The pawpaw (Asimina triloba) is the largest edible tree fruit native to the United States (Darrow, 1975). With a unique, almost tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a high-value fruit crop or as a landscape plant. This tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a new high-value fruit crop or for landscape use (Layne, 1996). This native to the United States (Darrow, 1975). With a unique, almost tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a high-value fruit crop or as a landscape plant. This tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a new high-value fruit crop or for landscape use (Layne, 1996). This native to the United States (Darrow, 1975). With a unique, almost tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a high-value fruit crop or as a landscape plant. This tropical flavored fruit, the pawpaw has great potential as a new high-value fruit crop or for landscape use (Layne, 1996).

The North American pawpaw [Asimina triloba (L.) Dunal] has great potential as a fruit crop or as a landscape plant. The influence of incident irradiance on pawpaw seedling growth and development in containers was examined in the greenhouse and outdoors. Root spiralizing can be a problem for container-grown pawpaw seedlings; therefore, the influence of paint containing cupric hydroxide [Cu(OH)₂] at 100 g·L⁻¹ applied to the interior of containers on plant growth was also examined in a greenhouse environment. In pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors for 11 weeks, low to moderate shading levels of 28%, 51%, or 81% increased leaf number, total leaf area, and total plant dry weight (DW) compared to nonshaded seedlings. A shading level of 81% decreased the root to shoot ratio by half compared to nonshaded plants. Shading of 98% reduced leaf number, leaf size, and shoot, root, and total plant DW. Shading increased leaf chlorophyll a and b concentrations for pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors, while it decreased average specific leaf DW (mg/cm²). In a separate greenhouse experiment, pawpaw seedlings subjected to shade treatments of 0%, 33%, 56%, 81%, or 98% did not respond as greatly to shading as plants grown outdoors. Greenhouse-grown plants had greater total and average leaf area under 33% or 56% shading than nonshaded plants; however, shading >56% reduced root, shoot, and total plant DW. Total shoot DW was greater in greenhouse grown plants with 33% shading compared to nonshaded plants. Pawpaw seedlings in control and most shade treatments (33% to 81%) in the greenhouse environment had more leaves and greater leaf area, as well as larger shoot, root, and total plant DW than seedlings in similar treatments grown outdoors. The greenhouse environment had a 10% lower irradiance, a 60% lower ultraviolet irradiance, and a significantly higher (1.23 vs. 1.20) red to far-red light ratio than the outdoors environment. Treatment of container interiors with Cu(OH)₂ decreased total and lateral root DW in nonshaded seedlings, and it adversely affected plant quality by causing a yellowing of leaves and reduction of chlorophyll levels by the end of the experiment in shaded plants. Growth characteristics of pawpaw seedlings were positively influenced by low to moderate shading (28% or 51%) outdoors and low shading (33%) in the greenhouse. Seedlings did not benefit from application of Cu(OH)₂ to containers at the concentration used in this study. Commercial nurseries can further improve production of pawpaw seedlings using low to moderate shading outdoors.

Incident Irradiance and Cupric Hydroxide Container Treatment Effects on Early Growth and Development of Container-grown Pawpaw Seedlings

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ABSTRACT. The North American pawpaw [Asimina triloba (L.) Dunal] has great potential as a fruit crop or as a landscape plant. The influence of incident irradiance on pawpaw seedling growth and development in containers was examined in the greenhouse and outdoors. Root spiralizing can be a problem for container-grown pawpaw seedlings; therefore, the influence of paint containing cupric hydroxide [Cu(OH)₂] at 100 g·L⁻¹ applied to the interior of containers on plant growth was also examined in a greenhouse environment. In pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors for 11 weeks, low to moderate shading levels of 28%, 51%, or 81% increased leaf number, total leaf area, and total plant dry weight (DW) compared to nonshaded seedlings. A shading level of 81% decreased the root to shoot ratio by half compared to nonshaded plants. Shading of 98% reduced leaf number, leaf size, and shoot, root, and total plant DW. Shading increased leaf chlorophyll a and b concentrations for pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors, while it decreased average specific leaf DW (mg/cm²). In a separate greenhouse experiment, pawpaw seedlings subjected to shade treatments of 0%, 33%, 56%, 81%, or 98% did not respond as greatly to shading as plants grown outdoors. Greenhouse-grown plants had greater total and average leaf area under 33% or 56% shading than nonshaded plants; however, shading >56% reduced root, shoot, and total plant DW. Total shoot DW was greater in greenhouse grown plants with 33% shading compared to nonshaded plants. Pawpaw seedlings in control and most shade treatments (33% to 81%) in the greenhouse environment had more leaves and greater leaf area, as well as larger shoot, root, and total plant DW than seedlings in similar treatments grown outdoors. The greenhouse environment had a 10% lower irradiance, a 60% lower ultraviolet irradiance, and a significantly higher (1.23 vs. 1.20) red to far-red light ratio than the outdoors environment. Treatment of container interiors with Cu(OH)₂ decreased total and lateral root DW in nonshaded seedlings, and it adversely affected plant quality by causing a yellowing of leaves and reduction of chlorophyll levels by the end of the experiment in shaded plants. Growth characteristics of pawpaw seedlings were positively influenced by low to moderate shading (28% or 51%) outdoors and low shading (33%) in the greenhouse. Seedlings did not benefit from application of Cu(OH)₂ to containers at the concentration used in this study. Commercial nurseries can further improve production of pawpaw seedlings using low to moderate shading outdoors.

