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EFFECTS OF PRUNING AND FERTIGATION ON SUGARAPPLE
(ANNONA SQUAMOSA L.) PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

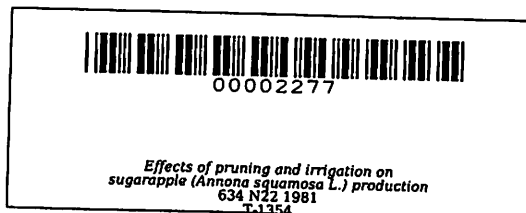
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EFFECTS OF PRUNING AND IRRIGATION ON SUGARAPPLE
(ANNONA SQUAMOSA L.) PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

SEUBSAKD NAVACHINDA, University of the Philippines
at Los Baños, November 1984. Effects of Pruning and
Irrigation on Sugarapple (Annona squamosa L.) Produc-
tion in Thailand. Major Professor: Dr. Roberto E.
Coronel.

Pruning caused lateral bud growth, flower bud initiation and fruit maturity in 23, 46 and 183 days, respectively. Pruning did not affect total soluble solids, keeping quality and total yield, but significantly increased fruit size, economic yield and income.

Irrigation caused earlier shooting, flowering and harvesting 10-15 days when compared with control. It also increased the number of shoots and fruits, fruit size, total and economic yield and income.

Irrigation and pruning had no significant interaction on number of flowers, percentage of fruit retained, harvesting period, number of mature fruits, yield and income but had significant interaction on days to lateral bud sprouting, number of shoots and days to flowering.

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INTRODUCTION

Annonaceae family comprises more than 40 genera and has over 500 species. However, only a few genera produce edible fruits and a limited number of its species are of commercial importance. Among these are sugarapple, atemoya, custardapple, soursop and cherimoya which are the most important annonaceious fruits cultivated in the world.

The cultivated annonas seem to have originated in the West Indies and tropical America. Their distribution extends in the equator, in the moist region of Asia, tropical America and further to the Middle East countries, where they are well adapted (Popenoe, 1920; Venkataratnam and Satyanarayanaswamy, 1958).

In the past, sugarapple (Annona squamosa L.) cultivation in Thailand was limited and trees were grown only in the backyard. However, in recent years, large scale commercial plantations have been established. Its cultivation is now widespread in Thailand, particularly in the northeastern part of the country such as Nakonrachasima, Ubol, Udon, Khonkhen, Loi and Saraburi provinces. This is in