

RC2

A MULBERRY VARIETY FOR LOW INPUT CONDITIONS

Mulberry leaf productivity for sericulture wholly depends upon the adoption of recommended cultural practices and fertilizer applications. The expansion of sericulture to non-traditional areas among the resource poor farmers with limited land holdings necessitated the development of varieties suitable to resource constraint or low input conditions. The variety RC2 is recommended in those areas where irrigation is limited and the farmers are unable to spend on fertilizers due to socio-economic conditions. In order to minimize the deterioration of leaf quality and yield under limited fertilizer input condition, a new mulberry variety RC2 has been developed. The variety is characterized by fast growth, medium branching, slightly spreading, pinkish branches with short internodes, large leaves, predominantly lobed, thick, cordate, glossy and green in colour. The variety is tolerant to low input conditions (50% reduction in fertilizer dosage) and yields 21 – 23 mt/ha/ year under sub-optimal irrigation.

AGRONOMICAL DESCRIPTIONS:

Pedigree	Punjab local x Kosen
Leaf yield	21 – 23 mt/ha/year under resource constraint conditions.
No. of shoot/plant	8 - 10
Total shoots length	1125 cm
Inter nodal distance	4.4 cm
Leaf size and shape	Leaf area- 167.20 cm ² , entire, cordate; Length: 15 - 17 cm Breadth: 12 - 14 cm
Leaf surface	Smooth, green
Leaf thickness	160µm
100 leaf weight	390 g
Resistance to diseases	Tolerant to leaf spot, moderately resistant to leaf rust
Regeneration	13 – 15 days after pruning during winter season. 9 – 10 days after pruning during other seasons.
Sprouting (at 30th day)	95%
Rooting (at 90 th day)	89%

RECOMMENDATIONS

Spacing	(150 + 90) 60 cm
Manure (FYM)	20 mt/ha/year
Chemical fertilizer (N:P:K) & irrigation	The variety yields 21 – 23 mt/ha/ year at 50% of recommended dose of NPK (150:60:60 kg/ha/ year) and 50% of irrigation.
No. of crops/year	Five

Recommended for cultivation under sub-optimal conditions of chemical fertilizers and irrigation

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