Research Article

Comparative Yield Performance of *Pleurotus* Species on Different Substrates under Subtropical Conditions of Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

The present investigation was carried out under sub tropical zone of Himachal Pradesh to know the effect of different substrates such as paddy straw, wheat straw, sugarcane bagasse, sawdust and pine needles on spawn running time, primordial initiation time, fruiting body formation time, yield performance and biological efficiency of three species of *Pleurotus viz., P. ostreatus, P. sajor-caju* and *P. florida.* Out of five different substrates, paddy straw proved to be the best in minimising time taken for spawn run (8.89 days) and producing maximum number of fruit bodies (52.52) while, wheat straw proved best in terms of maximum average yield (507.33 g/2Kg wet substrate) as well as biological efficiency (84.55 %). Among the three *Pleurotus* spp., *P. florida* performed best in terms of yield.

Key words: Biological efficiency, *P. florida, P. ostreatus, P. sajor-caju,* substrates and yield

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