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## Comparative study of different genotypes of peach based on their survival, rooting and callusing percentage, and shoot growth response of hardwood cuttings

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### Abstract

Present investigation consisted of hardwood cuttings of about 15-20cm length and 0.8-1.2cm diameter having 5-6 buds that were prepared from the dormant twigs of the 4-5 years old peach plants in the second fortnight of November. The basal portion of the cuttings was dipped in different doses of nine treatments viz. IBA (1500 ppm, and 3000 ppm), NAA (1000 ppm, and 2000 ppm) and combinations of IBA and NAA (IBA 1500 ppm + NAA 1000 ppm, IBA 1500 ppm + NAA 2000 ppm, IBA 3000 ppm + NAA 1000 ppm and IBA 3000 ppm + NAA 2000 ppm) and control were evaluated. On the basis of data recorded on rooting parameters after 45 days of planting, it was concluded that survival percentage (90.63%) & rooting percentage (60.12%) were recorded highest in Shan-e-Punjab, while other rooting parameters like callusing percentage, number of leaves and buds/cutting were found maximum in Early Grande when treated with IBA 3000ppm. It was concluded that IBA at 3000 ppm was found to be the best treatment for propagation of peach through hardwood cuttings.

**Keywords:** Genotypes, Hardwood cuttings, Callusing, Reserve food materials, Internal free-auxin

### Introduction

Peach (*Prunus persica* L.) belongs to the family Rosaceae, originated from China, is a diploid species ( $2n=16$ ). It is one of the temperate regions fruit crop having a medium stature upto 8m. It is classified as a stone fruit species. Besides being cultivated in the temperate climate in the hills, it is also cultivated in the North Indian plains (subtropical climate) in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with the introduction of low chilled peaches. The subtropical peaches come in the market early in season (mid-April), growers can get higher returns due to scarcity of other fresh fruits. Its first commercial crop is obtained within three years of planting which is much earlier than majority of other temperate fruits. Peach trees are generally grown for commercial production as two genetically different components consisting of a scion either budded or grafted to a rootstock. But it can be clonally propagated through rooting of hardwood cutting. Propagation from cuttings (cloning) produces a plant with the same characteristics as the parent and thus maintains desirable fruiting traits. In comparison with other types of cuttings (semi-hardwood, softwood and so on) hardwood cuttings are easy to take, handle, and store which allows for flexibility in the preparation of the cutting and in general, less precision than cuttings that include actively growing tissue (Hartmann *et al.*, 2002) [7]. Hardwood cuttings are one of the least expensive and easiest methods of vegetative propagation. They are easy to prepare, are not readily perishable, may be shipped safely over long distances if necessary and require little or no special equipment during rooting (Denny and Arnold, 2001) [5].

Hardwood cuttings are most often used in propagation of deciduous woody plants (Hartmann *et al.*, 2002) [7] as one of the most simple, non-toxic, cheapest and easiest methods of vegetative propagation. It is important, particularly in horticulture for mass production of improved materials with in short time and to perpetuate the characteristics of the parent plant (Hartmann and Kester, 1983) [10]. Moreover, Indole-3-butyric acid is probably the best material for general use, because it is non-toxic to plants over a wide concentration range and is effective in promoting rooting of a large number of plant species (Hartmann and Kester, 1990) [9]. The most successful results have been obtained from IBA treatments including auxin

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hormone group. IBA has been found to be critical for both softwood and hardwood cuttings (Erdoan and Aygun 2006; Tworkoski and Takeda 2007) [6, 25].

As some varieties of Peach (Shan-i-Punjab, Pratap, Prabhat, Florida Prince & Early Grande) are available in Bihar and these are well responding in terms of fruiting. But its cultivation is limited in BAU, Sabour only due to lack of its planting material. So, the objective of present investigation is to prepare planting material through rooting of cutting of available genotypes of Peach, so that in coming scenario Peach fruit would be available in our Bihar's market and hence farmers could get extra income. The present investigation was carried out to study the survival and rooting ability of hardwood cuttings of different genotypes of peach under subtropical condition of Bihar.

### Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out in the Horticulture Garden, Bihar Agricultural College, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar during 2016-17, on plants that were planted in 02-03-2012 (4 year) behind the Agricultural Farm of Bihar Agriculture College, Sabour. All the trees were maintained under uniform cultural practices during the course of investigation. Hard wood cuttings of 15-20 cm length and 0.8-1.2 cm in diameter having 5-6 buds were prepared from dormant twigs. The basal portion of the cuttings were dipped in different doses of Indole-3-butyric acid IBA (1500ppm & 3000ppm), NAA (1000ppm & 2000ppm) and IBA & NAA combinations for 10sec. After that the cuttings were planted in root trainer and then kept in mist chamber (18-20 °C) at a spacing of 7cm X 10cm, and then proper cultural practices were followed. After that data on rooting parameters like survival percentage, rooting percentage, root length, callusing percentage, root wt. etc. were recorded and analysed with Completely Randomized Block Design.

### Results and Discussion

The days taken for rooting, rooting percentage, callusing percentage, number of leaves, and survival percentage were significantly influenced by different concentrations of IBA & NAA and their combinations.

**Survival of cuttings (%):** Maximum survival (90.63%) was recorded in Shan-e-Punjab treated with IBA-3000ppm followed by IBA-1500ppm (89.12%) and NAA-2000ppm (86.54%). Increase in survival percentage may be due to production of more number of roots, while no success of survival in control was due to the failure of rooting and these parameters decreased with increase in IBA concentrations above 3000ppm (Kaur, 2015) [12] and it was also found that better rooting was associated with better survival rate in *Prunus* cuttings treated with IBA (Prizhmontas, 1991) [21]. It was also found in pomegranate, that the increment in the percentage of cuttings that rooted occurred in most of the clones using low IBA application concentration (3000ppm). The logical conclusion seems that large numbers of roots are associated with adequate nutrient absorption which account for ultimate survival. The increase in survival % could also be favoured by the increasing number of roots and their length, which has increased the contact area of the roots with the soil, and therefore roots absorb more water and nutrients, and by this increase the survival percentage (Mobli and Baniansab, 2009; Nair *et al.*, 2008) [17, 18]. High success of cuttings may be due to high carbohydrate reserves per cutting and optimum concentration of IBA. The same factors brought about maximum number of shoots and roots per cutting and root length which in turn contributed to high survival percentage (Purohit and Shekharappa, 1985) [22]. These findings are in conformity with the results of and Bartolini *et al.*, (1994) [1] in peach cultivar Fertilia.

**Table 1:** Effect of different treatments on survival of cuttings (%) at 45 days

Treatments		Pratap	Prabhat	Shan-e-Punjab	Florida Prince	Early Grande
T <sub>1</sub>	IBA 1500ppm	70.16 (56.87)	38.93 (38.59)	89.12 (70.83)	78.38 (62.30)	84.52 (66.87)
T <sub>2</sub>	IBA 3000ppm	72.35 (58.27)	40.62 (39.58)	90.63 (72.21)	80.54 (63.84)	86.16 (68.21)
T <sub>3</sub>	NAA 1000ppm	65.72 (54.15)	33.67 (35.45)	82.73 (65.47)	71.62 (57.81)	80.81 (64.07)
T <sub>4</sub>	NAA 2000ppm	64.43 (53.39)	36.47 (37.13)	86.54 (68.59)	75.14 (60.14)	83.18 (65.82)
T <sub>5</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 1000ppm	54.63 (47.64)	26.03 (30.66)	71.51 (57.75)	61.74 (51.79)	69.89 (56.73)
T <sub>6</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 2000ppm	50.48 (45.26)	22.85 (28.51)	68.37 (55.78)	58.32 (49.77)	67.64 (55.32)
T <sub>7</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 1000ppm	61.51 (51.65)	31.80 (34.31)	78.56 (62.41)	67.28 (55.10)	76.92 (61.32)
T <sub>8</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 2000ppm	58.00 (49.59)	29.15 (32.66)	75.98 (60.66)	64.23 (53.27)	72.79 (58.55)
T <sub>9</sub>	Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S.E.(m)±		1.62	1.16	1.75	1.90	1.83
CD (P=0.05)		4.86	3.46	5.25	5.68	5.48
CV(%)		5.08	6.94	4.25	5.30	4.59

**Rooting percentage and callusing percentage:** Rooting percentage of cutting was found highest (60.12%) in Shan-e-Punjab treated with IBA-3000ppm followed by IBA-1500ppm (58.11%). The increase in rooting percentage may be due to the presence of certain level of endogenous auxin already present in the cuttings, therefore treating cuttings with IBA could optimize the auxin level in the cutting and consequently

improves the percentage of rooted cuttings (Polat and Caliskan, 2009) [20]. The percentage of rooted cuttings increased which may be due to the application of IBA concentrations resulting in high carbohydrate and low nitrogen level leading to more root formation (Carlson, 1929) [2]. Kaviani *et al.*, (2016) [13] reported that rooting may be enhanced by IBA via increased internal-free IAA. IBA helps

in mobilizing reserved food material, elongation of meristematic cells and differentiation of cambial initials into root primordia (Nanda, 1975) [19].

