$8,38 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{deg}^{-1}$
0,2	$\alpha_2 =$	$16,75 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{deg}^{-1}$
0,3	$\alpha_3 =$	$25,13 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{deg}^{-1}$
0,4	$\alpha_4 =$	$33,51 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{deg}^{-1}$
0,5	$\alpha_5 =$	$41,89 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{deg}^{-1}$

## CHANGES CAUSED BY $\alpha$ DYNAMICS

- If the duration of a relatively high snow cover (over 10 cm) is long, the significance of the changes due to the heat transfer coefficient increases
- both in the direction of the flow towards the soil and from the soil to the air (in both cases through the snow cover).

## CRYPTOVEGETATION OF WINTER CEREALS

- Even during the winter, the development of wintering winter varieties - so-called cryptovegetation - can usually continue from the phenophase of emergency to the phenophase of tillering.
- It depends very much on the "condition" of the snow cover, i.e. its height and water equivalent.

# WINTERING OF WINTER CROPS

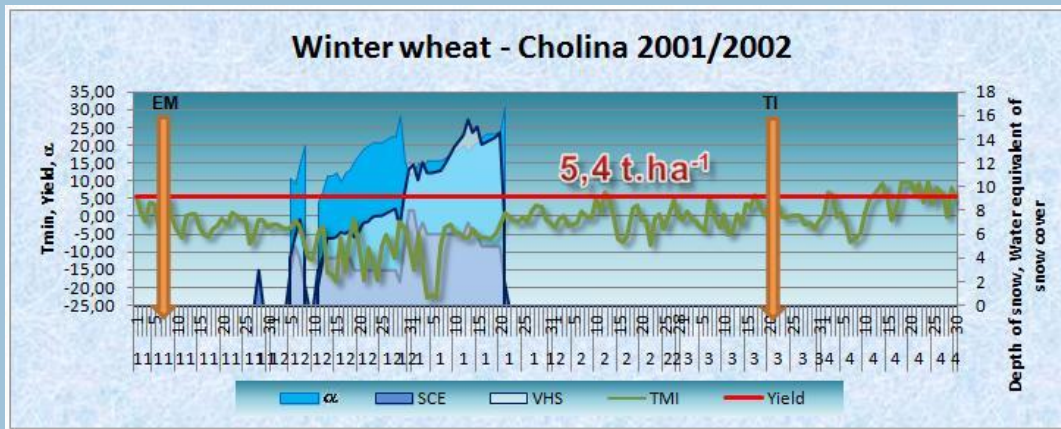
- At a low snow height and high water equivalent of ice or drenched snow, winter crops can be severely damaged by sudden drops in the air temperature.
- On the contrary, the dusty fresh snow cover containing high-volume air can effectively reduce the negative effect of large frosts.

## WINTERING OF WINTER CROPS

- If the plants have already induced frost resistance, then they are better tolerated by significant drops in the minimum air temperature.
- On the other hand, the temperature fluctuation in the first stage of overwintering is unfavorable in its ability to resist the effects of low temperatures.

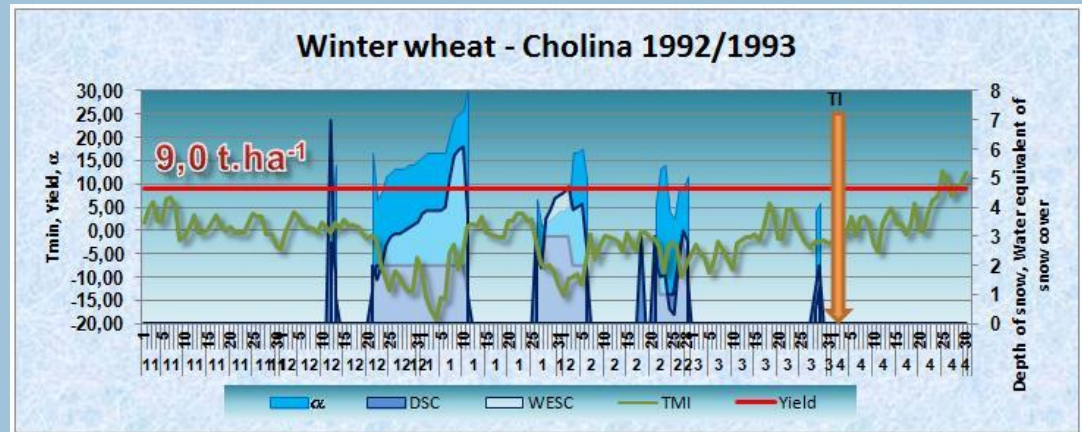


# SOME EXAMPLES:



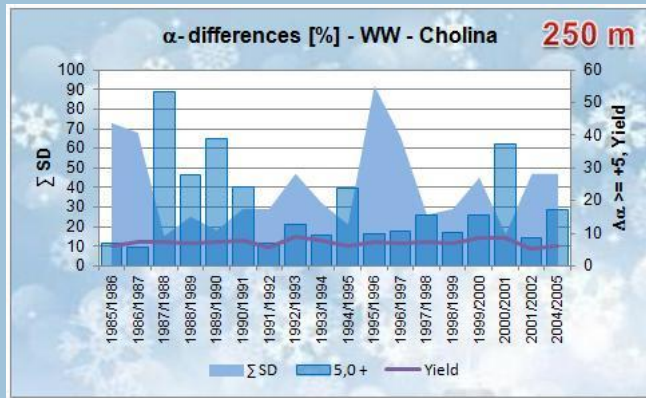
250 m

$\alpha$  .....heat transfer coefficient  
 SCE  $\cong$  DSC .. ...depth of snow cover  
 VHS  $\cong$  WESC .. water equivalent of  
 snow cover  
 TMI .....minimum air temperature



