



# Impact of Reeling Effluent Irrigation on Growth and Yield of V1 Mulberry Variety

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.9734/ijecc/2024/v14i54180>

## Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/116195>

Original Research Article

Received: 27/02/2024

Accepted: 02/05/2024

Published: 17/05/2024

## ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted during 2022-2023 at Department of Sericulture, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru to study the growth and development of mulberry when irrigated with various proportions of reeling effluent and borewell water along with recommended doses of NPK and FYM. Five treatments were laid out in RCBD with four replications. Among all the treatments application of 100 per cent reeling effluent for irrigation to mulberry plant has recorded the highest growth parameters on 30, 45 and 60 DAP, viz., number of shoots (20.25, 23.65 and 28.05 No.), mean shoot length (49.74, 109.32 and 137.32 cm), plant height (138.23, 197.47 and 225.47 cm), internodal distance (5.01, 5.49 and 5.73 cm), number of leaves (185.80, 424.40 and 542.90 No.), leaf area (105.21, 204.33 and 219.33 cm<sup>2</sup>) and leaf yield (940.94 g/plant and 58.07 tonnes/ha/yr on 60 DAP, respectively) compare to control. An overview of the study revealed that 100 per cent reeling effluent has significantly improved the growth and yield parameters of mulberry.

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**Cite as:** Ashrith, S., Chandrashekhar, S, Gowda, M., Chikkalingaiah, & Naveen, D. V. (2024). Impact of Reeling Effluent Irrigation on Growth and Yield of V1 Mulberry Variety. *International Journal of Environment and Climate Change*, 14(5), 184-191. <https://doi.org/10.9734/ijecc/2024/v14i54180>

**Keywords:** Reeling effluent; bore well water; mulberry.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Mulberry is a fast growing deciduous woody perennial plant with having deep root system, grown under varied climatic conditions ranging from temperate to tropical regions. The total area under mulberry cultivation in India is about 2.42 lakh hectare. In Karnataka, about 80 per cent of the mulberry region is under irrigated conditions and high yielding mulberry variety (V1) is being cultivated [1]. The vegetative part is the main component of mulberry, which is influenced by mulberry cultivars, environmental factors, different kinds of soil, chemical fertilizers, methods of irrigation, ideal plant spacing, plant population, appropriate pruning schedules and proper harvesting techniques are some of the crucial elements that encourage the production of high-quality leaves. Among these factors, irrigation also plays a significant function in improving the quality and quantity of mulberry leaves which directly affects the growth and development of silkworms [2]. Water plays several important roles in the soil-plant system, including distributing nutrients throughout the plant, acting as a solvent in biochemical reactions, acting as a medium for solute distribution, assisting in temperature regulation, and providing hydrogen for photosynthesis [3]. Nearly every component of agriculture relies on water, which ultimately affected crop production. If plants are not properly watered, even good seeds and fertilizer cannot accomplish their full growth.

Wastewater generated from different sources can be used as alternate source irrigation, which helps to partially alleviate the scarcity of ground water. Water conservation, nutrient recycling in wastewater, a reduction in the direct use of organic fertilizers and a reduction in water body pollution are all aided by the alternative agricultural method known as waste water irrigation [4]. Recently wastewater is being applied to agricultural lands to substitute the nutritional requirement of crops. In certain areas due to scarcity of water farmers are using the effluent as a source of irrigation water as well as a source of plant nutrients. This is supposed to solve the problem of disposal as well as a source of irrigation and nutrients for crop production. Using different types of wastewater such as sewage water, distillery spent wash, silk reeling effluent and industrial waste discharge for

irrigation is beneficial for the growth and development of mulberry plants. Particularly, using reeling wastewater in mulberry cultivation has shown positive effects on mulberry growth and development [2].

