

THE SUBSTRATUM INFLUENCE ON CUTTING'S ROOTING OF *CALLUNA VULGARIS*

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Abstract

Calluna vulgaris is a shrub cultivated as a decorative plant for its small, lasting and shining leaves, oval-elongated (1-3mm/0.8-1.5 mm) with short tail (1.5-2 mm) and for the various colored sepals (pink, red, violet) gathered around the yellow flowers with no decorative value.

In present it is known as a decorative plant cultivated in field. In areas with less favorable climatic conditions where the minimal temperature goes down during winter below the resistance limit, they are cultivated in pots placed outdoor during the summer and indoor during the cold season.

In our country *Calluna vulgaris* is not very spreaded because of the shortage of cuttings caused by the low rate of multiplication.

In order to increase the efficiency of multiplication on vegetative way, between 2008-2010, in the green houses from Oradea we have watched over the *Calluna vulgaris* cuttings rootedness process using stimulating substances of Radistim type.

Keywords: *Calluna vulgaris*, rooting substrate variants, cuttings

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The cuttings were gathered on the first decade of November. There have been used 10-12 cm long cuttings.

The experiment included 3 variantes:

V₁-rooting in perlite;

V₂- rooting in peat;

V₃- rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%.

For each variant have been used 500 cuttings.

The cuttings were planted on 6x6 cm distance, 3 cm depth, before planting the substratum has been tramped to eliminate the air bags from the rooting area. The experiment took place in a green house, the thickness of the rooting substratum was 10-12 cm.

In the rooting period the temperature oscillated between 10°C-24°C in air and 15°C-20°C in rooting substratum. The relative humidity oscillated between 75%-85%. The light was directioned by covering the cuttings with a green net. We have made observations and determinations about the period of rooting process, the cuttings' rooting percentage, the length and the number of roots for every cutting. The complete rooting period took 210 days.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The number of rooted cuttings varied from 292 rooted cuttings on V₁-rooting in perlite variant, to 450 rooted cuttings on V₃-rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%, (table 1).

On relative aspect, the number of rooted cuttings had risen with 26% on V₂-rooting in peat and with 54% on V₃-rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%, as on V₁-rooting in perlite variant.

Table 1

The number of rooted cuttings of *Calluna vulgaris*
(average values)

Oradea, 2008-2010

Variantes	The number of rooted cuttings		±D	Signification of the difference
	Absolute (pcs.)	Relative (%)		
V ₁ -rooting in perlite	292	100	-	-
V ₂ -rooting in peat	370	126.7	78	xx
V ₃ -rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%	450	154	158	xxx

LSD 5% - 71, LSD 1% - 113; LSD 0.1% - 181

The rooting substratum has a great influence on the quality of the rooting material. The number and the dimensions of roots of every cutting watched to prove that. The medium number of roots per cutting oscillated between 7.3 on V₁-rooting in perlite variant, and 13.7 on V₃-rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50% (table 2).

Table 2

The average number of roots per cutting

Oradea, 2008-2010

Variantes	The medium number of roots per cutting		±D	Signification of the difference
	Absolute (pcs.)	Relative (%)		
V ₁ -rooting in perlite	7.3	100	-	-
V ₂ -rooting in peat	10.1	138	2.8	x
V ₃ -rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%	13.7	187	6.4	xx

LSD 5% - 2.7, LSD 1% - 4.3; LSD 0.1% - 6.9

On relative aspect, the substratum quality has risen the number of roots cutting with 38% on V₂- rooting in peat variant, and with 87% on V₃-rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50% variant. The rise of rooting capacity shows from the lenght and the thickness of the cuttings roots, too.

The thickness and the lenght of the roots alternates but the highest values, obtained on V₃- rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50% variant (table 3).

Table 3

The dimensions of the cuttings roots (average values)

Oradea, 2008-2010

Variantes	The lenght of the roots (extrem values) (cm)	The number of the roots per cutting with		The number of roots per cutting (pcs.)
		Diameter < 1mm (pcs.)	Diameter > 1.1 mm (pcs.)	
V ₁ -rooting in perlite	0.6-0.8	4.6	2.7	7.3
V ₂ - rooting in peat	0.7-12.9	5.8	4.3	10.1
V ₃ - rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50%	0.7-14.5	7.1	6.6	13.7

On V₁ rooting in perlite variant, the cuttings roots were 0.6-0.8 cm long and on V₃- rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50% variant we obtained 0.7-14.5 cm lenght. About thickness of the roots we acquired following: the average number of roots with diameter < 1mm, per cutting, was 4.6 on V₁-rooting in perlite variant and 7.1 on V₃- rooting in peat 50%+ perlite 50% variant, and the medium number of roots with diameter > 1.1 mm was 2.7 on V₁-variant and 6.6 on V₃-variant.

This paper describes an experiment of rooting the cuttings of *Calluna vulgaris*. We proved that the substratum has an great influence to the rooting process. From three variantes of rooting we obtained the best resultes on rooting in peat 50%+perlite 50% variant.

CONCLUSIONS

1. *Calluna vulgaris*, as an ornamental tre, with great economical value, can be multiplicare vegetively, using cuttings.
2. Using a proper substratum increases the rate of multiplication.
3. A proper substratum rises the quality and the number of roots per cutting, too.
4. The substratum composed by peat 50%+ perlite 50% has risen the rooting rate. The rooting percentage was 90% on V₃- rooting in peat 50%+

perlite 50%, 74% on V₂-rooting in peat variant and 58.4% on V₁-rooting in perlite variant.

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