

Original Research Article

FORMATION OF YELLOW PASSION FRUIT SEEDLINGS UNDER DIFFERENT SUBSTRATES AND WATER BLADES

ABSTRACT

Aim: To evaluate the influence of different substrates and water slides on the development of yellow passion fruit seedlings.

Study design: This experiment was carried out from October to December 2017, at the Universidade Federal de Campina Grande, in the Agro-Food Science and Technology Center, located in the city of Pombal, Paraíba.

Methodology: The treatments were constituted by four different substrates, these being Solo (control); Soil + bovine manure (S + BM); Soil + sheep manure (S + SM) and Soil + avian bed (S + AB), being associated to four water slides 40, 60, 80 and 100% of Real Evapotranspiration (ET_r), determined from lysimetry of drainage from a 10% wilting fraction. The experimental design was a randomized block design, in a 4x4 factorial arrangement, with five replications.

Results: 60 days after transplanting, leaf area, number of leaves, diameter, height, dry mass of shoot and root, Dickson quality index and relative water content were evaluated. To which a significant effect was observed by the F test ($P < 0.01$), of the different types of Substrates (S) and irrigation blades (B), as well as the interaction of these factors (SxB) for all variables studied, demonstrating that both factors simultaneously interfere in the production of passion fruit seedlings.

Conclusion: The S + AB substrate combined with the 100% ET_r blade promoted the best yield under seedling development.

Keywords: *Passiflora edulis*, organic matter, water regime.

1. INTRODUCTION

The yellow passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis* Sims, F. flavicarpa Degener) belonging to the family Passifloraceae, is a fruit with wide adaptation in Brazil, and has been considered an important culture, since it has several purposes of use to the market and, in addition, it employs a large Number of people from cultivation to commercialization [1].

According to [2] there was a growth in the production of this crop, intensifying the agribusiness of the crop and collaborating for the economic development of the country. As an effect of the expression of the passion fruit culture, there is a greater interest of the producers in the increase of the orchards.

However, for the formation of good orchards, obtaining quality seedlings is necessary, since it facilitates the production process and ensures greater

uniformity, since the use of seedlings of low phytosanitary, genetic and nutritional quality compromises productivity and longevity of the culture.

According to [3] there are many factors that influence the final quality of passion fruit. Among them the choice of substrate and the amount of water applied by the irrigations can be highlighted.

The substrates must therefore provide suitable conditions for the proper development of the plant as: sustenance, retention and sufficient quantities of water, oxygen and nutrients, for these reasons, it is advisable to use organic substrates due to the effects it produces on chemical, physical attributes and biological properties of the soil, thus reducing the need for chemical fertilizer application and lower costs [4].

The availability of water in the substrate in turn has a marked influence since the emergence and vigor of yellow passion fruit, with water regimes of 45 and 60% of field capacity considered the most advantageous [6].

The semi-arid region has little water available for irrigated cultivation; in addition, the use of these organic inputs in the rural properties of the semi-arid Paraíba could be an alternative in the production of seedlings, therefore it was proposed to evaluate the development of yellow passion fruit seedlings submitted to different sources of organic compound added to the substrate under different irrigation slides.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

This experiment was conducted under field conditions at the Universidade Federal de Campina Grande, in the Agro-Food Science and Technology Center, located in the city of Pombal, Paraíba, at the geographical coordinates 6°48'16 " of latitude S and 37°49'15 " of longitude O and altitude of 148 m [7]. As for the climate, according to Koppen, it is classified as hot and dry semiarid, with average annual evaporation of 2.000 mm and average precipitation of approximately 750 mm year⁻¹ [8].

The treatments were composed of four different substrates, being: soil only (Soil); Soil + bovine manure (S + BM); Soil + sheep manure (S + SM) and Soil + avian bed (S + AB), each in the proportion 1: 1, and four water slides (40, 60, 80 and 100% of the Real Evapotranspiration determined from drainage lysimetry from a 10% leaching fraction. [9] The design was a randomized complete block design, in a 4x4 factorial arrangement, with five replications.