India is the second largest raw silk-producing country with an annual production of 15818 MT in 2021-2022. During the production of silk fibre, a considerable quantity of wastewater is generated from silk reeling units. It was estimated that 1.000-3.000 m<sup>3</sup> of reeling effluent is being generated per day for every 12-20 tonnes of silk fabric production [5]. Reeling effluent consist of major nutrients like nitrogen (13.57 mg/l), phosphorus (1.15 mg/l), potassium (22.68 mg/l) and minor nutrients like calcium, magnesium and chloride (109.6 mg/l, 37.44 mg/l and 28.4mg/l, respectively). So, the utilization of wastewater for the cultivation of mulberry is effective and eco-friendly. With this background, this study was aimed to investigate the effect of reeling effluent irrigation on the growth and yield of mulberry.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

An investigation was carried out in the Department of Sericulture, College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru. The primarily reeling effluent was collected from Bagaluru reeling unit mixed in a water tank as per treatments and irrigated to the mulberry crop according to the treatment combination. The total water requirement for mulberry cultivation under red sandy loamy soil is 13,51,350 liter per crop per ha. The mulberry crop was irrigated through flood irrigation system once in 7 days for 70 days (total 10 irrigations) (Dandin and Giridhar 2014). The calculated total water requirement was 19,460 litre for the entire crop duration.

Field Experiment was conducted during March 2022 to May 2023 laid out as per Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD). The treatments were replicated four times. The mulberry variety Victory 1 which is popularly known as V1 was used for the experiment. A sample consisting of five plants out of 32 plants per treatment was randomly selected and labelled for recording various biometric observations. The observations on various growth parameters were recorded at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> days after pruning (DAP).

### List 1. Treatment details

Treatments	Treatment details
T1	100 % borewell water
T2	25 % reeling effluent + 75 % borewell water
T3	50 % reeling effluent + 50 % borewell water
T4	75 % reeling effluent + 25 % borewell irrigation
T5	100 % reeling effluent

Note: NPK and FYM applied has per recommendation

## 2.1 Statistical Analysis

The data recorded on various parameters were subjected to Fisher's method of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and interpreted according to Gomez and Gomez [6]. The level of significance used in F and t-tests was  $P=0.05$  for RCBD and  $P=0.01$  for CRD. The critical difference (CD) values were computed where the F test was found significant.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 No. of shoots per plant

There was significant difference observed in the number of shoots per plant when mulberry was irrigated with various proportions of reeling effluent and borewell water along with the recommended dose of NPK and FYM.

At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, higher number of shoots was recorded in T5 (20.25) which was followed by T4 (18.90) whereas, lesser number of shoots was observed in T1 (17.05). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, a significantly higher number of shoots was observed in T5 (23.65) followed by T4 (22.55) whereas, lesser number of shoots was observed in T1 (20.15). A similar trend was noticed at 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to the number of shoots where significant higher number of shoots was observed in T5 (28.05) which was followed by T4 (26.75) whereas, a lesser number of shoots was observed in T1 (23.65) (Table 1).

The increased number of shoots might be due to higher nutrient content in reeling effluent that is beneficial for plant growth. Reeling effluent contains nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients that are essential for plant growth and development [7]. The results are compared with the results of Chikkaswamy *et al.* [8] reported that sewage water irrigation dramatically boosted the shoot counts of two mulberry varieties *i.e.*, S-54 and M-5 by 8.8 and 10.8 respectively when compared to bore well water irrigation (8.4 shoots in S-54 and 9.6 shoots in M-5).

The results of the present study are comparable to those of Ravindra Chary [9] recorded application of sewage effluent from the Vrishabhavathy river with the recommended dose of FYM

and NPK resulted in higher shoot count (20.10). The enhanced growth of the mulberry plants was attributed to the presence of microorganisms within the sewage effluent which actively secreted growth-stimulating compounds, enzymes, hormones and other essential nutrients imperative for the optimal development of the plants.

### 3.2 Mean Shoot Length (cm)

There was a significant difference observed in shoot length when mulberry irrigation with various proportions of reeling effluent irrigation along with bore well water.

