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CARIBBEAN FOOD CROPS SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS



**ELEVENTH ANNUAL
MEETING**

RED PEA VARIETY TESTING IN GUADELOUPE

by

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Large tonnages of dry red kidney beans are imported in the French West Indies. Retail prices are very high.

Local production is practically non existent and we do not know if commercial production would be economically feasible. However, production in family gardens should be recommended from the nutritional viewpoint.

About 200 introductions of kidney beans with red, rose or predominantly red seeds were examined in four trials, grown without poles. Conditions were:

Soil: ferralitic.

Climate: very variable in the different trials.

Spacing between rows: 0.76 m.

Spacing between plants: about 0.07 m.

Phytopsanitary treatments: seed dressing with DEMOSAN.

(CHLORONEB) fungicide against damping off.

Number of harvests: 2–3.

RESULTS

All varieties of European origin, or those used for pod production, or extremely indeterminate (pole) types, performed very poorly in these conditions.

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We made an estimate of yield performance in our 2 last trials:

Trial A was carried out in very humid and relatively cool Autumn conditions. *Rhizoctonia solani* disease was heavy on all varieties and in many completely destructive. Yield data are somewhat inconsistent for this reason.

Trial B was performed during the dry season with some irrigation. Soil fertility was very low in this trial and yields consequently were poor. Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe polygoni*) developed on many varieties.

In both trials yields were very low, varying from 300 kg to 1,500 kg/ha.

The results of 8 of the best introductions are compared to those of 2 standard red kidney varieties in the table: the standard varieties are Red cote and California kidney.

We are now experimenting with more recent introductions from Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica and Haita, which could be of interest.

Table

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS IN RED PEA VARIETIES IN GUADELOUPE (1973)

Varieties	Growth	Seed size	Seed Colour	Trial A			Trial B	
				Rhizoctonia		Yield	Powdery mildew	Yield
				leaf	pod			
(104) Calima	D	L	White, red stripes	3	0	100	3	220
(121) Carabobo	D	S	Red	3	0	206	0	154
(132) Honduras 18	I	S	Red	2	0	215	0	172
(94) Maluquinho 12449	I	I	Red	3	0	117	0	224
(92) Manteigac 977	D	L	Rose, red stripes	4	0	25	0	193
(112) Mil por um	I	I	Salmon	1	0	308	0	213
(53) Pompadour	D	L	White, red stripes	2.5	0	150	2	194
(164) 27 R	D	L	Rose	3	0	112	3	184
(150) Red Kote (<i>standard</i>)	D	L	Rose	3	0	123	3	144
(91) California kidney (<i>standard</i>)	D	L	Rose	3	0	116	1	88

D = Determinate

L = Large

I = Indeterminate

Yield = % of mean

Disease intensity: from 0 to 5