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ring plants (e.g., rhododendron (*Rhododendron* L.), english boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* L.), and chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta* Lindl. & Paxt.) show increases in root and shoot weight with moderate shading (Whitcomb, 1988). With the shade-prefering plant belgian evergreen (*Dracaena sanderana* Hort Sander ex Mast.), moderate shading decreased the root to shoot ratio and increased plant biomass and leaf area (Vladimirova, 1997). In peach (*Prunus persica* (L.) Batsch (Peach Group)), shading increased average leaf area, decreased specific leaf weight [SLW; mg cm²⁻¹], and increased the chlorophyll concentration in leaves (Kappel and Flore, 1983). In apple (*Malus sylvestris* (L.) Mill var. *domestica* (Borkh.) Mansf.), shading increased individual leaf area, decreased specific leaf weight, and reduced leaf number (Maggs, 1960). Young and Yavitt (1987) noted that solar irradiance in the understory, optimal light conditions for seedling establishment of the forest understory, and increased plant biomass and leaf area (*Vladimirova*, 1997). In peach (*Malus domestica* Borkh. ‘BX’ potting medium (Premier Hort. Inc., Red Hill, Pa.) in 740 cm³ Rootrainers (Hummert Intl., Earth City, Mo.). All seeds were stratified (moist-prechilled) at 5 °C for at least 3 months prior to sowing. A day/night regime of 25/20 °C was maintained in a 6 × 9 m glass covered greenhouse during seed germination. Seedlings were watered weekly to runoff and were grown in a greenhouse under a 16 h photoperiod supplemented by high pressure sodium lamps.

**Materials and Methods**

**PLANT MATERIAL.** For all experiments, pawpaw seeds were harvested in Fall 1995 from open-pollinated half-sib trees at an orchard at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, Keedysville, Md. Seeds were sown to a 3 cm depth in moist Pro-Mix ‘BX’ potting medium (Premier Hort. Inc., Red Hill, Pa.) in 740 cm³ containers (Hummert Intl., Earth City, Mo.). All seeds were stratified (moist-prechilled) at 5 °C for at least 3 months prior to sowing. A day/night regime of 25/20 °C was maintained in a 6 × 9 m glass covered greenhouse during seed germination. Seedlings were watered weekly to runoff and were grown in a greenhouse under a 16 h photoperiod supplemented by high pressure sodium lamps.

**GREENHOUSE STUDY (EXPT. 1).** A factorial greenhouse experiment was conducted with treatments that included five levels of shade (0%, 33%, 56%, 81%, and 98%) and two levels of root-zone treatment [with or without Cu(OH)₂ treatment of the interior of containers]. Actual photosynthetic photon flux (PPF) values for shade treatments are found in Table 1. The treatments were arranged in a split-plot design in two replicated blocks, where the main plot factor was shade, and subplot effect was Cu(OH)₂. Experimental treatment combinations had 10 seedlings per replication. Blocks were arranged along the long, north–south axis in the greenhouse.