At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, higher mean shoot length (49.74 cm) was recorded in which was followed by T4 (43.34 cm) whereas, the shortest mean shoot length was observed in T1 (32.55 cm). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, a significant longest shoot length was observed in T5 (109.32 cm) which was followed by T4 (106.48 cm) whereas, the shortest mean shoot length was observed T1 (91.47 cm). Similar trend was noticed at the 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to shoot length where significantly longest shoot length was observed in T5 (137.32 cm) followed by T4 (134.48 cm) whereas, the shortest mean shoot length was observed in T1 (119.47 cm) (Table 2).

In the present study reeling effluent irrigated mulberry plants recorded highest shoot height which might be due to irrigation of reeling effluent which has higher nutrient content compared to bore well water. These findings conformed with Garcia *et al.* [10] reported that mulberry plants displayed a substantial increase in shoot length (104.07 cm) when irrigated with recycled reeling effluent compared to conventional tap water.

**Table 1. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on number of shoots in V1 mulberry at 30th, 45th and 60th DAP**

Treatments	No. of shoots/ plant		
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP
T1-100 % bore well water irrigation (control)	17.05	20.15	23.65
T2 -25 % reeling effluent + 75 % bore well water irrigation	17.25	20.60	24.10
T3 -50 % reeling effluent + 50 % bore well water irrigation	18.20	21.45	24.95
T4 -75 % reeling effluent + 25 % bore well water irrigation	18.90	22.55	26.75
T5 -100 % reeling effluent irrigation	20.25	23.65	28.05
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	0.31	0.36	0.44
<b>CD0.05</b>	0.96	1.13	1.36

Note: \*significant at 5%, DAP- Days after Pruning

**Table 2. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on mean shoot length in V1 mulberry at 30th, 45th and 60th DAP**

Treatments	Mean shoot length (cm)		
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP
T1-100% bore well water irrigation (control)	32.55	91.47	119.47
T2 -25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	38.76	94.76	122.76
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	40.13	101.98	129.98
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	43.34	106.48	134.48
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	49.74	109.32	137.32
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	1.59	2.20	2.20
<b>CD0.05</b>	4.91	6.77	6.77

Note: \*significant at 5%, DAP- Days after Pruning

**Table 3. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on plant height in V1 mulberry at 30th, 45th and 60th DAP**

Treatments	Plant height (cm)		
	30DAP	45DAP	60DAP
T1- 100% bore well water irrigation (control)	116.00	178.19	206.19
T2 -25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	121.33	183.04	211.05
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	123.65	189.90	217.91
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	132.10	194.96	222.97
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	138.23	197.47	225.47
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	4.23	2.12	2.13
<b>CD0.05</b>	13.04	6.56	6.56

Note: \*significant at 5%, DAP- Days After Pruning

The obtained results aligned with Ravindra Chary [9] reported a notable increase in shoot length (90.6 cm) with the application of sewage effluent from the Vrishabhavathy River with the recommended doses of FYM and NPK.

### 3.3 Plant Height (cm)

There was a significant difference observed in plant height when mulberry irrigation with various proportions of reeling effluent irrigation along with borewell water (Table 3). At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, higher

plant height was observed in T5 (138.23 cm) followed by T4 (132.10 cm) whereas, lesser plant height was observed in T1 (116.00 cm). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, significantly higher plant height was observed in T5 (197.47 cm) followed by T4 (194.96 cm) whereas, lesser plant height was observed T1 (178.19 cm). A similar trend was noticed at 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to plant height where significantly higher plant height was observed in T5 (225.47 cm) followed by T4 (222.97 cm) whereas, lesser plant height was observed in T1 (206.19 cm).

