

RESPONSE OF CERTAIN CULTIVARS OF SUGARCANE TO INFECTION BY *PRATYLENCHUS ZEA*, THE ROOT-LESION NEMATODE

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Abstract

Four cultivars of sugarcane viz., GT54-9, GT68-88, G75-368 and NCO-310 were evaluated for their reaction to infection by *Pratylenchus zae*, the root lesion nematode. All the tested cultivars were found susceptible to *P. zae*. The influence of the different inoculum levels 0, 100, 1000, 2000 and 4000 of *P. zae* was studied on sugar cane cv. GT54-9. Plant growth parameters gradually decreased as nematode inoculum levels increased. The rate of nematode build up gradually decreased by increasing the initial population, therefore, the highest nematode build up occurred at the lowest initial nematode population. A nematode level of 2000 appeared to be optimum of infection on sugarcane plants.