B-21

THE EFFECT OF SHADE ON SOME INDICES OF PLANT WATER RELATIONS IN TEA (CAMELLIA SINENSIS)

S. Nagarajah
(Tea Research Institute, St. Coombs, Talawakelle)

The effect of shade on some indices of plant water relations of tea was studied. The plants were grown in soil contained in polythene bags under full sunlight and 50 and 75% shade provided by saran tents. The measurements were made after the plants had grown in the three light regimes for about one year.

The results showed that 50 and 75% shade reduced the transpiration rate by 16 and 27% respectively. The stomatal and cuticular resistance in leaves were increased only by 75% shade. Both shade treatments were without effect on leaf temperature and leaf water potential. The sensitivity of transpiration to soil water stress was increased by 75% shade and not by 50% shade.