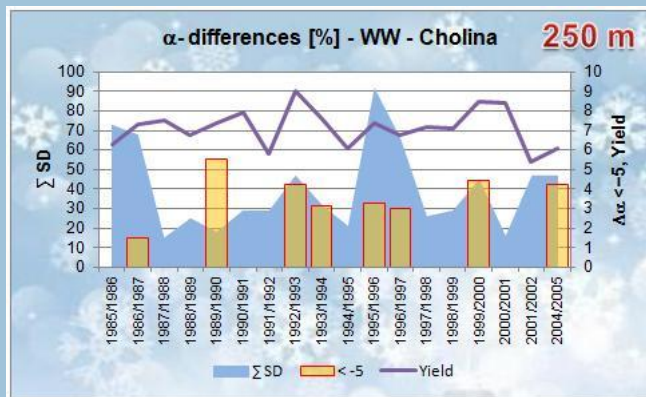


# INTERDIURNAL DIFFERENCE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $\alpha$

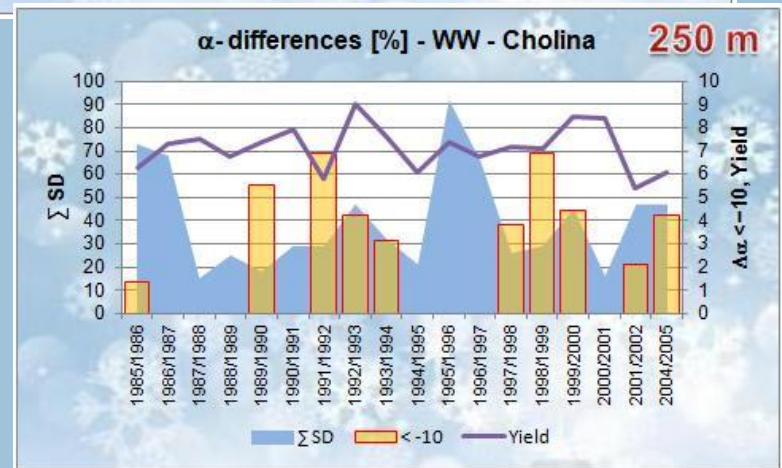
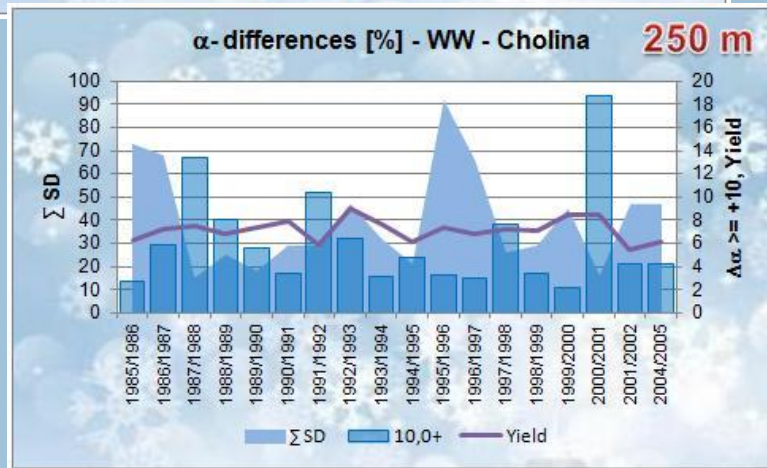
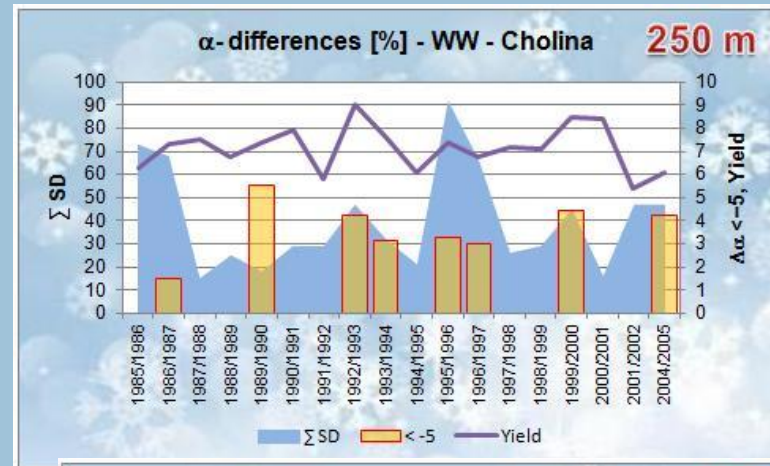
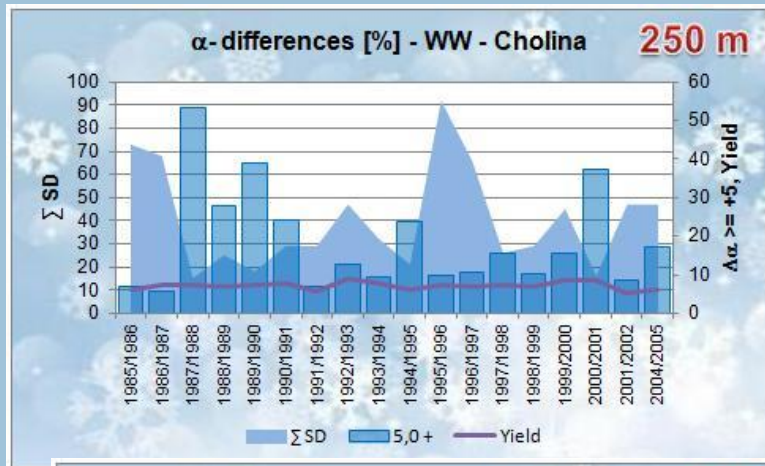


The contents of the following graphs are sums of intermediate differences of the coefficient  $\alpha$  on the one hand reaching +5 and more  $W \cdot m^{-2} \cdot deg^{-1}$ , then less than -5,  $\geq +10$  and  $< -10 W \cdot m^{-2} \cdot deg^{-1}$ .

$\Sigma$  SD ... depth of snow cover.



