REACTION OF DIFFERENT COCONUT HYBRIDS TO ROOT (WILT) DISEASE

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Root (wilt) disease of coconut is prevalent in the Kuttanad area of Kerala State. In order to study the relative tolerance of different hybrids, nine hybrids were planted along with the West Coast Tall during the year 1973 at the Rice Research Station, Moncompu. Observations on the intensity of disease were recorded at the end of 4th and 5th years of planting using the formula—

$$I \text{ (disease index)} = \frac{\text{Sum } (15F - 5Y - 5N)}{L}$$

where F = Flaccidity (0--5), Y = Yellowing (0--3) and N = necrosis (0--2)

Root (Wilt) intensity and plant survival

Name of hybrid	4th year		5th Year	
	Disease Index	Survival %	Disease Index	Survival %
1	2	3	4	5
T × D	0·0	40·0	0·0	20·0
T × G	14·9	60·0	35·0	60·0
T × YD	0·0	60·0	3·3	60·0
T × LD	0·0	60·0	0·9	40·0
T × SS	3·8	100·0	3·6	75·0
YD × LO	3·3	100·0	2·4	100·0
T × NyG	0·0	100·0	6·1	100·0
CC × G	0·9	80·0	2·7	75·0
T × Thembli	1·4	80·0	4·4	75·0
WCT	28·6	80·0	53·6	75·0

Except hybrid T × G and susceptible check WCT, in other hybrids disease index was less than 10 per cent (not diseased). In crosses YD × LO and T × NyG all the seedlings planted have survived. The survival percentage in T × D (20 per cent and T × LD (40 per cent) was poor due to the attack of rhinoceros beetle. Crosses YD × LO and T × NyG seem to perform better than other crosses. However, further observations in succeeding years will be necessary for confirmatory results.

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