
Dwarf Coffee Seems Promising

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Much interest has been shown in trial plantings of recently introduced dwarf varieties of coffee at the Highlands Agricultural Experiment Station, Aiyura (see *Harvest* Vol. 1 No. 1, pp. 10-11). As the trees are only four years old it is too early to make any definite statement about yields. However, in the first year of bearing the best dwarf variety gave yields per tree which were as high as the yields from many of the normal varieties. As all varieties were planted at the same spacing, the full potential of the dwarf trees was not being realized and it is possible that at a closer spacing the dwarf trees could give high yields per acre. It is of interest that the dwarf San Ramon variety (which was introduced to New Guinea pre-war) in a trial at Aiyura, when planted at 5 ft x 5 ft spacing has given yields almost as high as Arusha planted at 8 ft x 4½ ft.

While the variety is not recommended for large-scale planting, limited quantities of Caturra Dwarf (red fruit) will be made available to growers who would like to establish small plots for observation. Such plots would serve as a source of seed if later results show the variety to be worth planting on a larger scale.

The dwarf varieties have short internodes and form much more compact bushes than normal varieties. However, they do continue to grow and eventually become quite large bushes.

Requests for Caturra seed should be addressed to:

Agronomist-in-Charge,
Highlands Agricultural Experiment Station,
Aiyura, via Kainantu,
Eastern Highlands District.