

ABSTRACT

In studies conducted on papaya at the Field Station of the University of the West Indies decapitation of male trees did not result in change of sex expression in the regrowth. Grafts made with scions taken from unselected seedlings showed a higher proportion of females and hermaphrodites than unworked seedlings.

Very wide variation in fruit characters was observed in seedling populations and the desirability of vegetative propagation as a means of securing uniformity was recognised. It was found feasible to make use of cuttings and various procedures involving rootstocks and scions for the purpose. Rooting of cuttings was more successful with clear glass lids to the propagating bins than when the transmission of light was reduced with thin cotton sheeting. Working of seedling stocks by wedge, cleft, saddle, veneer and approach grafting procedures yielded results superior to those of topworking mature trees. Use of Chip and Forkert budding techniques applied to seedling rootstocks also produced satisfactory plants; growth of Forkert buds was more rapid than that of Chip buds.