Poster

LOW COST, LOW WEIGHT ALTERNATIVE POTTING MEDIA FOR FRUIT PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION

S.T. BADDEGAMA, B.L.D.L.D. WIJESUNDERA AND D. HARSHANI

Fruit Research and Development Institute ,Kananwila ,Horana, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

Fruit planting material production is a basic need for fruit cultivation. Even though both government and private sector nurseries produce fruit planting materials, the plating material pot is too heavy and difficult to maintain. Therefore, a series of nursery experiment were carried out at Horticulture nursery of Fruit Research and Development Institute (FRDI), Horana during the period of 2013 to 2014 to select low cost, low weight alternative potting media for budded fruit planting material production. Seven different potting media were compared for the experiment, namely, compressed coir dust pellet (60x120 mm), current planting material production pot (8"x 6"300 gauge black polythene bag filled with top soil + compost + sand (2:2: 1 ratio), 6"x4" 300 gauge black polythene bag filled with top soil + compost + sand (2: 2: 1 ratio), coir dust, half burn paddy husk, refuse tea, top soil + refuse tea + coir dust+ half burn paddy husk+ (1: 1: 1:1 ratio). Seed germination percentage , number of success plant up to budded stage, number of success plants after budding, remaining success budded plant up to six month period, success number of plants remaining up to more than one year period were recorded. Out of different treatments compressed coir dust pellets and current planting material production pots showed the almost same results. But economic comparison showed that cost of production of current practice was higher than that of cost of production of compressed coir dust pellets. Compressed coir dust pellets were also easy to maintain, easy to handle, easy to transport and a bio degradable material. Therefore, compressed coir dust pellets could be used as an alternative potting media for fruit planting material production.