Before seed sowing, as described above, half of the 40 Rootrainer trays used in this study were treated with a water based latex paint with Cu(OH)₂ at 100 g·L⁻¹ (Spin Out, Griffin Corp., Valdosta, Ga.). Each tray was used to produce 27 seedlings (nine books with three seedling cells per book). Individual books were unfolded and immersed in the latex paint with Cu(OH)₂ and allowed to dry completely before moist medium was added. On 11 Apr. 1996, seeds were sown in each cell of the Cu(OH)₂-treated and non-treated (control) trays. Seedlings were grown in the greenhouse until they reached the two- to three-leaf stage on 16 June 1996, when seedling number per 27-cell tray was reduced to the most uniform 10 by excising the remaining plants at the soil line. Following roguing, all seedlings were moved to a different 6 × 9 m greenhouse with days/nights of 29 ± 3/24 ± 2 °C. This greenhouse had clean, clear glass walls and a roof (not whitewashed), and no supplemental irradiation was supplied in it or the adjacent houses during the duration of the study. Four trays (two from each root-zone modification treatment) were watered weekly to runoff and were grown in a greenhouse under a 16 h photoperiod supplemented by high pressure sodium lamps.

**Table 1. Environmental conditions for pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors or in the greenhouse under selected shading treatments.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shade (%)</th>
<th>Photosynthetic photon flux (μmol·m⁻²·s⁻¹)</th>
<th>Shade (%)</th>
<th>Temp (°C)</th>
<th>Red to far-red light ratio</th>
<th>Ultraviolet light (μmol·m⁻²·s⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoors &amp; Greenhouse</td>
<td>Outdoors &amp; Greenhouse</td>
<td>Outdoors &amp; Greenhouse</td>
<td>Outdoors &amp; Greenhouse</td>
<td>Outdoors &amp; Greenhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1478 a&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1217 a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>1064 b</td>
<td>815 b</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>724 c</td>
<td>535 c</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>280 d</td>
<td>231 d</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>30 c</td>
<td>25 c</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>4</sup>Mean separation within columns by LSD at P < 0.05.

<sup>3</sup><sup>***</sup>NS, ***NS, NS, NS, ***NS, ***NS.
were assigned randomly to each of 10 benches that were raised 61 cm off the greenhouse floor. Shade treatments were assigned randomly to each of the trays under commercially prepared 30%, 55%, 80%, or 95% shade cloth (PAK 100% propylene shade fabric, Hummert, Int'l, Earth City, Mo.). Control plants were grown on benches that were not shaded. For each shade treatment, a wooden shade frame (91 x 244 x 91 cm) was affixed to the bench corners. Shade cloth was draped over the frame, cut, and stapled to the frame so that it did not overlap on the top or sides of the frame. A vertical slit was made through the cloth down one long side of each frame to provide access to the seedlings for growth measurements. The slit remained closed otherwise. All seedlings were fertigated twice weekly with 250 mg L⁻¹ of a 26N–8.6P–16.6K water-soluble fertilizer also containing trace elements (Peters 20-8.6P-16.6K water-soluble fertilizer containing soluble trace elements (Peters 20–20–20; Scotts Co., Marysville, Ohio).

On 3 Sept. 1996, height, leaf number, and total leaf area were determined for each plant. Leaf area was measured with a CI-203 portable laser leaf area meter and a CI-203-CA conveyor attachment (C.I.D., Vancouver, Wash.). Roots were washed of attached soil and patted dry with a paper towel. Then lateral roots were trimmed from the taproots. Stems, leaves, lateral roots, and taproots of each plant were dried for at least 48 h at 50 °C in a convection oven. Dry weight (DW) was determined gravimetrically using an electronic balance (model A–160; Fischer Scientific, Pittsburgh, Pa.).

OUTDOOR STUDY (EXPT. 2). A randomized compete block design experiment was conducted outdoors with two blocks. Treatments consisted of five levels of shade (0%, 28%, 51%, 81%, or 98%), as in the greenhouse study, with 20 seedlings included in each experimental treatment per block. Seeds were sown 29 Apr. 1998, and allowed to germinate in the greenhouse as described previously. Once seedlings in Rootrainers reached the two- to three-leaf stage (11 June 1998), they were placed outdoors, and the same benches and attached shade structures described in the greenhouse study were used to impose the shade treatments. Benches were placed directly on grass in a field far enough from building structures to avoid shading. Control seedlings were not shaded. Blocks were oriented in an east–west orientation on a gentle slope. Plants were watered as needed and fertilized weekly with 250 mg L⁻¹ of a 20N–8.6P–16.6K water-soluble fertilizer containing soluble trace elements (Peters 20–20–20; Scotts Co., Marysville, Ohio).