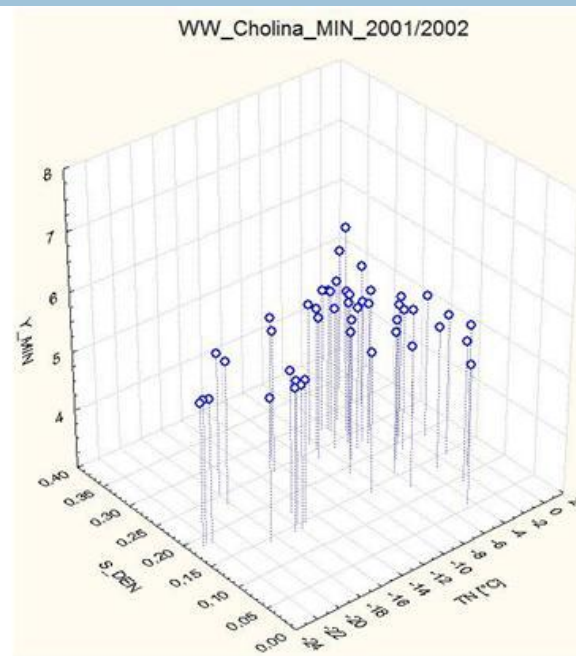
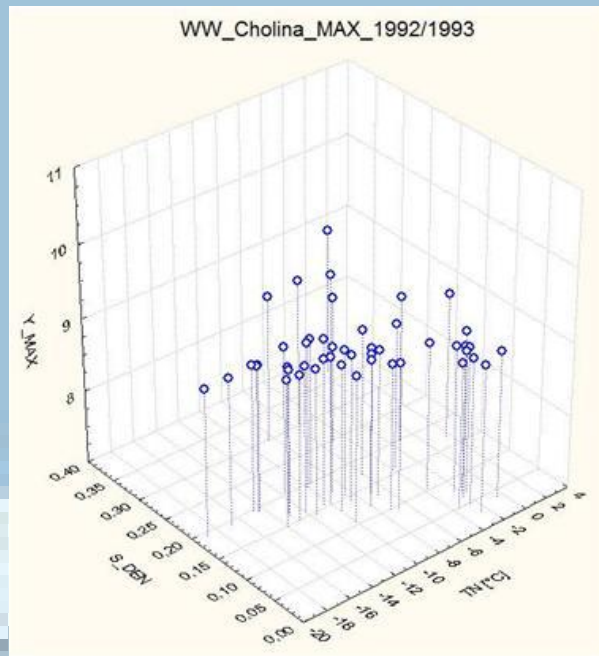
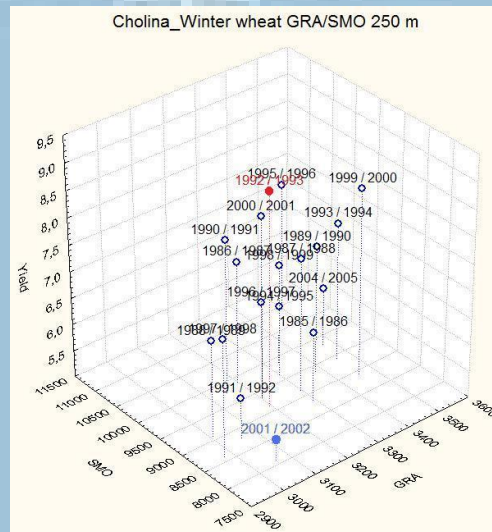
# INTERDIURNAL DIFFERENCE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $\alpha$



## VIRTUAL CUBE

- If we express the relation between the sums of global radiation, soil moisture and yields, we can easily distinguish the diametrically different conditions for the lowest and highest harvest of the winter grain observed.
- Subsequent depictions reflect the influence of snow density at a certain minimum air temperature on the resulting maximum and minimum yields.





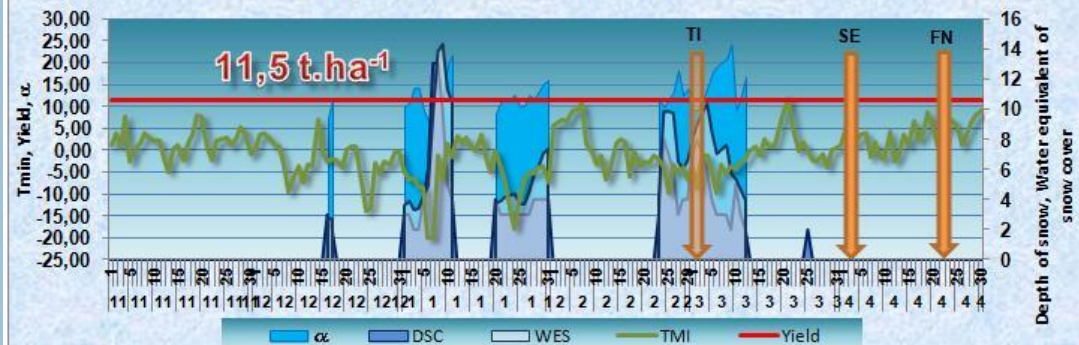
# SOME EXAMPLES:

Winter wheat - Staňkov 2005/2006

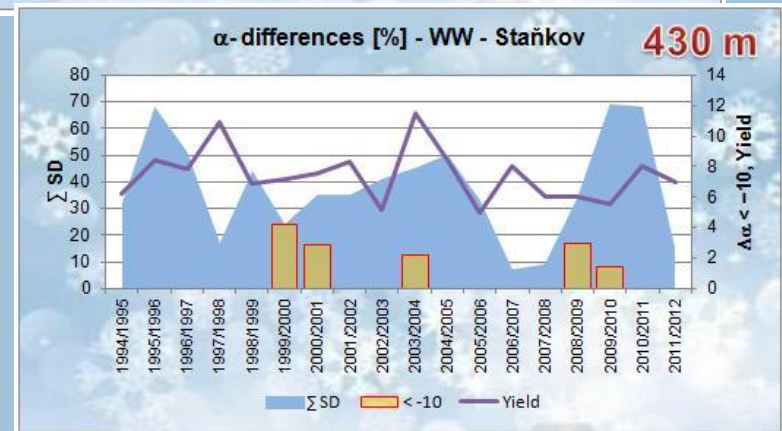
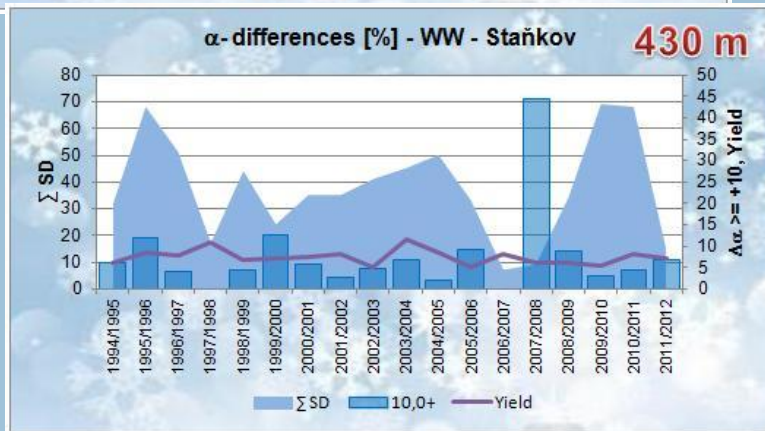
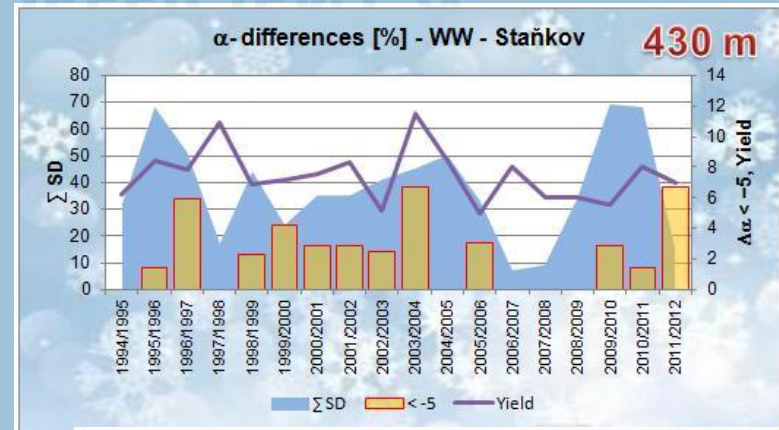
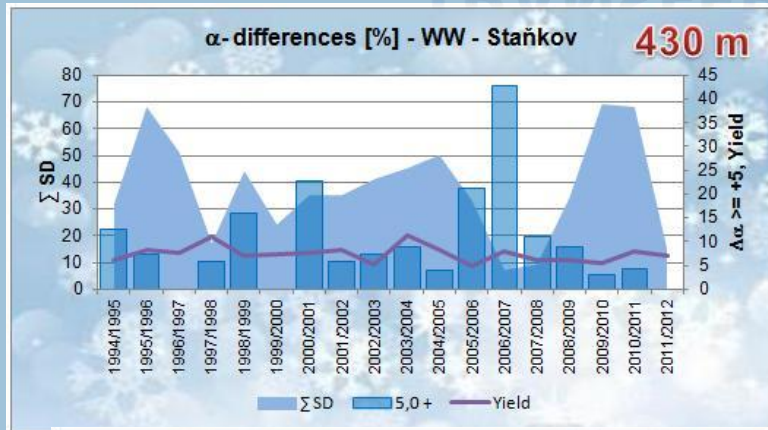


