

## Research Notes

### EFFECT OF TWO TRANSPLANTING MEDIA ON EGGPLANTS<sup>1</sup>

The objective of the present study was to determine whether plant growth and yield of eggplant (*Solanum melongena* L.) were affected when the plants were initiated on standard seedbeds as compared to Jiffy-7<sup>2</sup> transplant media.

Eggplant seeds of the Rayada variety were sown February 12, 1973 simultaneously in metal flats (15½ inches wide × 23¾ inches long × 3½ inches deep) filled with a 1:1 sand to filter press cake mixture and on Jiffy-7 starting medium. The study was initiated in a propagating shed at the Fortuna Substation. Irrigation was applied as needed for germination and growth.

Transplants were set in the field on March 15 in a San Antón clay loam, following a randomized complete block experimental design with 4 replications. Planting distance was 3 feet × 3 feet, with five plants per plot, in rows 15 feet long.

Resetting of more than 50 percent was required March 20 for the seedlings started on metal flats, because the roots suffered damage during handling. No resetting was necessary for any of the plants initiated in Jiffy-7 medium.

Transplants were fertilized with 2,000 lb/A of a 10-10-10 fertilizer mixture. Insects were controlled periodically with insecticides. Furrow irrigation was applied as the plants required.

Plants in the Jiffy-7 wafers developed faster, attained a larger size, and matured earlier than those under the other treatment.

Harvest of the Jiffy-7 treatment plants started July 5, 1973 and ended August 7. Harvest of the standard seedbed treatment plants started July 18 and ended August 18.

There were no significant statistical differences among treatment yields. From the plants in Jiffy-7, 360 fruits weighting 160.9 lb were harvested. From the metal flat seedbed treatment plants, 346 fruits were harvested weighing 165.7 lb. Mean fruit weights were 0.44 and 0.47 lb, respectively, with a calculated production of 389 and 392 hundredweight per acre, respectively.

Although no differences in yield were observed in this trial some points

<sup>1</sup> Manuscript submitted to the Editorial Board February 26, 1974.

<sup>2</sup> Jiffy-7 is the tradename for a small wafer of compressed peat encased in a plastic net with fertilizer added and pH 5.5 to 6.0. Mention of this product is for the sole purpose of identification and does not imply preference or recommendation over other similar products.

should be considered: 1) Costs of labor, materials, and transplanting plants from metal flats were estimated at \$228.00 per acre, and resetting cost was \$29.00; 2) cost of Jiffy-7 wafers was \$135.00 per 5,000 and transplanting was \$57.00; 3) plants in standard seedbeds also were irrigated after resetting and received two additional insect sprays during the growing season.

*Luis Almodovar*  
*Lajas Substation*  
*Carmelo Sierra*  
*Ismael Reyes*  
*Fortuna Substation*