On 3 Sept. 1996, height, leaf number, and total leaf area were determined for each plant. Leaf area was measured with a CI-203 portable laser leaf area meter and a CI-203-CA conveyor attachment (C.I.D., Vancouver, Wash.). Roots were washed of attached soil and patted dry with a paper towel. Then lateral roots were trimmed from the taproots. Stems, leaves, lateral roots, and taproots of each plant were dried for at least 48 h at 50 °C in a convection oven. Dry weight (DW) was determined gravimetrically using an electronic balance (model A–160; Fischer Scientific, Pittsburgh, Pa.).

FOUR discs (0.32 cm² each) were removed from the middle of the leaf using a paper hole punch. Disks were extracted in 8 mL of N,N-dimethylformamide (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.) in darkness at 5 °C for at least 36 h. Absorbance of extracts was read at 625, 664, and 647 nm on a DU-70 UV/Vis spectrophotometer (Beckman Instruments, Fullerton, Calif.). Calculations for chlorophyll (chl) a, chl b, and protochlorophyll (p) chl were made as described by Moran (1982).

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. Data from both studies were subjected to GLM analysis of variance (ANOVA) or stepwise GLM regression analysis using the statistical program Costat (CoHort Software, Minneapolis, Minn.). Where appropriate, treatment means were separated using least significant difference (LSD) or an unpaired t test.

Results

GREENHOUSE STUDY (EXPT. 1). Incident light levels were reduced by 33%, 56%, 81%, and 98% using the 30%, 55%, 80%, and 95% shade fabric, respectively (Table 1). Temperature and red to far-red light ratios were similar in all treatments. UV irradiance declined with increased shading (Table 1).

ANOVA indicated there was a significant interaction between shading and Cu(OH)₂ (P < 0.001) for total leaf area, average leaf area, average plant SLW, lateral root DW, and total root, shoot, and plant DW. In plants without container treatment with Cu(OH)₂, leaf number showed a quadratic response with increasing shade level, with plants under 81% or 98% shade exhibiting a decline in leaf number compared to

![Graph A](image)

Fig. 1. Effect of shading and treatment of containers with (closed symbols) and without (open symbols) cupric hydroxide [Cu(OH)₂] on growth of pawpaw seedlings in the greenhouse. (A) Leaf number of plants with and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 13.632 + 0.135x – 0.002x²; R² = 0.89, P = 0.001) and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 14.938 + 0.165x – 0.002x²; R² = 0.92, P = 0.001). (B) average leaf area in plants with and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 28.01 + 0.89x – 0.01x²; R² = 0.68, P = 0.001), and (C) average plant specific leaf DW (SLW) in plants with and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 4.216 – 0.035x + 0.001x²; R² = 0.98, P = 0.001). Each symbol is the mean of two blocks ± SE. * Indicates that means were significantly different between Cu(OH)₂ treated and non-treated plants using an unpaired t test (P < 0.05, n = 2).

![Graph B](image)

![Graph C](image)

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to nonshaded plants (Fig. 1A). Average plant leaf area also showed a similar quadratic response to shading, as did total leaf area (data not presented), but with greater average leaf area in plants with 33% or 56% shading, and reduced leaf area at 98% shading, compared to nonshaded plants (Fig. 1B). Average plant SLW declined with shading, showing a quadratic response curve (Fig. 1C). Shoot, root, lateral root, and plant DW were similar with 0%, 33%, or 56% shading, but declined with 81% or 98% shading, resulting in a quadratic response curve to shading (Fig. 2A, B, and C). Total shoot DW was greater in plants with 33% shading compared to nonshaded plants (Fig. 2A). Root to shoot ratio of control plants was reduced with shading of 33%, 56%, or 81% compared to nonshaded plants, but increased in plants with 98% shading, showing a quadratic response curve (Fig. 2D).

