

REGENERATION OF CLUSIA ROSEA (CLUSIACEAE)

A.P. Ranwala and Ajith H. Perera  
Dept. of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya.

Clusia rosea (CLUSIACEAE) is a naturalised exotic in the mid elevations. This tree species has a high potential as a fire-retardant species in the pinus plantations and Patana grasslands.

The modes of regeneration of C. rosea, under natural and controlled conditions were studied. In nature, it is a prolific seed producer, maintaining a large seedling reservoir under the canopy. Under controlled conditions these seeds germinated very rapidly, and attained 40% germination without any seed treatment. Light intensity did not have any effect on germination but subsequent seedling growth was decreased with decreasing light intensity.

Vegetatively, root cuttings, soft wood cuttings (up to 3 nodes) and poles (1 m in length, up to 8 cm diameter) did not produce any shoots, and therefore, these cannot be used to propagate Clusia rosea. However, coppicing appears to be a promising method for regeneration in situ.