

**B-19 : EVALUATION OF FERTILIZER MIXTURES FOR HEVEA  
PLANTS RAISED BY YOUNG BUDDING TECHNIQUE**  
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Young budding planting technique has been developed for raising of Hevea plants on a large scale, where the plants should reach the buddable girth of 5-6 mm within 2 to 4 months before being budded. This can be achieved with well balanced fertilizer mixtures. Currently fertilizer is being applied in liquid form. This is very effective but fairly expensive. Therefore, a study was initiated to evaluate different fertilizer mixtures that can be used in young budding.

Nine treatments viz. zero fertilizer control, current recommendation for young budding, 2 conventional mixtures recommended for poly bags (urea and sulphate of ammonia based), 2 novel mixtures in conventional form, 2 foliar fertilizers and latex effluent, were evaluated in complete randomized block design having 25 plants for each treatment and the whole experiment was replicated 3 times.

Plants treated with sulphate of ammonia, rock phosphate, muriate of potash and kieserite in the form of conventional mixture and the current recommendation reached the buddable girth within

2 1/2 months and this effect of growth was significantly different from that of the plants treated with other mixtures. Also there was no significant difference in the percentage of buddable plants with the above 2 treatments and 79.44% and 77.27% of the plants were budded at the age of 2 1/2 months respectively. Further, these 2 treatments have performed equally well both agronomically and cost wise suggesting that the application of fertilizers in the form of conventional mixtures can also be used in young budding.