The increased plant height in mulberry might be due to increased photosynthetic rate and water use efficiency when irrigated with raw sewage water [11]. The current findings are supported by Chikkaswamy et al. [8] reported that two mulberry varieties (S-54 and M-5) resulted in a significant increase in plant height. Specifically, the plant height for S-54 reached 142.28 cm while M-5 reached 166.70 cm. Similarly, Si et al. [12] recorded that the application of 100 per cent sewage sludge led to a notable increase in plant height reaching 102.12 cm, representing a 12.1 per cent increase compared to the control group.

### 3.4 Internodal Distance (cm)

There was a significant difference observed in the internodal distance when mulberry irrigation with various proportion of reeling effluent was irrigated along with bore well water (Table 4). At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, a shorter internodal distance was observed in T5 (5.01 cm) followed by T4 (5.20 cm) whereas, higher internodal distance was observed in T1 (5.60 cm). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, a significantly shorter internodal distance was observed in T5 (5.49 cm) followed by T4 (5.58 cm) whereas, a higher internodal distance was observed in T1 (5.81 cm). A similar trend was noticed at 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to the internodal distance where a significantly shorter internodal distance was observed in T5 (5.73 cm) followed by T4 (5.82 cm) whereas, the higher internodal distance was observed in T1 (6.05 cm).

The findings of the current study are consistent with the results reported by Chikkaswamy et al. [8] reported that the

utilization of sewage water for irrigation had a significant impact on two mulberry varieties (S-54 and M-5). This impact was particularly evident in a notable reduction in internodal distances in S-54 to 15.2 nodes per meter when compared to borewell irrigation, which resulted in 14.6 nodes per meter. Similarly, for M-5, the internodal distance decreased to 18.1 nodes per meter compared to the 17.1 nodes per meter observed with borewell irrigation.

### 3.5 Number of Leaves per Plant

There was significant difference observed in the number of leaves when mulberry irrigation with various proportions of reeling effluent irrigation along with borewell water. At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, a higher number of leaves was observed in T5 (185.80) followed by T4 (163.15) whereas, lesser number of leaves was observed in T1 (120.60). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, a significantly higher number of leaves was observed in T5 (424.40) followed by T4 (387.35) whereas, lesser number of leaves was observed T1 (253.30) (Table 5). A similar trend was noticed at 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to a number of leaves where significantly higher number of leaves was observed in T5 (542.90) followed by T4 (505.85) whereas, a lesser number of leaves was observed in T1 (371.80) (Table 5). The increased number of leaves might be due to the reduction in the internodal distance in mulberry due to the supply of reeling effluent containing macro nutrients and micro nutrients, which increased the number of internodes and in turn gave rise to more number of leaves and leaf area per plant.

**Table 4. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on the internodal distance of V1 mulberry at 30<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> DAP**

Treatments	Internodal distance (cm)		
	30 DAP	45 DAP	60 DAP
T1- 100 % bore well water irrigation (control)	5.60	5.81	6.05
T2 -25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	5.48	5.77	6.01
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	5.41	5.73	5.98
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	5.20	5.58	5.82
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	5.01	5.49	5.73
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	0.06	0.03	0.04
<b>CD<sub>0.05</sub></b>	0.20	0.16	0.12

Note: \*significant at 5%, NS- Non significant, DAP- Days after pruning

**Table 5. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on number of leaves in V1 mulberry at 30th, 45th and 60th DAP**

Treatments	No. of leaves/plant		
	30DAP	45DAP	60DAP
T1- 100% bore well water irrigation (control)	120.60	253.30	371.80
T2-25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	139.15	297.90	416.40
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	145.75	342.40	460.90
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	163.15	387.35	505.85
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	185.80	424.40	542.90
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	2.01	6.37	6.38
<b>CD0.05</b>	6.20	19.65	18.54

Note: \*significant at 5 %, NS- Non significant, DAP- Days after pruning

**Table 6. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on leaf area of V1 mulberry at 30th, 45th and 60th DAP**

Treatments	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )		
	30DAP	45DAP	60DAP
T1- 100% bore well water irrigation (control)	83.62	149.99	164.99
T2-25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	90.00	156.20	171.21
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	92.60	170.94	185.94
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	101.12	189.49	204.49
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	105.21	204.33	219.33
<b>F-test</b>	*	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	0.19	3.63	3.63
<b>CD0.05</b>	3.62	11.20	15.56

