

EFFECTS OF GROWTH MEDIA ON DEVELOPMENT OF MELON (*CUCUMIS MELO* L.) SEEDLINGS

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The response of melon seedlings to different growth media (vermiculite, peat/vermiculite (1:1, v:v), enriched vermiculite, peat/enriched vermiculite (1:1, v:v), irrigated with water or Hogland nutrient solution was examined.

Vermiculite enriched with slow released mineral nutrients significantly accelerated plant development, resulting in significantly increased main stem length and total fresh and dry weight accumulation, as compared to normal vermiculite.

There were no significant differences in growth rates among seedlings grown in enriched vermiculite + water, normal vermiculite + Hogland and enriched vermiculite + Hogland. Peat/vermiculite mix, with or without mineral nutrition, did not affect growth rate as compared with vermiculite alone.

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