ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to test the effect of medium on the growth of oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp) in the eastern region of Sri Lanka.

Straw, Waste paper, Cadjan leaves and Paddy husk were tested as major organic waste media. Rice bran, Soya bean, $CaSO_4$ /$CaCO_3$ and Epsum were mixed with these organic waste as mineral constituents. Bags with media were inoculated with oyster mushroom spawn and allowed to incubate for 25-35 days. After that, bags were placed in the growing house.

Fresh weight and diameter of flushes were measured. Straw + $CaSO_4$ medium showed the highest yield (495.03 g/kg dry weight medium). The time taken to first harvest was also noticed as the shortest (11.75 days) on this media. Among used organic waste, straw may be recommended for highest yield.

Though mushroom grown in cadjan leaves produced the largest size (9.5cm diameter) of flushes, time taken for a bloom is the longest (31 days) compared to the other wastes.

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EFFECT OF SOME SELECTED ORGANIC WASTES ON THE PRODUCTION OF OYSTER MUSHROOM

BY

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