



## Research Paper

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# Standardization of length of cuttings for vegetative propagation of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

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**ABSTRACT :** Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) is an extremely vigorous, aromatic vine that grows up through the canopy belongs to the family Caprifoliaceae. Though it can be propagated through cuttings, the optimum length of cuttings to be used for vegetative propagation was limiting. Hence, the present investigation was carried out to standardize the optimum length of cuttings for regeneration of Japanese honeysuckle. The various shoot and root parameters that were considered to influence the regeneration of cuttings was significant in two noded 8-10 cm length cuttings as against three noded 12-15 cm lengthened cuttings.

**KEY WORDS :** Japanese honeysuckle, Aromatic vine, Optimum length of cuttings, Regeneration

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**L***onicera japonica* (F: Caprifoliaceae) commonly known as Japanese honeysuckle, is an extremely vigorous aromatic vine and also an effective ground cover that bears pleasant flowers. It is indigenous to Asia, now commonly grown in gardens in the plains and in hill stations and has become naturalized in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand and much of the United States, including Hawaii, as well as in number of Pacific and Caribbean islands (Pal, 1972). Japanese honeysuckle has both edible and medicinal values. It is rich source of calcium, magnesium and potassium, whereas, the leaves can be paraboiled and eaten as a vegetable. The active constituents include calcium, zinc, elaidic-acid, inositol, linoleic-acid, lonocerin, luteolin, magnesium, myristic-acid, potassium and tannin. It is having antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, diuretic and febrifuge properties and is also used to reduce blood pressure (Herktols, 1976).

*Lonicera japonica* can be propagated by seed, cuttings or layering. It does not set seed in some areas and seeds require cold stratification to overcome dormancy (Hidayati *et al.*, 2000). Due to its increasing demand as medicinal, aromatic and ornamental plant, there exists a demand for planting material on a large scale. But, its inability to set seeds under

Bangalore condition, demands other alternative methods for its propagation. Hence, a study was conducted for standardization of length of cuttings for vegetative propagation of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.).

## RESEARCH METHODS

The present investigation on the standardization of length of cuttings for vegetative propagation of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.) was carried out in green house condition during 2009-10 (July to January) at the Garden of Fragrance, Department of Horticulture, Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. The experiment was carried out by selecting and collecting one year old shoots of Japanese honeysuckle for preparing the cuttings of required length details of which is given below. After preparing the cuttings of suitable length, the base of the cuttings was dipped in captan (2g l<sup>-1</sup>) solution as a precautionary measure to avoid fungal infection. The cuttings thus prepared were planted in seed pans and watered regularly. The observations on various shoot and root parameters were made to assess the standard length for vegetative propagation of Japanese honeysuckle. The experimental data recorded on various parameters during the