Plants in containers treated with Cu(OH)₂ also showed a similar quadratic response to shading to that of nonshaded plants in terms of leaf number, average leaf area, total leaf area, average plant SLW,

Fig. 2. Effect of shading and treatment of containers with (open symbols) and without (closed symbols) cupric hydroxide [Cu(OH)₂] on biomass production by pawpaw seedlings grown in the greenhouse. (A) Shoot DW of plants with (y = 2.670 + 0.049x – 0.001x², R² = 0.98, P = 0.001) and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 3.409 + 0.046x – 0.001x², R² = 0.96, P = 0.001), (B) total root DW in plants with (y = 2.842 + 0.028x – 0.001x², R² = 0.98, P = 0.001) and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 3.207 – 0.002x – 0.001x², R² = 0.96, P = 0.003), and for lateral root DW for plants with (y = 0.549 + 0.006x – 0.001x², R² = 0.97, P = 0.001) and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 0.710 – 0.001x – 0.001x², R² = 0.98, P = 0.007), (C) total plant DW in plants with (y = 5.512 + 0.770x – 0.001x², R² = 0.96, P = 0.001) and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 6.616 + 0.043x – 0.001x², R² = 0.96, P = 0.001), and (D) root to shoot ratio in plants with and without Cu(OH)₂ (y = 1.016 – 0.019x + 0.001x², R² = 0.57, P = 0.004). Each symbol is the mean of two blocks ± se. * Indicates that means were significantly different between Cu(OH)₂ treated and nontreated plants using an unpaired t-test (P < 0.05, n = 2).
Young and Yavitt (1987) reported that proximal pawpaw leaves, which developed before the overstory forest canopy closed, were 76% smaller than distal leaves that developed after canopy closure. In the present investigation, seedlings in the outdoor study displayed an even greater increase in leaf area with low to moderate shading than noted by Young and Yavitt (1987). Partial shading has been reported to increase leaf area in both shade-preferring (Vladimirova et al., 1997) and sun-preferring plants (Givinish, 1988; Kappel and Flore, 1983). Pawpaw seedlings under 28% to 51% shading in the outdoor study had more leaves than nonshaded plants. Moderate shading increased the number of leaves in the shade preferring plant Belgian evergreen (Vladimirova et al., 1997), whereas shading of developing apple trees reduced the number of leaves produced (Maggs, 1960). In sun-preferring plants, SLW usually declines with shading (Buisson and Lee, 1993; Kappel and Flore, 1983). Although pawpaw responded in many other ways as a shade-preferring plant, average plant SLW declined with shading.

Shade leaves generally have a higher concentration of chl, especially chl b, than sun leaves, thus allowing the shade leaves to use the limited amount of light reaching them (Anderson, 1986; Givinish, 1988). The resulting lower chl a to b ratio with shading may represent a change in stoichiometry of photosystems I and II (Anderson, 1986; Rajapakse et al., 1992). Moderate shading outdoors significantly increased chl a and b concentration in pawpaw seedlings, but interestingly raised chl a to b ratio (Fig. 6A and B).

Seedlings subjected to low to moderate shading (33%, 56%, or 81%) in the greenhouse study also showed increased total leaf area. However, shading of 33% failed to significantly increase root and total plant DW compared to controls, and shading above 56% actually decreased root, shoot, and total plant DW production.

Discussion

The structure and physiology of a developing plant can be affected profoundly by the quantity and quality of light incident upon the plant (Buisson and Lee, 1993; Givinish, 1988; Rajapakse et al., 1992). When pawpaw seedlings were grown outdoors, they responded to low to moderate shading with increased production of both root and shoot biomass, as reported in other shade-preferring plants at similar shade levels (Vladimirova et al., 1997; Whitcomb, 1988). Prior to this study, common thought suggested that full sun was lethal to pawpaw seedlings. Nonshaded seedlings survived in this study; however, they accumulated about half the biomass of seedlings receiving 28% to 81% shading. Only heavy shading outdoors altered root to shoot partitioning in pawpaw, with 81% shading lowering the root to shoot ratio. A reduction in the root to shoot ratio is believed to maximize growth in light-limited environments and confer shade tolerance to a plant (Abrams and Kubiske, 1990; Givinish, 1988).
ment. reduced UV light levels outdoors, resulting in growth enhancement of pawpaw seedlings in the greenhouse. The shade cloth also significantly altered plant growth. The greenhouse glass reduced the level of far-red light ratio. The greenhouse glass had a small, but significant effect on the red to far-red light ratio, which may have affected plant growth. The greenhouse glass reduced the level of UV light encountered by plants growing in the greenhouse environment, which may also have enhanced growth of pawpaw seedlings in the greenhouse. The shade cloth also significantly reduced UV light levels outdoors, resulting in growth enhancement.

