



dharmadasarm@gmail.com

Tel: +94 71 8573260

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Suitable maturity stage, types of cuttings and potting media for vegetative propagation of *Pogostemon heyneanus* Benth

R M D H Rathnayake¹, D C Abeysinghe¹ and R M Dharmadasa^{2*}

¹Department of Plantation Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Makandura, Gonawila

²Industrial Technology Institute, 363, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

Pogostemon heyneanus Benth. (Lamiaceae) is an industrial crop, important in the aromaticperfumery industry, cultivated in India, Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries. Therefore, there is a high potential for commercial scale cultivation of *P. heyneanus* for its fragrance and other therapeutic benefits. In the present study, the effect of maturity level, potting medium and the type of cuttings for the mass propagation of *P. Heyneanus* were investigated for commercial cultivation in Sri Lanka. Single and double nodal cuttings at three different maturity stages (*i.e.* soft wood, semi-hard wood and hard wood) were planted in poly bags with potting medium containing soil: sand: compost of three different ratios (1:1:1, 1:1:2 and 1:2:1). Number of leaves, number of branches, length of branches, height and the spreading of canopy were recorded as growth parameters. Data were analysed using GLM of SAS statistical package and mean separation was done by using DMRT. Highest plant height (52.9 ± 2.1 cm), length of branches (82.2 ± 5.6 cm), number of leaves (32.3 ± 2.6) and spreading of plant canopy (28.5 ± 1.7 cm) were observed after 60 days of planting in the hard wood double nodal cutting planted in potting medium of 1:1:1 ratio. Double nodal hard wood stem cuttings appeared to be the most appropriate vegetative propagule in *P. heyneanus* as it gives the best results in all growth parameters tested. Potting medium 1:1:1 (top soil: sand: compost) is the most suitable in rooting the double nodal hard wood stem cuttings for propagation of *P. heyneanus*. Use of double nodal hard wood stem cuttings as a source of planting material and soil: sand: compost medium of 1:1:1 as the potting medium in field planting can be recommended for commercial scale cultivation of *P. heyneanus*.

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