

**EFFECTS OF GROWTH HORMONES ON THE
AUXILIARY BUD INITIATION AND SHOOT
DEVELOPMENT OF CORDYLINE**

PLANTS (*Cordyline fruticosa*)

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ABSTRACT

Cordyline is a major foliage plant species in the tropical and sub-tropical countries and economically important genera in the family *Asparagaceae*. Thus, availability of quality planting material becomes a major problem in cordyline cultivation. Therefore, this study was carried out to induce lateral shoot formation of topped cordyline with Cytokinin (BAP) and Cytokinin + Auxin (BAP+NAA) combination. A length of 25cm shoots were potted in 20cm height and 20 cm width Polyethylene bags containing compost and sand at a ratio of 1:1. Plants were kept for three weeks in the shade before decapitation. Application of different concentrations of BAP (25ppm, 50ppm and 75ppm) was done first time and after that application of different concentrations of NAA (25ppm, 50ppm and 75ppm) was done in combination with a constant level of BAP (75ppm) at one week interval. Number of lateral shoots, length of lateral shoots and number of leaves were recorded after the hormone treatments at one week interval.

Application of 75ppm cytokinin (BAP) was considered as the most effective treatment to induce lateral shoot formation as well as to improve growth performance in cordyline plants. Among the different treatments tested, 75ppm of BAP was given recorded the highest number of lateral shoots and leaves compared to the other treatments. Length of shoots per plant did not increase remarkably due to the application of hormones. The findings of this study clearly revealed that 75ppm BAP performed better than the other concentrations of BAP.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	IV
LIST OF TABLES.....	X
LIST OF FIGURES.....	XI
LIST OF PLATES.....	XII
ABBREVIATIONS.....	XIII
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER 2	8
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	8
2.1 Cordyline plant.....	8
2.1.1 A brief description of Cordyline	8
2.1.2 Origin and distribution of cordyline.....	9
2.1.3 Taxonomy and nomenclature of cordyline.....	9
2.1.3.1 Species	10
2.1.4 Morphological description of cordyline plant.....	12
2.1.4.1 Leaves	12

2.1.4.2 Flower	12
2.1.4.3 Fruits	13
2.1.4.4 Stem	13
2.1.4.5 Seeds	14
2.1.5 Life cycle of cordyline plants.....	14
2.1.6 Germination of cordyline plants	16
2.1.7 Growing conditions of cordyline plants	17
2.1.7.1 Outdoor growing.....	17
2.1.7.2 Indoor growing.....	18
2.1.8 Pruning of cordyline plants	19
2.1.9 Uses of cordyline plants	19
2.1.10 Physiological Problems of cordyline plants.....	20
2.1.11 Bacterial Problems of cordyline plants	21
2.1.12 Insect and related problems of cordyline plants.....	22
2.2 Plants growth regulators.....	23
2.2.1 A brief description of plants growth regulators	23
2.2.2 Classes of plants growth regulators.....	23
2.2.2.1 Abscisic acid	24
2.2.2.2 Auxins	25
2.2.2.3 Cytokinins	26

2.2.2.4 Ethylene.....	27
2.2.2.5 Gibberellins.....	28
2.3 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP)	28
2.3.1 Structure of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP).....	28
2.3.2 Taxonomy and nomenclature of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP)	29
2.3.3 Benefits of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP)	29
2.4 Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA).....	30
2.4.1 Structure of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA).....	30
2.4.2 Taxonomy and nomenclature of naphthalene acetic acid (NAA).....	30
2.4.3 Benefits of naphthalene acetic acid (NAA).....	30
2.5 6-Benzylaminopurine and naphthalene acetic acid combination.....	31
CHAPTER 3	32
MATERIALS AND METHODS	32
3.1 Planting of cordyline shoot	32
3.1.1 Materials.....	32
3.1.1.1 Materials used for planting	32
3.1.1.2 Collection of materials	33
3.1.1.2.1 Collection of Shoots.....	33
3.1.1.2.2 Collection of media	33
3.1.1.2.3 Location and site preparation.....	33

3.1.2 Methodology	33
3.1.2.1 Preparation of polyethylene bags	33
3.1.2.2 Media preparation and filling of bags.....	33
3.1.2.3 Shoot preparation	34
3.1.2.4 Planting shoots	34
3.1.2.5 Placement of polyethylene bags.....	35
3.1.2.6 Watering.....	35
3.1.2.7 Experimental design.....	35
3.2 BAP hormone application	36
3.2.1 Materials.....	36
3.2.1.1 Materials used for BAP hormone application.....	36
3.2.2 Methodology	37
3.2.2.1 Preparation BAP hormone for application	37
3.2.2.2 Preparation of planting material for BAP hormone application .	37
3.2.2.3 First application of BAP hormone	37
3.2.2.4 Second application of BAP hormone	38
3.3 Preparation of a second set of plants.....	38
3.4 Combined mixture of NAA and BAP hormone application	39
3.4.1 Materials.....	39
3.4.1.1 Materials used for NAA and BAP hormone application	39

3.4.2 Methodology	40
3.4.2.1 Selection of most suitable BAP concentration for BAP and NAA hormone combination.....	40
3.4.2.2 Calculation	40
3.4.2.3 Combined mixture of NAA and BAP hormone preparation for application to plants	41
3.4.2.4 Plant preparation for application of BAP and NAAhormone combination.....	42
3.4.2.5 Application of BAP and NAA hormone combination	42
3.4.2.5.1 First application.....	42
3.4.2.5.2 Second application of NAA +BAP combination.....	43
3.5 Data collection	44
3.5.1 Type of data.....	44
3.5.2 Methodology	44
3.5.2.1 Number of shoots per plant.....	44
3.5.2.2 Shoot length	44
3.5.2.3 Number of leaves	44
3.6 Calculation	45
3.7 Data analysis	45

CHAPTER 4	46
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	46
4.1 Number of shoots per top cutting.....	46
4.1.1 Application of different concentrations of Benzyl Amino Purine (BAP).....	46
4.1.2 Application Combine mixture of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Benzyl Amino Purine (BAP).....	49
4.2 length of shoots	51
4.2.1 Effects of BAP on length of shoots.....	51
4.2.2 Application of Combined mixture of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Benzyl Amino Purine (BAP).....	53
4.3 Number of leaves	54
4.3.1 Application of different concentrations of Benzyl Amino Purine (BAP)	54
4.3.2 Application of Combined mixture of Naphthalene Acetic Acid (NAA) and Benzyl Amino Purine (BAP).....	55
CHAPTER 5	57
CONCLUSIONS	57
SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH.....	59
REFERENCES.....	60
Web sites visited.....	71