Yellow passion fruit seeds of the Feltrin® Golden line were used, sowing being carried out on October 2, 2017 in polyethylene bags with a capacity of 1L, duly filled with each substrate, with the chemical characteristics of the substrates set out in Table 1 :

Table 1. Chemical characteristics of the components of each substrate, used in the formation of yellow passion fruit seedlings.

	pH	P	S - SO ₄ ⁻²	K ⁺	Na ⁺	H ⁺ Al ³⁺	Al ³⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	SB	T	OM
	Water (1:2,5)	mg/dm ³										g/kg
Soil	8.1	632.59	-	116.59	0.22	0.00	0.00	5.69	5.57	11.78	11.78	4.44
Soil+BM	8.4	665.53	-	4433.58	1.59	0.00	0.00	5.58	3.51	22.05	22.05	59.90
Soil+SM	8.0	708.96	-	2988.95	1.47	0.00	0.00	6.10	5.37	20.60	20.60	115.36
Soil+AB	8.0	680.51	-	1281.17	1.58	0.00	0.00	4.27	0.31	9.44	9.44	7.65

* SB: sum of bases; T: total cation exchange capacity; OM: organic matter
Analysis by the Soil Analysis Laboratory, Universidade Federal da Paraíba.

At 60 days after sowing (DAS), plant growth parameters were evaluated, of which: Leaf area (cm²), determined according to the methodology used by [10] considering field conditions and leaf format at the molting stage, by the formula $AF = \beta_0 + \beta_1 CL$, where $\beta_0 = -0.0956$, $\beta_1 = 0.8434$, C = Measured

length and L = Measured width ($R^2 = 0.99$); Number of leaves, from basal leaves to last leaf open; Diameter of the stem through measurements in digital caliper (mm); Height (cm) obtained with the aid of a measuring tape; Dry mass of the aerial part, as well as of the root (g), obtained by weighing the oven dried material with air circulation at 65°C until reaching a constant mass; Dickson quality index (DQI): considering total dry mass (TDM), plant height (PH), mass of the air part (MAP), stem diameter (SD) and root dry mass (RM), using the formula below [11]:

$$DQI = \frac{TMD}{\frac{PH (cm)}{SD(mm)} + \frac{MAP (g)}{RM (g)}}$$

It was also determined the relative water content of the leaves, using the methodology adapted from [12], where the newest 4th leaf of each plant was removed with the appropriate treatments, weighed it in a precision analytical balance, to obtain mass of the fresh material, later, were placed in plastic bags with 100 ml of distilled water, remaining in these for 24h. After this time, the sheets were dried on paper towel and weighed again to obtain mass of the saturated material. After this, the leaves were placed in an oven at 65 °C in order to obtain a constant mass and then the mass of the dried material. This parameter is calculated using the formula:

$$RWC = \frac{[MFM - MDM]}{[MSM - MDM]} \times 100$$

In what, RWC: relative water content in the leaf (%)
MFM: mass of the fresh material (g)
MDM: mass of the dried material at 65 °C (g)
MSM: mass of the saturated material (g)

Data was submitted to the F test through analysis of variance and when significant the means of the variables were compared by regression, and the statistical analyzes were performed in SISVAR software version 5.6 [13].

3. RESULTS

According to the results, the F ($P < 0.01$) test of the different types of Substrates (S) and irrigation slides (B) was observed, as well as the interaction of these factors (SxB) for all variables studied, demonstrating that both factors interfere simultaneously in the production of passion fruit seedlings.

The highest leaf area (Figure 1A) was obtained by the use of substrate based on soil and bed of the aviary (S + AB) reaching 12362.30 cm², followed by sheep manure (S + SM) 1682.60 cm², when associated to the studied blade of 100% water replenishment. For the other substrates it was observed that the plants responded in an increasing linear manner, proportional to the increase of the irrigation blade, however, obtaining smaller gains, being of 1449,00 cm² and 1263,94 cm², with the use of Solo and with addition of bovine manure (S + BM), respectively.

