

SAMPLING OF PLANTS IN RUBBER NURSERY (Hevea spp) FOR
EXPERIMENTATION¹

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The present work was carried out with the objective of estimating the minimum number of seedlings for sampling in stock nursery, originated from jingle rubber seeds, so as to keep the variance to a minimum. The study was based on data from a density trial with 12 spacings, utilizing only the results of the best six treatments. The estimation of the minimum average variance, $V(\hat{m}_{r,k})=1/r(\hat{\sigma}^2/k + \hat{\sigma}_1^2)$, indicated that the ideal sampling size was "n". The minimum variance for the variables studied was obtained when 4 planting lines were taken as a sampling unit, expressing the least variation coefficients as respectively, 7.93% and 8.68% for plant height and stem diameter. The variation coefficients increased when a sampling unit exceeded 5 planting lines, except for the number of leaf whorls which came to 3.61% with 4 lines and 3.46% with 5 lines. However, above 5 lines, an increasing trend in this was shown. The average variance of the sample "n" practically stabilized when "n">16 plants, these distributed in all the sampling units. The variation coefficients obtained were 2.89% for plant height, 3.00% for stem diameter and 1.20% for the number of whorls.

¹ A paper carried out with financial resources provided through a SUDHEVEA/ EMBRAPA agreement.

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