

**A METHOD TO OBTAIN RELATIVELY UNIFORM BREADFRUIT TREES
FROM A STOCKPLANT¹**

The seedless breadfruit (panapén) *Artocarpus altilis* (Parkinson) Fosbery [*Artocarpus communis* J. R. and G. Forst., *A. incisus* (Thumb.) L. F.] is propagated by root cuttings, layering, marcotts or root suckers. Rooting percentage is very low. The propagating material obtained from a single stockplant also is very low and not uniform in size. Indolebutyric acid in

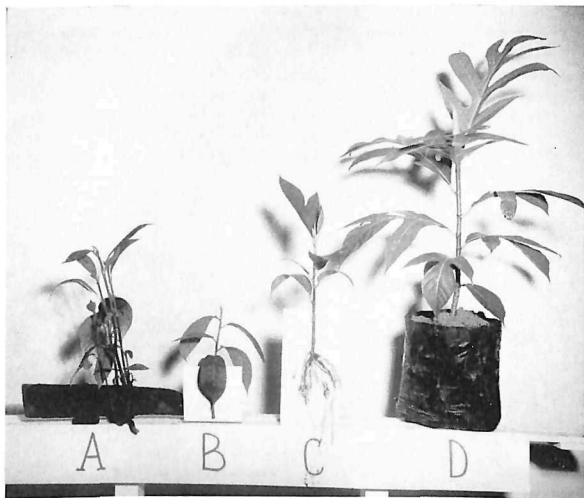


FIG. 1.

solution at different concentrations was used to induce root formation in stem cuttings in the only experimental work reported.² No reference is made in that report, however, as to uniformity and number of rooted cuttings obtained from a single stockplant.

¹ Manuscript submitted to Editorial Board April 16, 1974.

² Muzik, Thomas J., Effects of Hormones on Root Formation in *Artocarpus communis*, *Science* 167: 225, 1948.

A method is described herein to produce large numbers of propagating material (stem top cuttings) of uniform size from a single stockplant.

The method consists of severing a root of good size from the stockplant and dividing it into sections of approximately twelve inches long. These sections are placed in a sand bench under intermittent mist and artificial shade. Suckers develop from the root cuttings after several weeks (fig. 1,A). The sucker tops are separated as stem cuttings of four to five nodes in length (fig. 1,B). The cuttings are left with their leaves and treated with a 1/500 talc dust of the potassium salt of 3-indolebutyric acid. All cuttings are placed in a coarse sand rooting medium under intermittent mist and artificial shade. The cuttings develop a root system in about a month (fig. 1,C) sufficient for transplanting to a soil, peat and sand mixture in plastic bags, one cutting per bag. The cuttings are kept under the mist for a week or two then placed under a 65 percent shade for hardening. Thereon, liquid fertilizer and irrigation are applied regularly. After developing a good, fibrous system (fig. 1,D) they are transferred to a sunny place. The cuttings are ready for the field in about 6 months.

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