

**AN ASSESSMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT TECHNIQUES OF AZADIRACHTA
INDICA SEEDLINGS IN SEMI-ARID ZONE OF NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

A split-split plot field experimentation was carried out to assess the growth response of *Azadirachta indica* Linn seedlings to establishment techniques in a semi-arid environment. Planting either on flat terrain or in ridges constituted the mainplot treatment, while use or non-use of manure and planting at various depths (9cm, 18cm and 27cm) constituted the sub and sub-plot treatments respectively. After 14 weeks of treatment, mean seedling heights irrespective of mode of land preparation were 28.1cm and 27cm with or without manuring respectively. Seedlings planted in deep augerholes were morphologically superior to shallow augerhole seedlings. Roots were confined to the ground in flat terrain, but were spread in the loose soil surface and sub-surface in ridge plantings. Generally, planting on flat terrain in deep augerhole (27cm) with or without manure were found to be most appropriate for seedling establishment.

Keyword