430 m

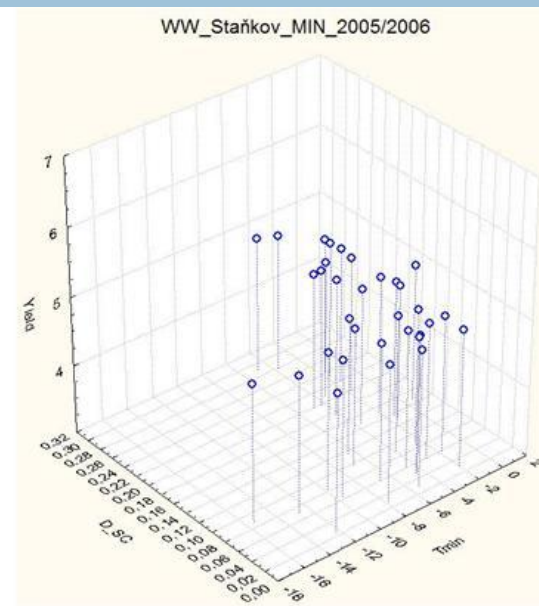
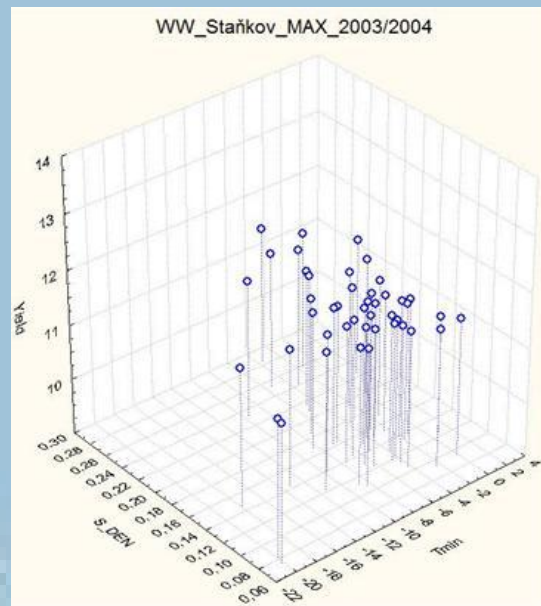
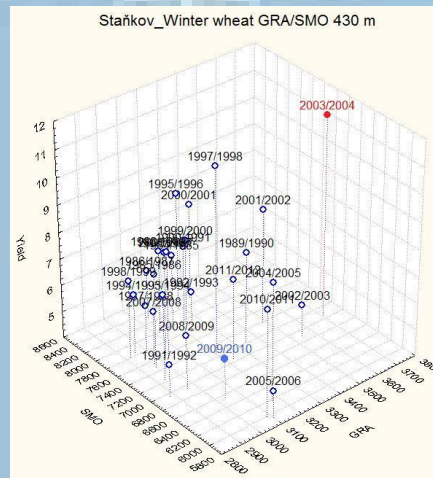
Winter wheat - Staňkov 2003/2004



