

DISEASE INCIDENCE AND YIELD OF COCONUT IN RELATION TO FOLIAR SPIRAL

RECENTLY attention has been focused on the leaf arrangement of coconut palm and its correlation with the productivity of the palm.¹⁻³

Our observations on 740 palms aged about 13 years in three groups show that 47.7% of the population have their leaves arranged in the left-handed direction and 52.3% in the right-handed direction.

Incidence of leaf rot and root (wilt) diseases in relation to the leaf arrangement of the palms was to the extent of 43.3% among the lefts and 47.4% among the rights. Final data are summarised in Table I.

Data on the annual average yield of palms also do not indicate any perceptible variation in relation to the orientation of the foliar spiral.

Similarly a study of the yield per tree of 191 palms which include both healthy and diseased, failed to show any correlation between the foliar spiral, the general health of the palms and their yields.

Thus the disposition of the foliar spiral in coconut appears to have no influence on the incidence of diseases as well as yield of the coconut palm. This is only to be expected, since the foliar arrangement is not a genetical character (Davis, 1962 b).

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2. Narayanan, G. V., *Report of the Agricultural Station—in the Madras Presidency, 1940-41, 1942.*
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TABLE I
General condition and yield of palms in relation to foliar spiral—yield as number of nuts per tree per year

Condition of palm	Left spiral					Right spiral				
	No.	Per cent.	1960	1961	1962	No.	Per cent.	1960	1961	1962
Healthy ..	201	56.6	..	..	..	202	52.4	..	..	..
Wilt affected ..	94	26.4	..	..	..	137	36.5	..	..	..
Leaf rot ..	00	16.0	..	..	..	40	11.0	..	..	..
	365	47.7	30.0	30.3	37.8	366	52.3	30.7	38.3	37.2