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Tuberization and root initiation of palmyrah (Borassus flabellifer L.) as influenced by the bedding media and added nutrients

An experiment was conducted at Ariyalai in the North of Sri Lanka to evaluate the tuberization and the root initiation potential of palmyrah (*Borassus flabellifer L.*) tubers using two tyupes of soil (sandy loam and alluvial loam) and five types of fertilizers (N,P,K, NPK and control).

Neither the bedding media nor the added nutrients except K.fertilizers affected the dry matter content and the rooting of tubers. However, K fertilizers had inhabitory influence on the rooting of tubers. Palmyrah seeds unlike other seeds produce long cylindrical 'tubers" (first leaves) on germination which would be major storage reserve for the future seedlings. These tubers remain in beds for 5-5 months till they are uprooted of rconsumption. Tuberrization and the subsequent dry matter accumulation are inherent features of palmyrah seeds and hence were not affected by the tested external factors. Potassium would have remained in the tubers and moved along with auxin like indole acetic acid (IAA) to the cut zones of tuber. Potassium tends to neutralize IAA and reduce the rooting effect of IAA on tubers. This probably would have caused poor rooting in tubers with the addition of potassium fertilizer.