



Research Paper

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Effect of season on softwood grafting in carambola (*Averrhoa carambola* Linn)

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ABSTRACT : The present investigation entitled effect of season on softwood grafting in carambola (*Averrhoa carambola* Linn) was conducted during 2009-2010 at the Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Dapoli. The experiment consisted of 6 treatments (months), which were replicated 4 times and laid out in Randomized Block Design. The results indicated that June to August months recorded maximum sprouting (90 %), survival (87.50 %), minimum days for initiation (15.75 days) and completion (18.75 days) of sprouting and maximum vegetative growth *i.e.* sprout length (3.63 cm) and number of leaflets (23.05) at 90th DAG.

KEY WORDS : Carambola, Season, Softwood grafting

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Carambola/Kamrakh or Star fruit (*Averrhoa carambola* L.) is a curious, attractive fruit of the Oxalidaceae family. Carambola is an important fruit of warm tropics and sub tropics region of world. Carambola is native of Indonesia and Malaysia. In India, it is distributed in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, foot hills of Tamilnadu and other tropical areas. It is also observed in Konkan region of Maharashtra.

The carambola is a fruit of immense utility. Since existing plantations of carambola are of seedling types, they need further improvement. Carambola is often propagated through seeds. The seeds have low viability and hence should be sown fresh. After cleaning and drying the seeds, they should be sown on raise beds. The seedlings are transplanted to individual bags and allowed to harden. When seedlings are to serve as rootstock, they should be at least one year old, on which grafting can be taken up. As seedling type is heterozygous, the seedlings are unlikely to produce fruit which closely resemble to mother tree. It is known for producing variable progeny which fruit in about four years of planting. Grafted plants on the other hand, commence fruiting after about 10 months of planting (Singh, 1963).

The softwood grafting however, a suitable and easy method has not been practiced yet, which can be practiced year around with availability of suitable scion stick and rootstock for grafting. The research work entitled effect of season on softwood grafting in carambola (*Averrhoa carambola* Linn) had been undertaken with objectives to study optimum season for softwood grafting in carambola.

RESEARCH METHODS

An experiment, on the effect of season on softwood grafting in carambola (*Averrhoa carambola* Linn) was conducted during the year 2009-2010 at the Department of Horticulture, College Of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri. The experiment was conducted to find out the influence of season on success of softwood grafting in carambola. The grafting was performed on the 15th of every month, starting from March 2010 to August 2010 which act as a treatment T₁ (March, 2010), T₂ (April, 2010), T₃ (May, 2010), T₄ (June, 2010), T₅ (July, 2010) to T₆ (August, 2010). The observations on percentage success, sprouting, survival and growth parameters such as sprout length, number of leaflets were recorded at an interval of 15 days up to a period of two months. For experiment