

The Most Suitable Method and Time of Ber Tree (*Ziziphus spina-christi* L.) Budding in Ahvaz

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Abstract

Ber (*Ziziphus spina-christi* L.) is one of the tropical and subtropical fruit trees that grow in different countries in Europe, America, Africa, Australia, and Asia including Iran. Ber is considered as one of the hardiest cultivated fruit trees to drought, salinity and high temperature. It is a multi-purpose tree and is used for its fresh fruits and has many other applications. Despite of its desired characteristics, it has not been yet cultivated commercially in Iran. The most important reason for this is lack of grafted seedlings of suitable varieties and propagation information. This project has been carried out using CRBD (Complete Randomized Block Design) with three factors including i) time of budding (Spring and Summer), ii) budding method (T, \perp and ring) and iii) Scion (ecotype A, ecotype B and ecotype C) in three replications from 2004-2006. Results showed that the best time for ber budding in Ahwaz is in late summer with 80.26% success and the best method for its budding is \perp method with 86.15% success. Scion ecotype has no significant effect on budded plant survival that can show the high compatibility between seedlings and tested scions.

Keywords: *Time of Budding, Method of Budding, Ber Tree.*