

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TUBER DAMAGE BY PANICUM
REPENS L. AND DRY MATTER ACCUMULATION
IN CASSAVA, (MANIHOT ESCULENTA Cranz)

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A perennial grass weed Panicum repens L. (Locally known as Ettora) was detected causing serious quality and marketable yield losses mainly

in improved cassava variety CARI-555. Other varieties tested showed variable grass rhizome penetration effect. The nature of the damage may be illustrated as the formation of brownish black patches on the flesh of cassava tuber by the penetrated grass rhizome. Secondary infection by micro-organisms was not detected.

Results from a varietal evaluational study indicated that 70% root tubers were damaged to a non-marketable extent in CARI-555 at maturity. Penetration was accelerated during the latter part of the growth cycle of cassava. By harvesting cassava one month prior to maturity, around 75% of potential yield could be obtained with only about 10% tuber damage.

References:

Cassava News Letter, CIAT, 1983 7(2)

Cassava News Letter, CIAT, 1986 10 (1)

Doll J.D. (1978) Weeds: an economic problem in cassava.

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