2024 NCERA Annual Station Reports---Hawaii

Kent Kobayashi Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences Dept. University of Hawaii at Manoa kentko@hawaii.edu

1. New Facilities and Equipment

Digital Wind/Temp/RH Meter Temp/RH/CO₂ Meter - Handheld IR Temperature Meter with Temp Probe Temperature/RH Pen LightScout Quantum Meter – External Sensor LED grow lights Lunar/Martian model greenhouse

2. Unique Plant Reponses

The objective of this study was to compare the effects of red and blue LED lighting on the growth of 'Koba' green onion plants in a noncirculating hydroponic system. 'Koba' green onion (*Allium fistulosum*) seeds were germinated in Oasis® cubes under T5 high output fluorescent lighting in the lab. Seedlings were then transferred to 5.1-cm net pots, which were placed in 1.9-liter containers containing a hydroponic nutrient solution of Hydro-Gardens' Chem-Gro lettuce formula 8-15-36 hydroponic fertilizer with added calcium nitrate (19% Ca and 15.5% N) and magnesium sulfate (9.8% Mg and 12.9% SO₄). Half of the seedlings were grown under red LED lighting (82 µmol/m²/s, 12-h photoperiod) and half under blue LED lighting (82 µmol/m²/s, 12-h photoperiod). Data was collected at the end of the experiment. At the end of the study, there were significant differences in plant height, number of leaves per plant, stem diameter, total leaf length per plant, leaf dry weight per plant. For all these variables, red LED lighting resulted in greater values than those for blue LED lighting. In conclusion, different LED lighting could be used to supply artificial lighting for 'Koba' green onion plants. Red LED lighting enhanced the growth of 'Koba' green onions.

3. Accomplishments

At the end of the study, there were significant differences in plant height, number of leaves per plant, stem diameter, total leaf length per plant, leaf dry weight per plant, and root dry weight per plant. For all these variables, red LED lighting resulted in greater values than those for blue LED lighting. In conclusion, different LED lighting could be used to supply artificial lighting for 'Koba' green onion plants. Red LED lighting enhanced the growth of 'Koba' green onions.

4. Impact Statements

Different LED lighting could be used to supply artificial lighting for 'Koba' green onion plants. Red LED lighting enhanced the growth of 'Koba' green onions.

5. Published Written Works

Poster Presentations

Kobayashi, K.D. and B. Nelson. 2023. LED and fluorescent lighting effects on hydroponically grown 'UH Manoa' lettuce and 'Hirayama' kai choy. HortScience 58(9) Supplement:S274 (poster presentation).

Popular Articles

Kurasaki, R., M. Byrd, and K. Kobayashi. 2023. Low-cost light sensors for indoor agriculture. Extension Bulletin CTAHR FST-68.