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THE EFFECT OF THE FRUIT ON ROOTING OF CALAMONDIN CUTTINGS

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Vegetative cuttings and fruit-bearing cuttings of calamondin (Citrus madurensis Loureiro) were rooted in a mist propagator. Vegetative cuttings with one or seven leafy nodes rooted at 79 to 96 percent. Cuttings with seven leafy nodes bearing a terminal small fruit (6mm in diameter) rooted at 81 percent, but the rooting rate was reduced to 0 to 7 percent when the attached fruit was larger (13-20 mm in diameter) or when shorter cuttings were used. Fruit-bearing cuttings from which the fruit was removed, rooted at rates which were similar to those of vegetative cuttings. It was concluded that the fruit exerts a reversible inhibition on rooting of calamondin cuttings.