In the number of leaves (Figure 1B), when the Soil substrate and the S + BM were used, the values 9,18 and 7,66 were respectively obtained in the 100% studied slide. The linear adjustment was also observed for this variable when S + AB was used in the composition, which is responsible for the highest number of leaves per plant, with a mean increase of 0.09 per unit increase of the irrigation water, the value of 13.36 with the largest blade. In relation to the S + SM, a quadratic mathematical effect was observed, with an increase of this variable up to the 80% blade, where it reached a value of 8.50 and from this it decreased.

For the stem diameter variable (Figure 1C), there was an increasing linear increase due to the increase of water availability for the plants cultivated without organic fertilizer (SOIL) and with addition of aviary bed in the substrate, reaching in the 100% values of 2.86 and 4.71 mm. For plants with S + SM and S + BM there was quadratic polynomial effect, reaching the maximum points of, respectively, 2.31 and 2.15 mm, in the slides estimated of 82 and 74%, and from these decreases.

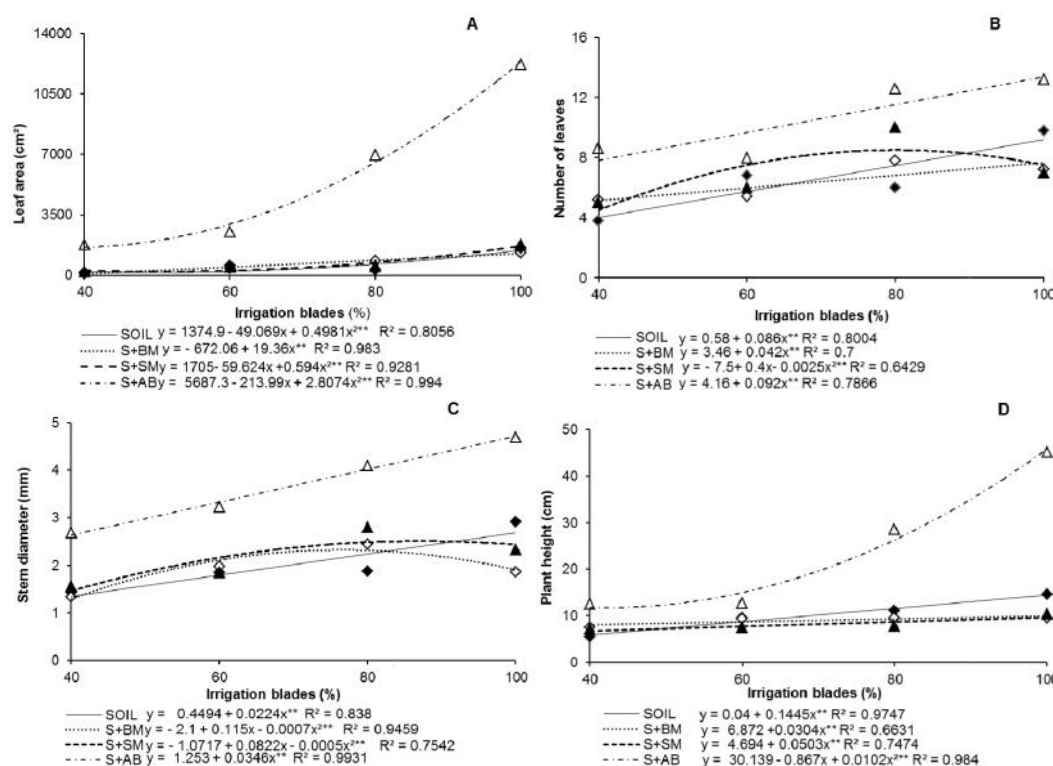


Figure 1. Leaf area (A), number of leaves (B), diameter (C) and height (D) of yellow passion fruit seedlings submitted to different substrates: SOIL (♦), S + BM (◇), S + SM (▲), S + AB (Δ) and irrigation blades.

