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Effect of different potting media on nutmeg ***(Myristica fragran Houtt.)*** seedlings

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This experiment was carried out to investigate the possibility of using domestically available materials as a component of potting media for nutmeg seedlings at the Export Agriculture Research Station (EARS) Media with different compositions of topsoil, sand, cattle manure, coir dust, paddy husk, saw dust and chopped straw were tested for growth and rooting of nutmeg plants. Shoot biomass and root growth were measured using destructive samples collected at one and half years after planting. A significantly higher (15.28 g) biomass (shoot, root and leaves) was observed in the combination with cattle manure, top soil, sand and saw dust treatment except for leaf weight. In the combination of cattle manure, top soil and coir dust treatment medium, the mean root length value was higher (245.16 cm) than in the other treatments but this was not significant. The lowest biomass (12.50 g) with highest root length was observed in seedlings planted in the medium without sand in the recommended potting medium of cattle manure, top soil and coir dust. In contrast, the medium containing 1 cattle manure 1 sand + 1 coir dust showed the highest leaf growth. The medium containing a mixture of 1 top soil + 1 cattle manure + 1 coir dusts showed the best root growth. Therefore, these media could be considered as good alternatives for higher germination and growth of nutmeg seedlings in the nursery.

Keywords: Rooting, Bio mass, Potting media