

COMMERCIAL MICROPROPAGATION OF MARRONE DI MARRADI CHESTNUT

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ABSTRACT

At Vivai Battistini Dott. Giuseppe in Cesena, we produce by micropropagation several woody species, especially rootstocks and fruit plants, ornamental and forestry species.

At the moment one of the most interesting species for its economic importance is *Castanea sativa*, given that the propagation by traditional techniques (cutting or grafting) is very difficult and there is a scarcity of plants in the market. Micropropagation of *Castanea s.* variety "Marrone di Marradi" was investigated.

The explants (nodal segments taken from new shoots in adult trees) were sterilized in spring 1996 from ARF. Emilia Romagna mother plants.

In vitro establishment of nodal segments with sprouting buds gave the best results.

Culture was initiated on MS DKW and SH medium. The most efficient macro-solution was SH.

Proliferation stage was set up using BA (0,2 - 1,5 mg/l). In rooting stage the best results were obtained using NAA at different concentrations (0,2 -1 mg/l) Combination of vermiculite and gelling agent were investigated "in vitro" rooting stage too. The best yield on the root expression was reached on vermiculite media solution.

Trials of acclimation have been carrying on.



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