# INTERDIURNAL DIFFERENCE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $\alpha$

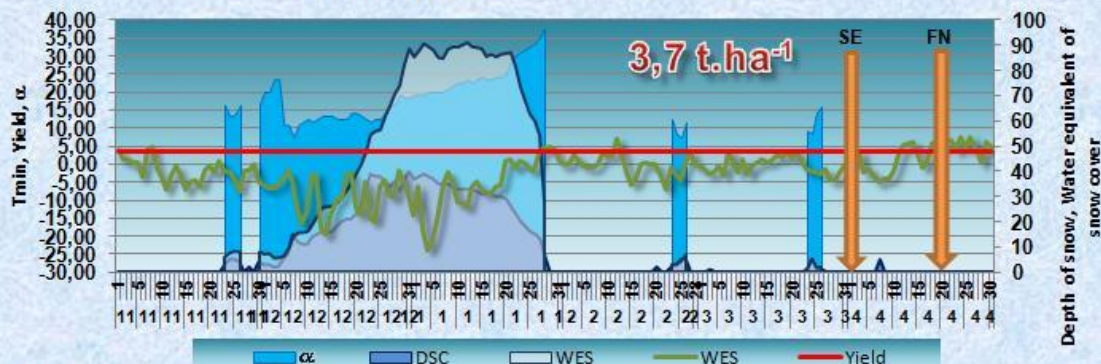






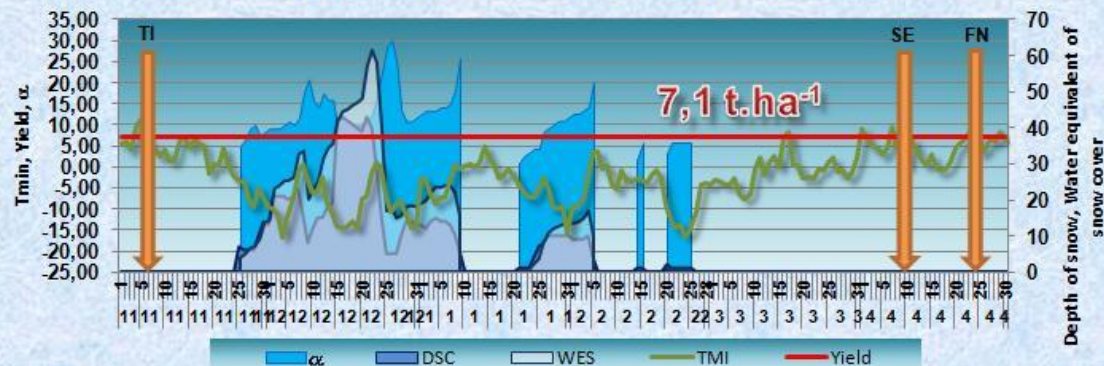
# SOME EXAMPLES:

Winter wheat - Keřkov 2001/2002

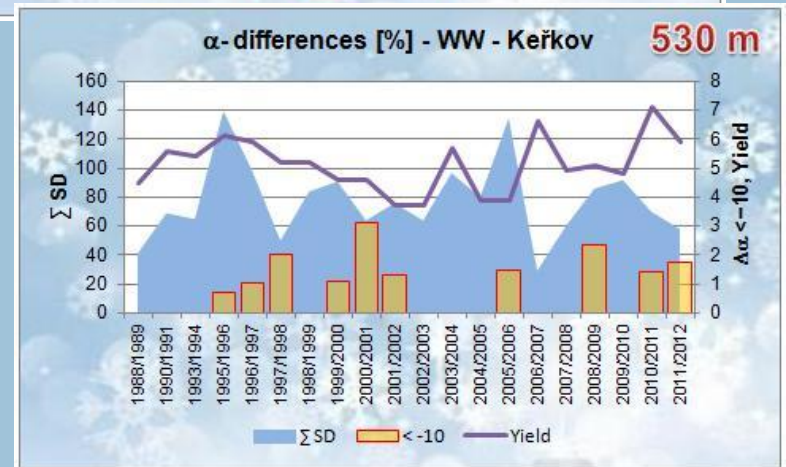
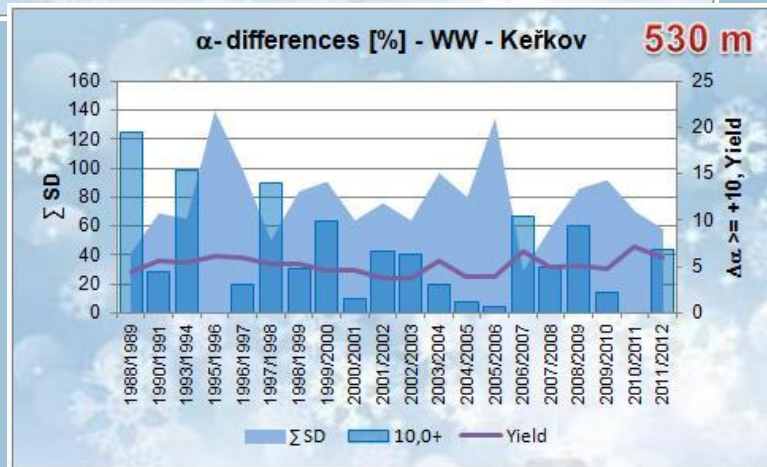
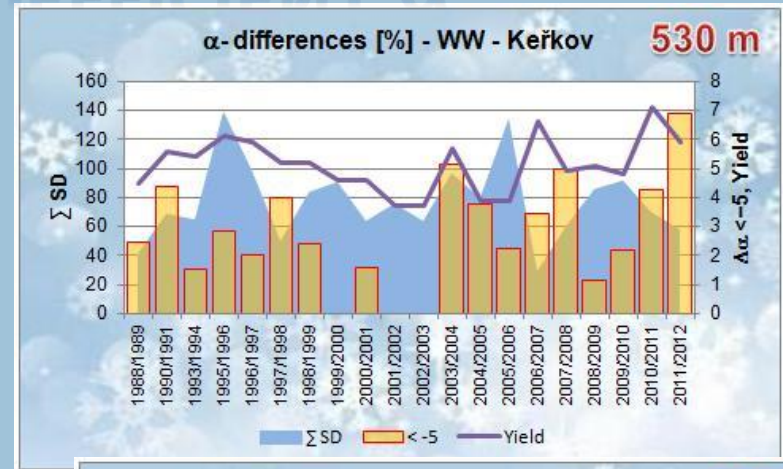
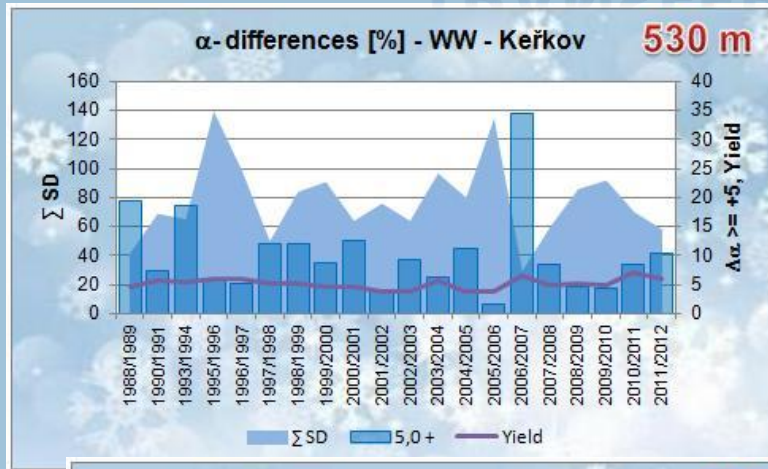


