Abstract

With the objective of determining the effect of planting density on the initial growth of mulberry, during the establishment stage, three planting frames were studied: 1 m x 0.80; 1 m x 0.40; and triple rows separated at 0.5 m between rows x 0.40 m between plants and at 1 m between triple rows (12 500; 25 000 and 37 500 plants/ha, respectively). For this a completely randomized design was used. The period of evaluation was 10 months. Five plants were randomly selected in each plot and the height and number of branches were measured monthly. In the data processing a factorial analysis was used, by means of the option One-Way ANOVA corresponding to the statistical pack SPSS version 10.0. In the comparison of means Duncan's multiple range test was used, for a significance level at P<0.05. The results indicated statistical differences in each variant regarding plant height. With the density of 25 000 plants/ha the highest height was reached (90.8 cm); while for 12 500 and 37 500 plants/ha no statistical differences were found. Regarding the number of branches, the highest values were found when using the lowest planting density. The densities studied were concluded to influence significantly the establishment of the mulberry crop; to continue the study during the exploitation stage of the crop is recommended, aiming to evaluate the influence of this factor on the yield and bromatological composition of the plants.

Keywords

Morus alba, spacing