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Study on the performance of softwood grafting in jamun (*Syzygium cumunii* SKEEL)

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ABSTRACT : Jamun (*Syzygium cumunii* Skeel) is an important underutilized and minor subtropical fruit crop of India belonging to the family Myrtaceae. The study on softwood grafting in jamun was conducted at the Department of Horticulture, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra, UAS, Bangalore. The objective of the experiment was to assess the vegetative growth and graft success percentage of jamun over the months (Treatment) under different growing conditions(sub treatment) during the years 2009 and 2010. The findings show that Jamun grafts kept inside the shade net house during January month showed maximum number of leaves (12.23) per graft in jamun and least number of leaves (5.85) was observed when softwood grafts were kept under open (natural shade) condition during the month of December. The maximum percentage of graft success (99%) was found out to be in the month of January, when the softwood grafts of Jamun inside the low cost polyhouse. The least (70%) graft success was observed in the month of December when kept under shade net house condition.

KEY WORDS : Soft wood grafting, Jamun

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amun (Syzygium cumini Skeel) is an important underutilized and indigenous fruit crop of India belonging to the family Myrtaceae. It has recently attained major importance in arid zones. It is widely grown in larger parts of India from Indo-gangetic plains in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South (Singh and Srivastava, 2000). Propagation of Jamun through softwood grafting is gaining popularity among nursery men and growers. However, the vegetative propagation techniques through softwood grafting is much influenced by the climatic conditions of the region and is mostly carried out on the onset of monsoon, thereby restricting the availability of planting material for that particular season. Hence, there is a need to emphasis to study vegetative methods of propagation through soft wood grafting under Bangalore conditions over the months with different growing conditions.

RESEARCH METHODS

An investigation was conducted on the performance of

softwood grafting in Jamun (Syzygium cumunii SKEEL)' at the Department of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra, Bangalore. The objective of the experiment was to assess the vegetative growth and graft success percentage of jamun with four treatments (months) and four sub treatment (growing condition) with four replications using factorial completely randomized design. Jambunerale (Syzygium cumunii Skeel) was used both as a rootstock and scion under Bangalore region, during the period from the year December 2009 to March 2010. To raise the nursery, fresh seeds were sown in a seed pan for germination. When seedlings attained four leaf stage they were transplanted to polyethylene bags containing a potting mixture of red sandy loam soil, sand and farm yard manure in the ratio of 3:1:1, respectively. The seedlings were grown for one year and softwood grafting during four different months softwood grafting over the year was done with scion procured from 15 years old healthy Jamun tree. The vegetative growth such as number of leaves and rate of graft success was recorded at