The plants cultivated in soil, S + SM and S + BM presented increasing linear behavior at the height (Figure 1D), due to the increase in the amount of available water in the substrate to increase of 0.14; 0.05 and 0.03 cm, respectively, per unit increase of the irrigation blade, reaching values of 14.49; 9.91 and 9.72 cm in the 100% slide. When S + AV was used, the plants showed a quadratic polynomial effect, increasing to the highest value in height (45.44 cm), also in the studied lamina of 100%.

As for the MAP (Figure 2A), it was observed that the substrate composed of S + AB, provided greater increments in comparison to the others, mainly using the 100% lamina with a maximum value of 4.63 g, not different from RM (Figure 2B), which obtained a maximum point corresponding to approximately 5.37g, the same occurred with the use of the soil only substrate, but with lower gains (0.94 and 1.60g) obeying the same order of the variables, with blade equally. For both variables, the substrate with bovine manure insertion did not fit any mathematical model, obtaining, therefore, 0.32 g and 0.39, for the shoot and root, respectively. With regard to S + SM, there was a quadratic mathematical effect with decreases observed from the slides estimated from 86.5% for MAP and 77% for RM.

The relative water content (Figure 2C) showed a gradual increase, proportional to the increase in water availability caused by the slides, where the substrate S + AB caused the highest increase corresponding to 0.97%, followed by the substrate S + SM (0.42%), S + BM (0.35%) and soil only (0.25%) with the 100% slide.

In relation to the quality index (Figure 2D), not different from that already presented, the substrate composed of soil + bed of aviary stands out in relation to the other substrates, even with the lowest water condition imposed, however, for S + SM and S + BM associated with slides greater than and less than 69% and 88%, respectively, caused decreases for this variable.

