

## Soaking time and planting depth of seeding Criollo sapodilla rootstock (*Manilkara zapota* (Van Royen) (Jacq) Gill) Sapotaceae

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### Abstract

With the purpose of evaluating the effect of soaking time (ST) and depth of seeding (SD) on germination of Criollo sapodilla rootstock, 1200 seeds, selected from fresh fruits, were used. Seeds were soaked in water for 0, 24, 32 and 48 hours and planted with the wider side up at 2, 4 and 6 cm depths. The SD showed significant differences ( $P < 0.01$ ) on the germination percentage (GP) and germination rate, but did not affect seedling height (SH) and root length (RL). The ST and interaction with SD did not show differences for GP, SH and RL. At 56 days, the seeding depth of 2 cm registered the largest GP, 37.75 %. Germination began at 28 days with values between 0 and 9 %, and then the trend increased until 56 days, 20-38 %. SH varied between 6.8 and 7.7 cm and RL between 7.6 and 9.2 cm. Planting at a depth of 2 cm is recommended, and also the seed position should be evaluated.

**Key words:** Germination, seedling height, root length, *Manilkara zapota*.

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Recibido el 12-11-2001 ● Aceptado el 5-9-2002

1 Proyecto de investigación "Propagación de especies de interés frutícola y ornamental" registrado en CONDES-LUZ como no financiado y cofinanciado por el Centro Frutícola del Zulia-CORPOZULIA.

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