Use of copper compounds in containers can cause lateral branching and stimulate formation of a more fibrous root system in other container-grown tree species (Arnold and Struve, 1989, 1993). Root to shoot ratio has been reported to decrease with use of copper compounds on the interior surface of containers (Arnold and Struve, 1989). The Cu(OH)₂ did not promote development of a more fibrous root system in pawpaw seedlings, based on failure of the copper compound to increase lateral root DW production. In fact, in nonshaded control seedlings, lateral root weight actually declined with Cu(OH)₂. Leaves of pawpaw grown in Cu(OH)₂-treated containers yellowed by the end of the experiment. The leaf yellowing and reduced chl levels may have been the result of a toxic response of plants to absorbing high levels of Cu in the treated containers or reduced cytokinin production by pawpaw root tips (Allan and Jarrell, 1989; Arnold, 1992; Arnold and Struve, 1989). Cytokinins are produced in the root tips and are transported to the growing leaves, where they may delay senescence (Satoh et al., 1977). If seedling root tips of pawpaw were damaged when they came in contact with the Cu(OH)₂ on the container wall, this may have impaired cytokinin production. Arnold and Young (1991) reported that CuCO₃ treatment of containers increased root growth and nearly doubled the number of new root tips in container-grown apple seedlings; however, there was not a significant difference in xylem sap cytokinin level in CuCO₃-treated, root pruned, and control seedlings. In this present study, we did not examine whether root tips were killed or whether new root tips were initiated when pawpaw root tips encountered the Cu(OH)₂-treated containers.

In conclusion, growth shoot DW was greater in greenhouse-grown plants with 33% shading compared to nonshaded plants. This is in contrast to the response of seedlings to shading in the outdoor study, where 28%, 51%, or 81% significantly increased root, shoot, and total plant DW compared to the control. Although plants in the greenhouse study did not respond to shading as in the outdoor study, pawpaw seedlings in corresponding shade treatments (33%, 56%, and 81%) in the greenhouse with or without Cu(OH)₂, had more leaves and had greater leaf area, as well as larger shoot, root, and total plant DW (compare Figs. 2 and 5). The greater growth of greenhouse-grown plants may have been due to twice weekly fertigation compared to weekly fertigation of plants outdoors. Altered red to far-red light ratios can affect phytochrome-mediated processes and can profoundly affect plant growth and development (Hutchison and Matt, 1977; Lee and Graham, 1987; Morgan and Smith, 1976; Rajapakse et al., 1999; Tasker and Smith, 1976). UV light has been shown to decrease growth in other plants (Gonzalez et al., 1992). Once again, alteration of light quality in terms of red to far-red light ratio and UV light level in the greenhouse environment may have resulted in the different response in chl and a to b ratio of greenhouse grown plants compared to those grown outdoors.

In conclusion, growth Fig. 5. Effect of shading on biomass production of pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors. (A) Shoot DW (y = 0.613 + 0.033x – 0.001x², R² = 0.62, P = 0.001), (B) total root DW (y = 0.758 + 0.034x – 0.001x², R² = 0.98, P = 0.001), (C) total plant DW (y = 1.371 + 0.067x – 0.001x², R² = 0.90, P = 0.001), (D) root to shoot ratio. Each symbol is the mean of two blocks ± se.

Fig. 6. Effect of shading on leaf chlorophyll (chl) concentration of pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors. (A) Leaf chl a (y = 10.808 + 0.169x – 0.001x², R² = 0.97, P = 0.001), chl b, chl p, total chl (15.787 + 0.234x – 0.001x², R² = 0.98, P = 0.002), and (B) chl a to b ratio (y = 2.155 – 0.005x, R² = 0.93, P = 0.001). Each symbol is the mean of two blocks ± se.
of containerized pawpaw seedlings was positively influenced by low to moderate shading (28% or 51%) outdoors and low shading (33%) in the greenhouse, in a manner typical of that reported for other shade-prefering plants. Low to moderate shading of pawpaw seedlings grown outdoors greatly increased whole plant biomass, indicating that commercial nurseries can further improve production of containerized pawpaw seedlings using this shading regime outdoors. If plants are produced on a gravel container pad, higher levels of shading (>55%) that would also reduce air temperatures could be beneficial. Because seedlings were destructively harvested in this study, the effect of Cu(OH)2 on direct transplanting to the field or larger containers could not be determined. However, based on the data herein, Cu(OH)2 treatment of the interiors of containers used for production of pawpaw seedlings cannot be recommended at the present time.

Literature Cited


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Literature Cited


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