

EFFECT OF PLUCKING STANDARD ON PROFITABILITY AND QUALITY OF
MADE TEA PRODUCED IN UVA AND UPCOUNTRY DIMBULLA REGIONS
DURING THE CROPPING SEASON

By

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Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

in the

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

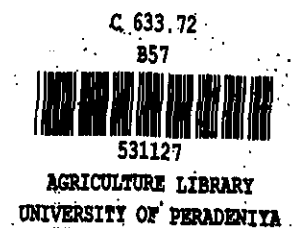
of the

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

SRI LANKA

April, 2001

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ABSTRACT

The effect of three different plucking standards on quality and profitability of made tea during the cropping season was established for the Uva and Dimbulla tea growing regions in Sri Lanka. The plucking standards used were bud and two leaves (B+2), bud and three leaves (B+3) and normal estate plucking standards.

Tea flush samples were manufactured using medium scale orthodox rollers, made tea samples were graded and weights were recorded. The graded tea samples were analyzed for quality parameters such as theaflavins(TF), thearubigins(TR), total colour(TC) and brightness(BR). The graded tea samples were also sent for tasters' evaluation. According to the prices obtained profitability for each plucking standard was calculated.

Normal plucking gave the highest yield for both regions. B+2 and B+3 plucking standards gave almost similar yields, which were lower than that for normal plucking. In the Uva region B+2 plucking gave a higher main grade (BOP) percentage, when compared to normal plucking. The percentages of BOPF and Dust 1 were the highest for B+3 plucking. The grade percentage results in the Dimbulla region had a similar pattern. However, significant differences were not observed between treatments for all grades.

Chemical analyses of graded tea for TF, TR, TC and BR showed that the highest TF% and total colour was obtained by B+3 plucking for the Uva region. However, the TR% and BR% were not significant. In the Dimbulla region both B+2 and B+3 showed a significantly higher TF%, TR%, TC and BR% compared to normal plucking. Tasters' evaluation results confirmed this for the Uva region where the highest price was given for B+3 plucking. However, there were no significant differences between the prices for the three different plucking standards in the Dimbulla region. Therefore, the desirable plucking standard, which could be practiced during the cropping season, would be B+3 as far as quality is concerned.

The normal plucking standard gave the highest net return for both Uva and Dimbulla regions. The B+2 and B+3 standards showed almost similar profits though quality wise these standards were ahead. Therefore, maximum profitability during the cropping season could be obtained by maintaining normal estate plucking.