

## A SHORT NOTE ON THE VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION OF *AILANTHUS* AND *PROSOPIS*

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Both *Ailanthus altissima* and *Prosopis chilensis* are important species being used in afforestation in different parts of Pakistan. These species are hardy enough to minimum moisture and therefore, are very suitable for the hot deserts of this country. *Ailanthus altissima* is native while *Prosopis chilensis* has been recently introduced by PFI from Chile. The species was found better than native *Prosopis* i.e. *Prosopis juliflora* and *Prosopis cineraria*. Preliminary results have shown that *P.chilensis* exhibits almost double height and diameter as compared with native species under low rainfall conditions. .

An attempt was made to vegetatively propagate these species under uncontrolled conditions at the Pakistan Forest Institute, Peshawar. The rooting experiment was conducted on these 2 species in April, 2000 and the results are as under:

Table 1. Rooting percentage of two species using roots and branches

Species	Roots	Branches
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	15	70
<i>Prosopis chilensis</i>	0	72

The above table indicates that the aforementioned two species could be easily propagated through branch cuttings with a sprouting success of 70-72%. Seed collection is cumbersome and expensive and therefore, the species should be raised through branch cuttings in the nurseries of the Forest Department.

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