´Rev. Fac. Agron. (LUZ). 2002, 19: 264-272

Effect of post-harvest damage on the germination of asexual seeds of five sugar cane varieties

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Abstract

To investigate the effect of post-harvest damage on the germination of sugarcane, seed pieces of five varieties were planted 24, 48, 72 and 96 hours after harvest (HDC). The research was conducted at the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INIA) experimental field at Las Majaguas. Germination was recorded weekly based on the number of emerging shoots during eight weeks. The varieties included in this study were 'B 67-49', 'PR 980', 'PR61-632', 'RAGNAR' and 'V 64-10'. Results indicated that the highest germination occurred when seed pieces were planted 24 and 48 HDC (29,87 % y 27,47 % respectively) while the lowest germination was observed for the 96 HDC treatment (17,11 %). 'PR61-632' and 'PR 980' showed the highest germination values (29,39 % and 28,46 %) while 'V 64-10' showed the lowest (19,63 %). The interaction variety x HDC indicates that seed pieces from 'B 67-49' were the most affected by post harvest damage.

Key words: sugarcane, *Saccharum* spp, seed pieces.

Recibido el 28-1-2002 ● Aceptado el 10-5-2002

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