

THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT WATERING REGIME ON THE GROWTH
RATE OF *Moringa oleifera* (Lam) SEEDLINGS

BY

AKINWALERE OMONIKE RACHAEL

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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT,
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT,
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE.

SUPERVISOR: PROF. M.O. ADEDIRE

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ABSTRACT

This research work was carried out to study the growth performance of Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) seedlings under different watering regime, so as to determine the best watering regime suitable for the production of the seedlings at nursery stage. The experiment was carried out in the forest nursery of the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, where the seedlings of *Moringa oleifera* were raised in polythene bags of size 25cm by 10cm and treatment was applied at various levels. Four (4) treatments with five (5) replicates each were arranged in a Completely Randomised Design and the watering frequency was varied in all the treatments. Treatment A was watered daily while Treatment B was watered once in three days, C was watered once in five (5) days and D was watered once in a week. The growth and behaviour of the seedlings were assessed for twelve (12) weeks. Data were collected fortnightly through the measurements of the morphological parameters which include, shoot height, leaf count, collar diameter and leaf area. The result of the study indicate that seedlings of *Moringa oleifera* watered daily had the overall best performance. Subjection of data to statistical Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showed that there were significant differences between the treatments in terms of seedlings height, collar diameter, leaf area but no significant different was observed between the treatments in terms of leaf number. Therefore, daily watering of *Moringa oleifera* seedlings at the nursery stage is considered practicable.