530 m

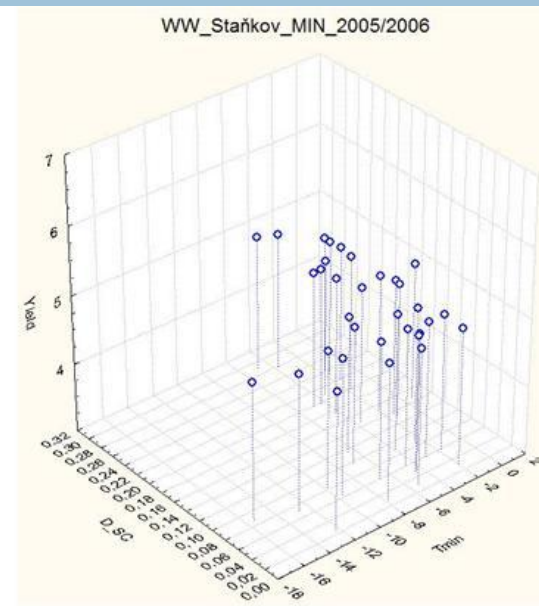
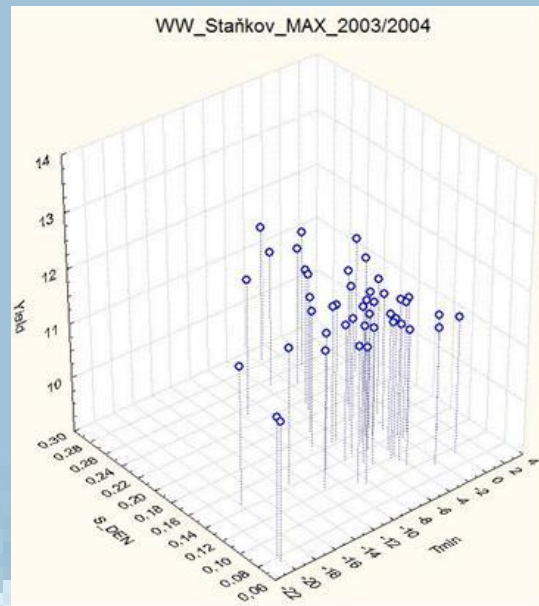
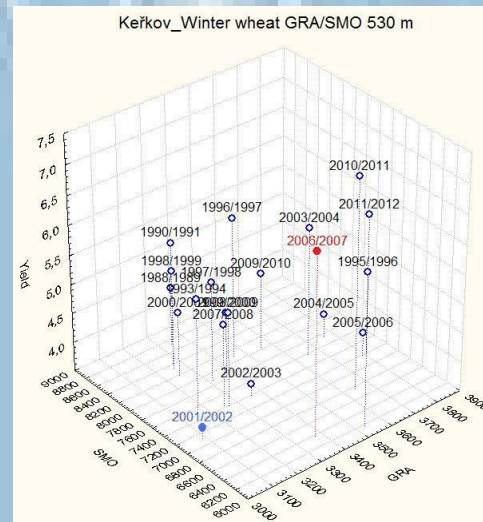
Winter wheat - Keřkov 2010/2011



# INTERDIURNAL DIFFERENCE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $\alpha$

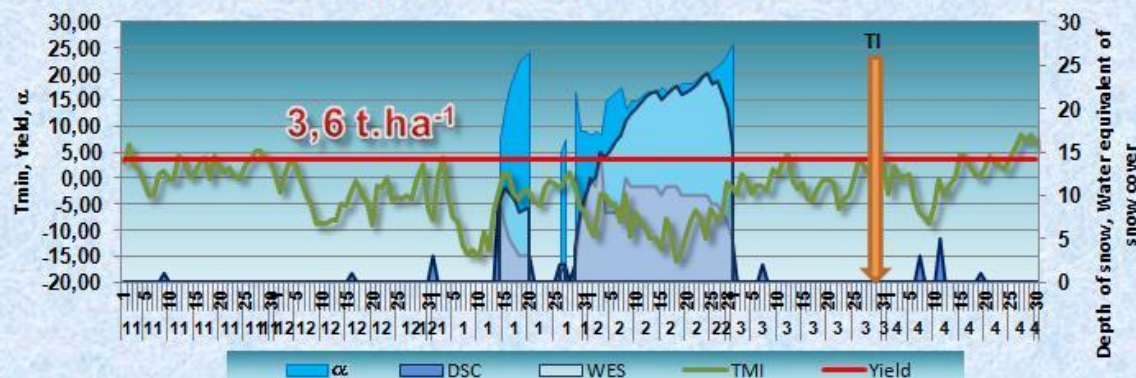






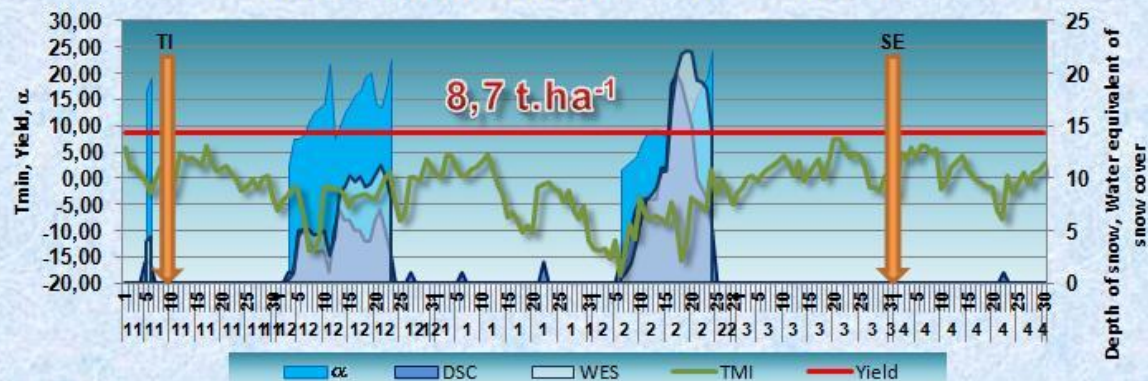
# SOME EXAMPLES:

