

**EFFECT OF FOLIAR FERTILIZER APPLICATION ON EARLY
VEGETATIVE GROWTH OF CONTAINERIZED *Phyllanthus emblica***

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Phyllanthus emblica, is commonly known as *Amla* which is an underutilized fruit crop in Sri Lanka with many nutritional and medicinal values. Although it is a suitable crop for containerized planting, its nutrient management under containerized condition is not studied much. Foliar fertilizer application is a common practice to provide nutrients for containerized plants to enhance productivity. Therefore, this study was carried out at Fruit Crop Research and Development Station, *Gannoruwa* from December 2019 to March 2020 to evaluate the effect of foliar application of fertilizers on the growth of containerized *Amla* plants. The experiment was arranged in a Completely Randomized Design with five treatments and three replicates. The variety *Amla- Gannoruwa* were planted in plastic containers of 50 L capacity for treatment application. Albert's solutions of 1 gL⁻¹, 2 gL⁻¹, 3 gL⁻¹, and 4 gL⁻¹ were applied as treatments. A treatment with foliar spraying of water kept as the control. All plants were sprayed with 50 ml of Albert's solution as given in the treatments. Increment of plant height, stem diameter, number of leaves, number of leaflets and leaf length were measured weekly up to the 6 weeks after planting. Plant height, stem diameter, leaflet number and leaf length were significantly increased ($p < 0.05$) at the application rate of 4 gL⁻¹. It was shown 3 times higher increment in plant height, 2 times higher increment in stem diameter, 50% more leaflets and 20 times higher increment in leaf length at 4 gL⁻¹ application rates than the control. Therefore, foliar spraying of Albert's solution at the rate of 4 gL⁻¹ at weekly interval can be recommended to enhance the early vegetative growth of containerized *Amla* plants.

Keywords: *Amla*, Containerized planting, Early vegetative growth, Foliar application