

Characterization of cashew accessions for ornamental purposes

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Abstract

To maximize the use of cashew tree (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) specific characterization for ornamental purposes was carried out. The aim of this work was to characterize plants to be grown in pots and produce peduncles with characteristics to be consumed as fresh fruit. Dwarf accessions with compact growth habit, regular canopy and plenty fructification from the Embrapa Cashew Germplasm Bank were evaluated. Eighteen plants were selected (accessions 103, 105, 122, 124, 126, 141, 144, 145, 147, 148, 212, 220, 222, 225, 229, 241, 243 and 247) because of their SS, acidity, pH and tannins characteristics and grafted on commercial cultivar CCP 76 rootstock. The survival rate, plant height and habit, number of branches and canopy diameter were evaluated. It was observed that the average SS content in the fruits varied from 10.25 (accession 122) to 16.25 (accession 243); the acidity from 0.45% (accession 222) to 0.2% (accession 103); and the pH from 4.1 (accession 222) to 5.3 (accession 103). Oligomeric tannins levels were comparable to those found in the commercial cashew apple (approximately 0.05 to 0.16%). It was observed that the accessions 147 and 247 had 100% survival, followed by 103, 122, 124, 141, 222, 229 and 243 which reached 80%. Based on the parameters evaluated, the best progenies for both purposes were 103 and 145.