Winter wheat - Krásné Údolí 2002/2003



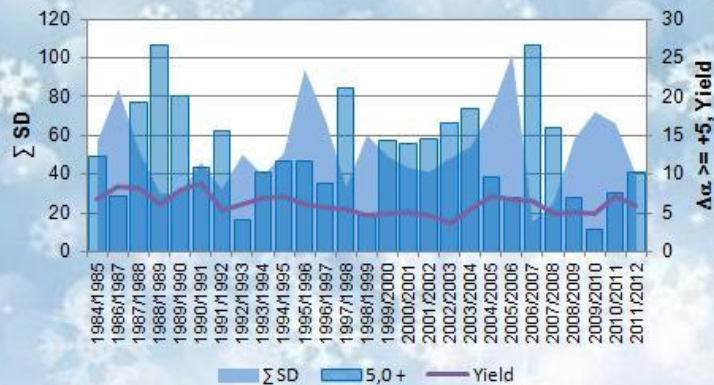
630 m

Winter wheat - Krásné Údolí 1990/1991

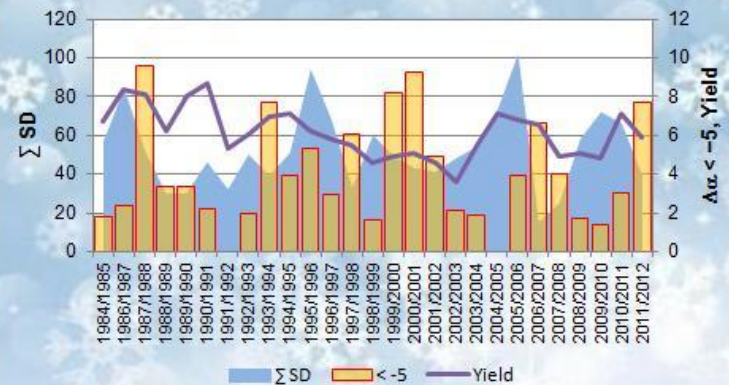


# INTERDIURNAL DIFFERENCE OF HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT $\alpha$

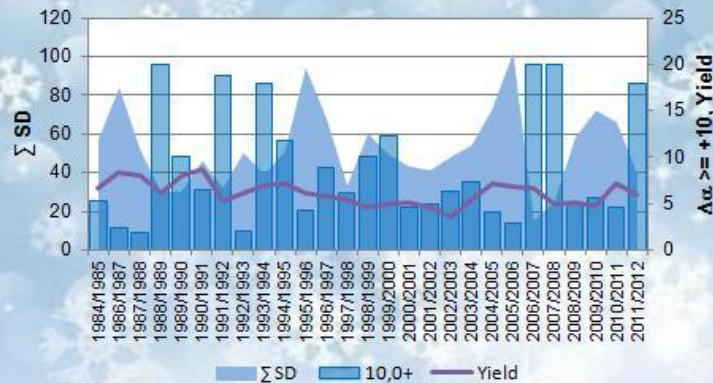
$\alpha$ -differences [%] - WW - Krásné Údolí 630 m



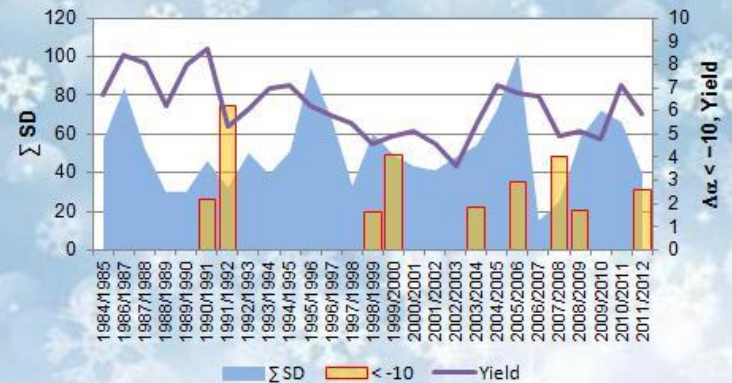
$\alpha$ -differences [%] - WW - Krásné Údolí 630 m



$\alpha$ -differences [%] - WW - Krásné Údolí 630 m



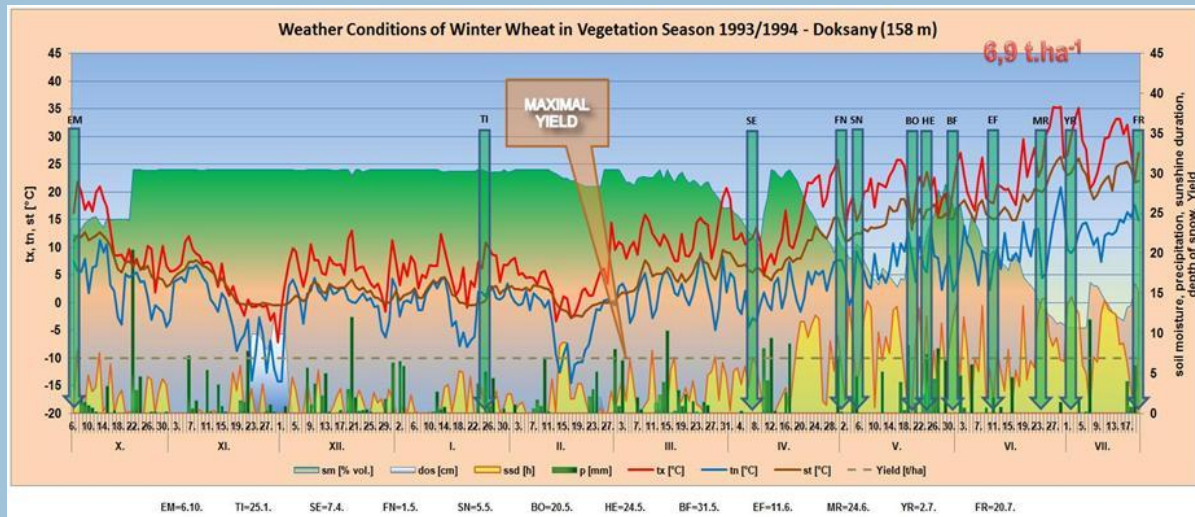
$\alpha$ -differences [%] - WW - Krásné Údolí 630 m







