

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEE BAR PRODUCTION SYSTEM AND TECHNICAL TRANSFER ON DRAGONFRUIT (*HYLOCEREUS UNDATUS*) IN VIET NAM

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ABSTRACT

Dragonfruit (*Hylocereus undatus*) is a major important fruit crop in Viet Nam with a planting area of 53,899 ha and a production of more than one million mton of fruits per year. The fruit has been exported to over 60 countries in the world, with an exported value of USD 1.1 billion in 2018. Many farms practice dragonfruit cultivation using a concrete post called the "Mop top" system. However, this system is plagued with many difficulties such as pruning, pests and diseases management, machinery application, and low yield. This study incorporates a new "Tee bar" system and was carried out from 2014 to 2018 at Farm A of the Southern Horticultural Research Institute (SOFRI), Tien Giang with two experiments. Results showed that the Tee bar system gave a higher yield than the Mop top and single wall systems. The Tee bar system with 60 cm spacing between two plants showed higher yields with the best profit compared to the system with 40 cm and 100 cm spacing. The Tee bar system is currently applied by dragonfruit farmers in the South of Vietnam.

Keywords: Dragonfruit, mop top, single wall, Tee bar, spacing