

ADVENTITIOUS ROOT FORMATION IN TEA CUTTINGS PLANTED ON DIFFERENT DATES

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The sprouting percentage of the tea cuttings of Qi-Men variety (Chinese type) raised under polythene tunnel and in the open showed higher sprouting percentage in the former than in the later in all the months of the year except June, September and October where it was 78.67, 97.33 and 19.67 corresponding to 22.31, 89.00 and 15.66 respectively. More number of roots/ cutting produced under plastic sheet versus openly raised cuttings in all the month leaving out August, September and October which showed 12.00, 11.36 and 16.66 as against 4.40, 9.80 and 15.00 number of roots per cutting. The root length was shorter under plastic tunnel than openly raised tea cuttings only in April and September. With the exception of September in all the months more number of leaves per cutting were observed under polythene tent than in the open, while the length of shoot was higher in former than in the later throughout the year. No significant difference was observed in the dry weight of root both in covered and the open condition. The dry weight of the cuttings raised under plastic sheet was less than the openly planted cuttings only in the month of April and August. However the cuttings raised under polythene tunnel showed better performance in all the months than planted openly.

INTRODUCTION

Tea (*Camellia sinensis* L.) may be propagated either by seed or by vegetative means. Seed propagation is a traditional method