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Ex-situ conservation of bird's nest anthurium (*Anthurium hookeri*)

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Anthurium hookeri is one of the most popular landscape plants grown in Sri Lanka. Usually plant is propagated by using underground stems, offsets and from herbaceous stem cuttings. But number of plants produced by those methods is limited due to scarcity of planting materials. Excessive use of planting material for landscape purposes will be badly affected on natural occurring of species. Therefore *ex-situ* conservation of bird's nest anthurium is timely important.

A series of pot experiments were conducted to study germination ability of bird's nest anthurium, seedling growth in different potting media and growth performances as a potted plant under greenhouse conditions. All experiments were set up according to Completely Randomized Design with ten replicates. Seeds were extracted from fully ripen berries and washed thoroughly in order to remove jelly- like substances. Seed germination studies were done by using five different media such as coir dust, charcoal, sand, wet filter paper and sand 1: coir dust 1: bricks pieces 1. Germinated seedlings were then transferred to similar media except for wet filter paper.

The highest germination rate was observed in charcoal media (88%). Vigorous roots were formed on the charcoal pieces. It may be due to epiphytic growth habit of the plant. The lowest rate of germination was observed in wet filter paper media (52%). Sand: coir dust : bricks pieces (1:1:1) medium showed good performances of seedling growth. Number of leaves were recorded in this medium was 4.4. According to the results, it can be concluded that *Anthurium hookeri* can be produced by using both seeds and plantlets, using different potting media for landscape purposes while keeping natural habitats. Therefore this method can be identified as one of the *ex-situ* conservation methods of bird's nest anthurium.

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