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Research News

STUDY ON FLOWER INDUCTION AND SEED PRODUCTION IN BEET (*BETA VULGARIS* L.)

H.K. KUMUDUNI, A.G.C. BABU AND M.M. NUGALIYADDE

Agriculture Research Station, Sitha Eliya, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka

Generally, temperature, photoperiod regime and relative humidity impose a combined effect on seed production of beet through stimulation of blooming, blooming period, pollination and uniform ripening of beet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) seeds. As a result, seed production of beet is not possible in Sri Lanka under natural conditions as cool-climatic conditions required for vernalization does not prevail in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, a study conducted at Agriculture Research Station, Sita-eliya has revealed that by exposing mature roots of beet to 4-5 ^{0}C for 2 weeks and transplanting them during the period of December to February can produce good quality seeds of beet due to prevailing conducive environmental conditions during the winter months in the hill country of the island. However, this research has to be repeated at a few more geographical settings of the region with cost-benefit analysis before being recommended as a general agronomic practice.