

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON GROWTH AND YIELD  
OF AMARANTHUS (DIYAPALAGODA ACCESSION)  
ESTABLISHED FROM MAIN AND RATOON SEEDS**

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## ABSTRACT

Amaranth is an important leafy vegetable and it is probably the highest yielding leaf vegetable of the tropics. Its excellent nutritional value makes it an important vegetable for human nutrition, both in rural areas for home consumption and as a cheap green in city markets. However, there has been a decline in cultivated extent and production of amaranth, due to seasonal cropping system and decreasing availability of arable land.

Diyapalagoda accession of amaranthus contributes as an important leafy vegetable with its excellent performance in tropics. Specially, it gives good seed materials from ratoon.

Therefore, a study was initiated at the Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute (HORDI), Gannoruwa, during the period of august to December 2008 with the objective to evaluate and introduce the ratoon seeds from Diyapalagoda accession of amaranthus among the farmers. This study was aimed to find out the growth and yield of amaranthus (Diyapalagoda accession) established from main and ratoon seeds.

A field trial was carried out at the leafy vegetable garden at HORDI, Gannoruwa.

Amaranthus was evaluated with 8 replicates in a Complete Randomized Design (CRD).

This was grown under drip irrigation in the field. Vegetative growth and yield parameters were recorded and were analyzed in ANOVA using SAS.

According to the results, there were no any significant effect between main and ratoon seed's crops. Ratoon seed's crop shown promising characters as main crop of amaranthus.

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