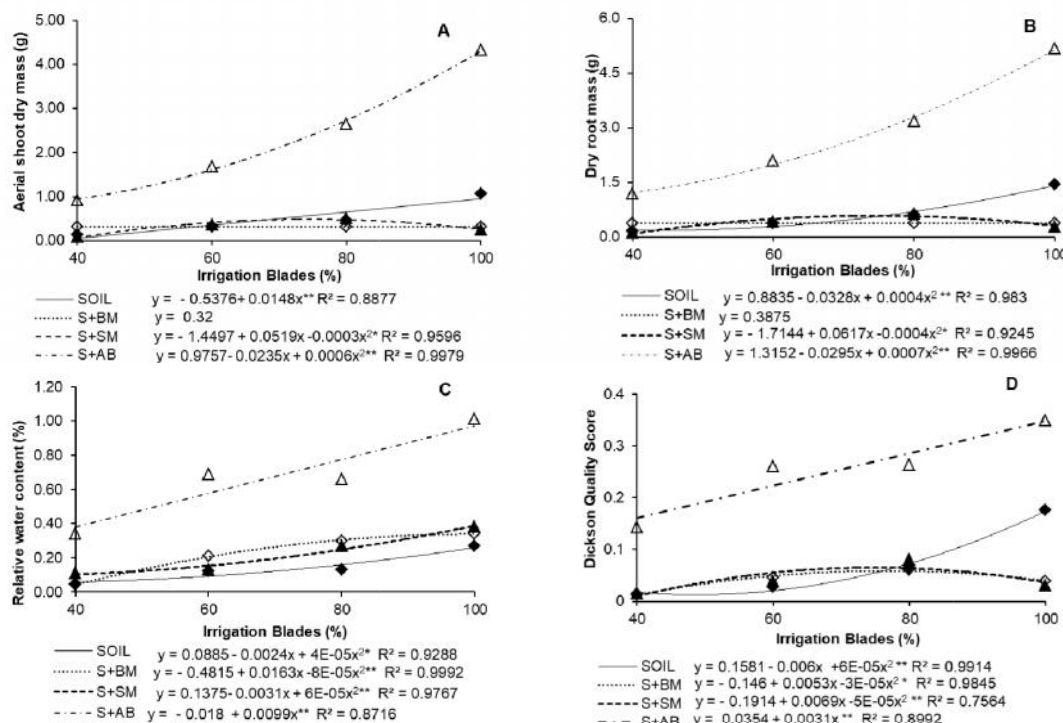


Figure 2. Mass of the air part (A), root dry mass (B), relative leaf water (C) and Dickson quality index (D) on yellow passion fruit seedlings submitted to different substrates: SOIL (♦), S + BM (◊), S + SM (▲), S + AB (Δ) and irrigation blades.

4. DISCUSSION

For most of the evaluated variables the addition of organic matter as the lowest available water availability was beneficial and contributes with greater increments when compared to the use of only soil. Such response represents that the physical conditions present in each substrate influence intensively the development of the seedlings, especially when considering the supply of water to the plant. The influence on the seedling production process by the substrate formulation, as well as the amount of water provided in the growth and accumulation of seedlings, was also verified by [14] in baru tree seedlings and [15] in pepper plants.

The use of organic inputs in substratum formulations increases the growth of several fruits such as mangabeira [16], soursop [17], umbuzeiro [18] and pineapple [19]. This beneficial effect is possibly due to the high organic matter content, nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, higher aeration and moisture retention that these inputs provide [20]. Thus producing organic solutes such as sugars, free amino acids, proline and betaine glycine positively affect plant nutrition [21].

Among these inputs cattle manure, goat and poultry are those that are easily accessible to the seedlings producer [22; 19]. The Bovine and ovine manure had the highest organic matter content compared to soil only (Table 1), consequently presented higher cations exchange capacity (CEC), thus increasing the growth of the seedlings treated with such inputs in the substrate in relation to the treatment absent.

However, the substrate composed of aviary bed, despite the lower content of organic matter and CEC in relation to the other organic inputs, presents superiority in all the growth characteristics of the seedlings. [23] state that even sheep and cattle manure presenting high concentrations of organic matter and nutrients at the rate of decomposition and consequent mineralization of these, becomes greater generally at 90 days, which explains the fact that the substrates with these types of organic materials, and not stand out in relation to poultry manure, since the necessary duration for the seedling phase during this experiment was 60 days.

[15] when studying the production of peppermint seedlings in the substrates Red Latosol Eutrophic; Eutrophic Red Latosol (70%) + bovine manure (30%) and Eutrophic Red Latosol (90%) + chicken litter (10%) found that Latosol (90%) + chicken bed (10%) positively affect seed germination and development of chili pepper plants. According to [24] the growth of passion fruit seedlings is maximized with the addition of 10% of avian bed, which is equivalent to mineral fertilization, being a low cost producer alternative.

The application of water around 100% of the Etr was satisfactory for the production of passion fruit seedlings, this fact can be explained by the increase in the water demand to increase the growth of the plants [25; 26]. The biomass allocation in the root system and in passion fruit, leaves is much more pronounced as a result of the increase in available water [27]. According to [28] the water availability present in the substrate also has a marked influence on the emergence and vigor of the yellow passion fruit seedlings, with high water regimes being the most advantageous.

The physical characteristics of the poultry manure interfered positively in the maintenance of humidity, since the seedlings presented with substrate still wet between a turn and another of irrigation, even in the smallest slides. The poultry manure promotes the good development in yellow passion fruit cv. IAC 277, Cerrado Sun and Yellow, Round because of the high percentage of "inert" material of shavings and rice hulls, which provides greater moisture retention [29; 30].

5. CONCLUSIONS

Yellow passion fruit plants were significantly influenced by the use of different substrates, as well as the water conditions imposed.

The best development of the seedlings was obtained by using the formulated substrate of soil and bed of aviary, especially when associated with 100% of ETr.

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