It appears probable that the success of IBA is due to its low auxin activity and its slow degradation by auxin destroying enzyme. Leopold (1995) [14] suggested that IBA is quite a strong auxin, while NAA is readily destroyed. It is generally accepted that auxins play a central role in the process of root formation (Davis *et al.*, 1989; De Klerk *et al.*, 1999) [4]. For successful root induction, plants need to contain a certain quantity of IBA. It is common to use IBA for rooting of fruit type because it has a greater ability to promote adventitious root formation in comparison to IAA (Spethmann and Hamzah, 1988; Rivov, 1993; De Klerk *et al.*, 1999; Ludwig-Müller, 2000) [24, 23, 4, 15]. It is more stable and less sensitive to the auxin degrading enzymes (Rivov, 1993) [23]. According to

Hartmann *et al.*, (2002) [7], IBA is the best auxin for general use because it is nontoxic to plants over a wide concentration range than NAA, and is effective in promoting rooting of a large number of plant species.

Highest callusing percentage (87.68%) was recorded in Early Grande treated with IBA-3000 ppm. The increased callusing percentage may be due to high callus and root forming ability of IBA when applied in the cut portion. Single treatments of IBA induced more callus formation compared to control in apple, Karakurt *et al.*, (2009) [11]. In some species, callus formation is a precursor of adventitious root formation. Actually, the formation of callus and the formation of roots are independent of each other. However, both involve cell division and roots frequently emerge through the callus (Hartmann *et al.*, 2002) [7].

**Table 2:** Effect of different treatments on rooting of cuttings (%) at 45 days

	Treatments	Pratap	Prabhat	Shan-e-Punjab	Florida Prince	Early Grande
T <sub>1</sub>	IBA 1500ppm	41.43 (40.05)	29.39 (32.82)	58.11 (49.65)	53.21 (46.82)	56.34 (48.62)
T <sub>2</sub>	IBA 3000ppm	43.87 (41.46)	31.12 (33.89)	60.12 (50.82)	56.32 (48.61)	58.86 (50.08)
T <sub>3</sub>	NAA 1000ppm	38.54 (38.36)	26.16 (30.75)	53.51 (46.99)	48.96 (44.39)	50.65 (45.65)
T <sub>4</sub>	NAA 2000ppm	40.56 (39.54)	27.36 (31.53)	56.74 (48.85)	51.86 (46.05)	53.31 (46.88)
T <sub>5</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 1000ppm	32.38 (34.67)	19.78 (26.40)	45.32 (42.30)	41.29 (39.97)	42.23 (40.51)
T <sub>6</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 2000ppm	30.32 (33.40)	15.23 (22.96)	41.78 (40.25)	40.31 (39.40)	40.32 (39.40)
T <sub>7</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 1000ppm	35.49 (36.55)	24.34 (29.55)	50.45 (45.24)	45.55 (42.43)	48.21 (43.96)
T <sub>8</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 2000ppm	34.11 (35.72)	21.78 (27.81)	48.43 (44.08)	43.32 (41.15)	45.56 (42.44)
T <sub>9</sub>	Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	S.E.(m)±	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.11
	CD (P=0.05)	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.36	0.34
	CV(%)	0.58	0.92	0.44	0.49	0.45

