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## Horticultural Research (Japan)

Vol. 9 (2010) , No. 4 421-426

### Effects of Rice Husk Charcoal Covering on the Quality of Plug Seedlings under Organic Fertilization during the Cool Season

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(Received October 19, 2009)

(Accepted February 26, 2010)

The effects of a rice husk charcoal (RHC) covering on the growth, post-transplant growth were investigated in lettuce plug seedlings under organic fertilization during the cool season. The RHC covering had no effect on the mean root length and root weight. However, the growth and amount of nitrogen uptake were greater in the RHC covering medium than when it was covered by vermiculite. Growth immediately after transplanting was more rapid in the RHC covering medium than in the other two seedling groups. The head fresh weight at harvest was ab-

RHC seedlings than in the other seedling groups. The nitrogen concentration increased with increasing RHC volume, but there was no significant difference in RHC volume and the seedling growth. A mixture of RHC with media did not promote less seedling growth and nitrogen uptake compared with covering alone. The benefits of RHC covering were lost when we slanted the medium with aluminum foil wrapped in a paper towel.

**Key Words:** [growth](#), [nitrogen uptake](#), [organic cultivation](#)

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To cite this article:

Fumio Sato and Naoto Kato. 2010. Effects of Rice Husk Charcoal on the Growth of Lettuce Plug Seedlings under Organic Fertilization during the Cold Season in Japan. Horticulture Research in Japan 9: 421-426 .

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doi:10.2503/hrj.9.421