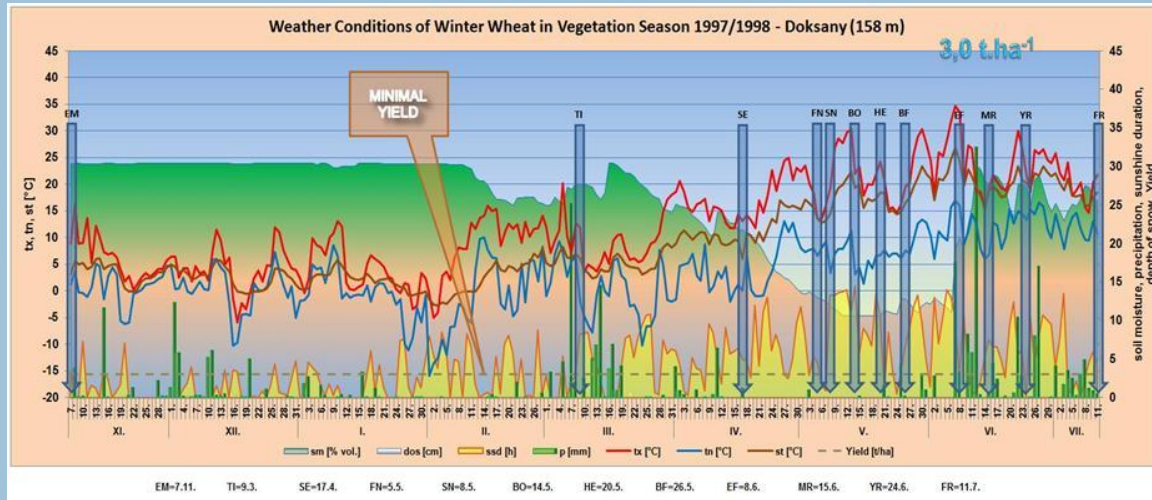
# ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION PERIODS 1



158 m

Exceptionally early snow cover in the local conditions provided good insulation against the negative effects of the deep minimum air temperature drops at the end of November.

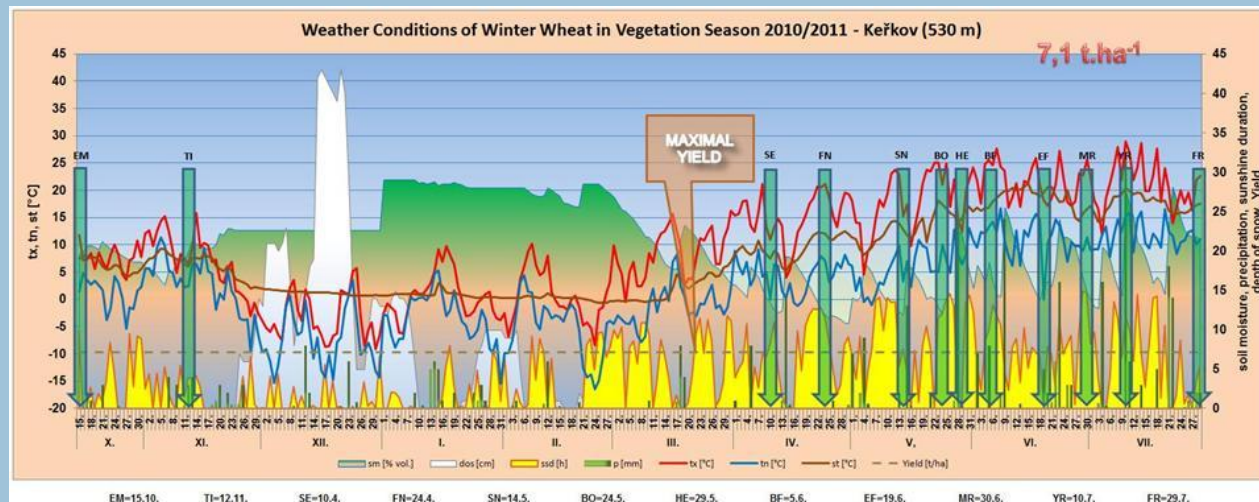
# ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION PERIODS 2



158 m

Insufficient hardening of emerged plants from significant drops in minimum air temperature in the middle of December, late January and early February mainly. Damaged due to the March frosts was stressful, too.

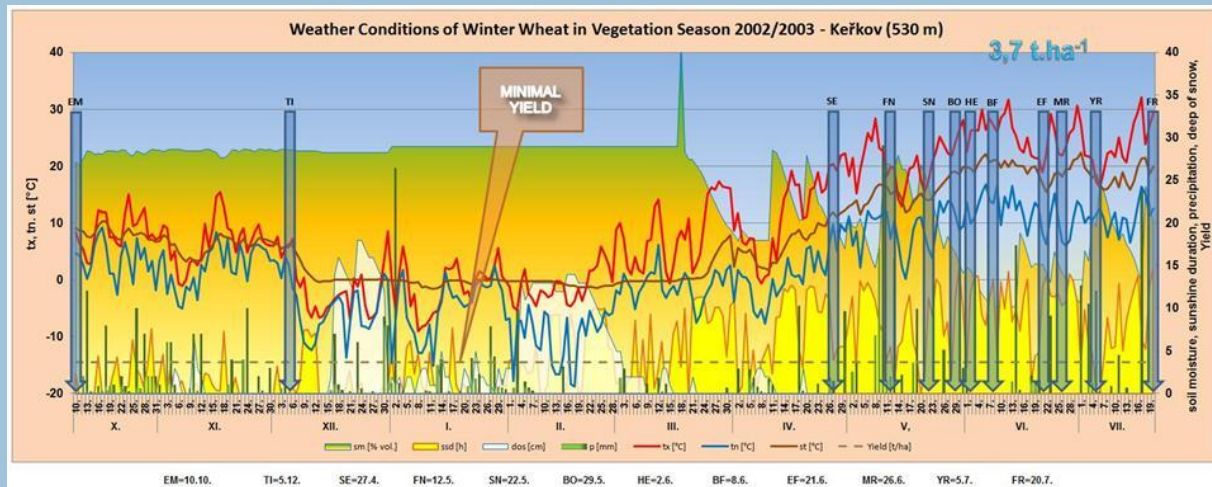
# ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION PERIODS 3



Gradual hardening plants to frost damage in November, along with heavily insulated snow at the time of occurrence of major frosts in December and at the turn of January and February made it possible to overcome the further decline minimum air temperature at the end of February.



# ANALYSIS OF VEGETATION PERIODS 4



530 m

The temperature drop and a further decline in the first half of January they have been compensated due to the insulating snow. The plants did not have enough time for cold resistance against frost damage. Also in February were bad snow conditions which did not protect the winter growths through strong frosts.

# CONCLUSION 1

- Although many other meteorological and biotic elements contribute to the generation of the yield, the condition of the snow cover is one of the major contributor.
- As mentioned, it can act positively and negatively, mainly according to the water value and the time of occurrence.

# CONCLUSION 2

- A  $\alpha$  heat transfer coefficient was a very successful indicator of the quality of snow and its impact on the level of future crops.
- The sum of its interdiurnal differences exceeding 10 or more (or -10 and below) had a significant effect on further plant development.

# CONCLUSION 3

- The work was done with the knowledge of the importance of the interaction of phytopathological and physiological influences, whose impact on the vegetative and generative stages of plant development which is not yet fully explored.



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION