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EFFECT OF STORAGE ON SPROUTING OF BANANA SUCKERS VAR. ROBUSTA

It is customary among the banana growers to store the suckers of Nendran variety in shade for 10 to 15 days after drying in sun for 2 to 3 days before planting. When large scale distribution of Robusta banana suckers was effected, some farmers reported low percentage of sprouting. This was presumed to be due to the delay in planting the suckers after sprouting. Hence to find out the extent of storage of banana suckers possible for Robusta variety, an observational trial was laid out at Banana & Pineapple Research Station, Kannara during 1976—77 and 1977—78 seasons. The treatments and results are furnished in Table 1.

Table 1 Mean data on the percentage of sprouting as affected by storage.

Treatments	Duration of storage in days		
	7	14	21
	Percentage of sprouting		
Drying in shade	100	90.0	31.6
Drying in sun for 2 days and keeping in shade	100	31.6	26.6
Dipping in cowdung slurry and keeping in shade	100	63.3	36.6
Control	300*	100*	100*

* The suckers were planted soon after uprooting

The data indicate that suckers planted 7 days after storing irrespective of the treatments had cent per cent sprouting. The sprouting in respect of suckers dried in shade for 14 days and dipping in cowdung slurry and keeping in shade for 14 days was 90% and 63.3% respectively, whereas the suckers stored for 14 days after sundrying recorded only sprouting of 31.6%. In all the treatments where the period of storage was 21 days, very heavy casualty was noticed indicating that prolonged storage is detrimental to the viability of the suckers.

From the results of the above trial, it is evident that planting suckers of Robusta variety soon after uprooting is desirable and prolonged storage cannot be recommended.

സംഗ്രഹം

നേത്രവാഴക്കന്നുകളിൽ നിലവിലുള്ള സമ്പ്രദായം മാതിരി റോബസ്റ്റ് വാഴക്കന്നകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്ന് പരിശോധിക്കുവാൻ കണ്ണൂർ വാഴക്കൈതച്ചക്ക ഗവേഷണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ 1976—77, 77—78 എന്നീ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ നടത്തിയ പരീക്ഷണങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് റോബസ്റ്റ് ഇനം വാഴക്കന്നകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കി സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ പറ്റിയതല്ലെന്ന് മനസ്സിലായി.

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