

Macadamia

Macadamias in Jiffy 7C

The Projects

Jiffy 7C pellets in 60mmx150mm, 60mmx120mm and 50mmx60mm were supplied to a number of Macadamia nurseries in Limpopo, Mapumalanga and KZN. The pellets were either supplied in trays, or else growers used them in their own crates. The pellets were trialled using both seeds and cuttings.



Methodologies for growing from seed

Seeds were sown directly into the 7C pellets and after (on average) from 10 days the nuts began to germinate. Seedlings were grown to a suitable height for grafting and then grown further before transplanting into larger plastic bags or pots. Cuttings were trialled in smaller pellets (50mmx60mm) for rooting and also in larger pellets (60mmx120mm).

Benefits noticed

- Easy deployment, just hydrate and use. This cuts labour requirements drastically;
- Better germination rate (probably due to good quality growing medium, RHP certified, washed and buffered);
- Faster germination and growth rates;
- Better root mass development;
- Easy sorting of plants by size;
- Easier grafting with no damage to roots or loss of growing media;
- Lighter growing media – easier movement of trays in the nursery and lighter freight if moving over distance;
- Consistent, predictable growing medium batch by batch, year by year. This promotes consistency of methodology and end product;
- Less water usage;
- Pre-loaded fertiliser in the pellets means the first week of growth does not need fertilisation;
- Decreased time to first crop????

Cuttings

Macadamia cuttings have done extremely well in the Jiffy 7C pellets, in sizes 50mmx60mm and 60mmx120mm.

Benefits noticed

- Easy deployment, just hydrate and use. This cuts labour requirements drastically;
- Own tray system for easy use;
- Improved success rate (probably due to good quality growing medium, RHP certified, washed and buffered);
- Faster rooting and growth rates. The high air porosity and light medium encourages root development;
- Better root mass development;
- Easy sorting of plants by size;
- Lighter growing media – easier movement of trays in the nursery and lighter freight if moving over distance. Cuttings can be kept for up to 9 months in the Jiffy 7C pellets;
- Consistent, predictable growing medium batch by batch, year by year. This promotes consistency of methodology and end product;

Conclusions

Initial trials and the subsequent large-scale usage of Jiffy 7C pellets have produced good results for macadamia growers in South Africa. There is a growing demand from growers for our pellets for the reasons mentioned above.

Both the 60mmx120mm and 50mmx60mm pellets are being used successfully and further trials are being conducted with the 40mmx90mm pellet.