

**THE SHOOT GROWTH PATTERN OF TEA  
(*Camellia sinensis*) DURING DIFFERENT STAGES OF  
THE PRUNING CYCLE**

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## ABSTRACT

The shoot replacement cycle is a measure of the time taken (days) for an axillary bud, when released from apical dominance, to grow into a shoot suitable for harvesting. Tea shoot growth varies with the clone, the season, inputs and stage in the pruning cycle. The purpose of the study was to study the shoot growth pattern and factors affecting the shoot replacement.

After removing apical dormancy, average time taken by the bud to become pluckable stage of the cultivar DT1 and TRI2025 are 43.15 and 42.25 respectively. Average time was gradually increased with the stage of the pruning cycle. When comparing both TRI 2025 and DT1 cultivars, the yield is promisingly maintain at higher level in DT1 than TRI 2025.

Average number of shoot per unit area of cultivar DT1 was higher than the average number of shoot per unit area of cultivar TRI2025 at each stages of pruning. There was a significant difference among the individual shoot weight of two cultivars

Yield also follows the similar pattern of varetion. The differential shoot growth pattern in tea plants of different years after pruning has an effect on the different yields observed in a pruning cycle.

**Key words:** *shoot replacement cycle, pruning, shoot growth, cultivar*