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## INTRODUCTION

### Mangoes

Mangoes are one of the most popular and most ancient cultivated fruit crops growing in the tropics.

The present methods of propagating mango varieties are slow and expensive, and there is no method of assuring that the trees will be of a small and uniform size to enable easy management. Usually mature trees are 2 to 3 times as tall as the tallest apple tree, and as a result, if a uniform and unbruised fruit is to be produced for temperate regions, harvesting becomes clumsy and slow. In addition, commercial marketing is also handicapped by the biennial bearing tendency of mangoes. To get over these difficulties, the grafting of mangoes on root stocks, which induce dwarfing and annual bearing, would be desirable. Unfortunately, no commercial method has yet been found of vegetatively producing clonal root stocks, so that dwarfing stocks could be sought.

With the above thoughts in mind, the present paper describes preliminary investigations into more economical and more desirable methods of propagating the mango, especially under Trinidad conditions. The main emphasis, in these studies, was placed on the production of rooted clones, as a possible more economic method of propagating mangoes, and also as a possible aid in studying root stock effects, such as dwarfing. Less emphasis was placed on grafting and budding, because as Cheesman (1934) says, budding and grafting investigations should only be pursued when a method of producing clonal root stocks had been found. However, the literature on budding has been fully reviewed.