**Table 3:** Effect of different treatments on callusing (%) of cuttings at 45 days.

	Treatments	Pratap	Prabhat	Shan-e-Punjab	Florida Prince	Early Grande
T <sub>1</sub>	IBA 1500ppm	58.23 (49.72)	55.57 (48.18)	82.36 (65.19)	76.37 (60.90)	86.23 (68.33)
T <sub>2</sub>	IBA 3000ppm	60.54 (51.07)	57.31 (49.19)	84.51 (66.82)	78.67 (62.48)	87.68 (69.52)
T <sub>3</sub>	NAA 1000ppm	51.87 (46.06)	49.68 (44.80)	77.73 (61.85)	70.44 (57.05)	83.51 (66.07)
T <sub>4</sub>	NAA 2000ppm	56.36 (48.64)	53.64 (47.07)	80.17 (63.57)	74.29 (59.52)	85.00 (67.22)
T <sub>5</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 1000ppm	42.28 (40.54)	40.61 (39.56)	67.28 (55.11)	57.88 (49.52)	70.14 (56.86)
T <sub>6</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 2000ppm	39.93 (39.16)	37.46 (37.71)	65.81 (54.21)	55.23 (47.99)	72.37 (56.86)
T <sub>7</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 1000ppm	36.45 (37.12)	47.45 (43.52)	74.83 (59.89)	65.62 (54.09)	79.45 (63.06)
T <sub>8</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 2000ppm	45.71 (42.52)	43.52 (41.26)	71.27 (57.57)	61.86 (51.85)	76.52 (61.01)
T <sub>9</sub>	Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	S.E.(m)±	1.62	1.68	1.60	1.47	1.48
	CD (P=0.05)	4.86	5.02	4.79	4.41	4.43
	CV(%)	6.46	6.79	4.13	4.25	3.60

**Number of Leaves and number of bud sprouted:** Highest number of leaves/cuttings (12.43 at 45 days) and number of bud sprouted/cuttings (3.25) was found in Early Grande treated with IBA-3000ppm. Highest number of leaves may be due to the fact that IBA-3000 ppm produced healthier lengthy

roots and hence absorbed more nutrients and water contents which has resulted in higher number of leaves produced by the plant. The auxins activated shoot growth which might have resulted in elongation of stems and leaves through cell division accounting in higher number of leaves. This increase

in number of leaves may also be due to more number of sprouted buds/cutting which is responsible for the maximum number leaves/cutting, Mehraj *et al.*, (2013)<sup>[16]</sup>.

The increase in number of bud sprouted/cutting may be due to the more number of sprout/cutting indicated that more

branching of the cutting which will cause bushy appearances of the cutting also lead the cutting rapid growth and it was happened due to the early root initiation because of the application of growth regulator of IBA, Mehraj *et al.*, (2013)<sup>[16]</sup>.

**Table 4:** Effect of different treatments on number of leaves/cuttings at 45 days.

	Treatments	Pratap	Prabhat	Shan-e-Punjab	Florida Prince	Early Grande
T <sub>1</sub>	IBA 1500ppm	2.14	1.81	9.41	9.12	11.27
T <sub>2</sub>	IBA 3000ppm	2.50	2.23	11.18	9.59	12.43
T <sub>3</sub>	NAA 1000ppm	1.75	1.45	7.22	8.31	7.62
T <sub>4</sub>	NAA 2000ppm	1.85	1.68	8.47	8.86	9.54
T <sub>5</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 1000ppm	0.72	0.75	3.40	4.65	5.45
T <sub>6</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 2000ppm	0.48	0.51	2.80	3.78	4.90
T <sub>7</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 1000ppm	1.25	1.14	5.14	6.34	6.55
T <sub>8</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 2000ppm	1.00	0.95	4.28	5.28	6.10
T <sub>9</sub>	Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	S.E.(m)±	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.08	0.10
	CD (P=0.05)	0.20	0.18	0.35	0.25	0.31
	CV(%)	8.70	8.79	3.48	2.29	2.49

**Table 5:** Effect of different treatments on number of bud sprouted/cuttings at 45 days

	Treatments	Pratap	Prabhat	Shan-e-Punjab	Florida Prince	Early Grande
T <sub>1</sub>	IBA 1500ppm	1.95	2.68	2.81	2.60	3.00
T <sub>2</sub>	IBA 3000ppm	2.25	3.00	3.00	2.75	3.25
T <sub>3</sub>	NAA 1000ppm	1.60	2.00	2.40	2.30	2.80
T <sub>4</sub>	NAA 2000ppm	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.00	2.50
T <sub>5</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 1000ppm	1.38	1.33	1.10	1.00	1.30
T <sub>6</sub>	IBA 1500+NAA 2000ppm	1.34	1.00	0.90	0.90	1.00
T <sub>7</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 1000ppm	1.45	1.67	1.60	1.60	2.13
T <sub>8</sub>	IBA 3000+NAA 2000ppm	1.42	1.50	1.25	1.20	1.80
T <sub>9</sub>	Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	S.E.(m)±	0.03	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.08
	CD (P=0.05)	0.09	0.25	0.26	0.19	0.24
	CV(%)	3.64	8.85	9.13	6.85	7.12

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