

Compost Medium for Plant Tissue Cultures

At the International Symposium on Biotechnology of Tropical and Subtropical Species, held 29 September through 3 October 1997 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, B. Pett and A. Kembu of Papua New Guinea's Lowlands Agriculture Experiment Station Kerevat described a simple and inexpensive tissue culture medium. The substrate is composed of one-third sawdust, one-third peatmoss and one-third topsoil. The mixture is used to fill 120 ml jars to a fifth of their volume. Five milliliters of Murashige-Skoog salt solution plus 5 ml of distilled water are added and the jars are then autoclaved.

According to Pett and Kembu, more than 95% of all sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) explants showed satisfactory normal growth on the compost medium. All transferred genotypes survived on the medium for more than one year of subculture. The authors suggest that the easy-to-make and easy-to-keep compost medium can be used as an alternative growing substrate for long-term conservation of sweet potato varieties and for investigations of their potential for microtuber formation.

For further information:

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