Note: \*significant at 5 %, NS- Non significant, DAP- Days after pruning

**Table 7. Influence of reeling effluent irrigation on leaf yield of V1 mulberry at 60th DAP**

Treatments	Leaf yield (g/plant)	Leaf yield (tonnes/ha/yr)
T1- 100% bore well water irrigation (control)	734.68	45.34
T2 -25% reeling effluent + 75% bore well water irrigation.	770.86	47.58
T3 -50% reeling effluent + 50% bore well water irrigation	839.43	51.81
T4 -75% reeling effluent + 25% bore well water irrigation	871.28	53.77
T5 -100% reeling effluent irrigation	940.94	58.07
<b>F-test</b>	*	*
<b>S. Em ±</b>	26.16	16.14
<b>CD 0.05</b>	80.60	49.75

Note: \*significant at 5 %. NS- Non significant. DAP- Days after pruning

The results of the present study align with the discoveries made by Ravindra Chary [9] documented a noteworthy increase in the number of leaves per plant (243.00) when raw sewage effluent from the Vrishabhavathy river was applied with recommended doses of FYM and NPK. This result was also comparable to the use of filtered effluent, which resulted in 238.2 leaves and the lowest number of leaves per plant observed in bore well water irrigated mulberry.

### 3.6 Leaf Area (cm<sup>2</sup>)

There was a significant difference observed in leaf area when mulberry irrigation with various proportions of reeling effluent irrigation along with borewell water (Table 6).

At 30<sup>th</sup> DAP, a larger leaf area was observed in T5 (105.21 cm<sup>2</sup>) followed by T4 (101.12 cm<sup>2</sup>) whereas, a smaller leaf area was observed in T1

(83.62 cm<sup>2</sup>). At 45<sup>th</sup> DAP, a significantly larger leaf area was observed in T5 (204.33 cm<sup>2</sup>) followed by T4 (189.49 cm<sup>2</sup>) whereas, a smaller leaf area was observed in T1 (149.99 cm<sup>2</sup>). A similar trend was noticed at 60<sup>th</sup> DAP with regards to the number of leaves where significantly larger leaf area was observed in T5 (219.33 cm<sup>2</sup>) followed by T4 (204.49 cm<sup>2</sup>) whereas, a smaller leaf area was observed in T1 (164.99 cm<sup>2</sup>).

The larger leaf area observed in the reeling effluent compared to borewell water might be due to the irrigation of reeling effluent which has more NPK content than borewell water which influences the growth and development of mulberry. The results of the current study align with Ravindra Chary [9] recorded increased leaf area per plant (1376.30 cm<sup>2</sup>) when sewage effluent from the Vrishabhavathy river was applied with recommended doses of FYM and NPK compared to borewell water irrigated plot.

Similarly, Rao et al. [13] noted a decrease in the internodal distance in mulberry irrigated with sewage water which has more macro and micro nutrients. This nutrient-rich supply led to an increase in the number of internodes, consequently resulting in a greater number of leaves and an expanded leaf area per plant.

### 3.7 Leaf yield (g/plant and tonnes/ha/yr)

At 60<sup>th</sup> DAP, the leaf yield of individual plant differed significantly in mulberry garden irrigated with reeling effluent (Table 6). However, higher leaf yield was observed in T5 (940.94 g plant<sup>-1</sup> and 58.07 tonnes ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by T4 (871.28 g plant<sup>-1</sup> and 53.77 tonnes ha<sup>-1</sup>), whereas the lowest leaf yield was observed in T1 (734.68 g plant<sup>-1</sup> and 45.34 tonnes ha<sup>-1</sup>). Kumar et al. [14] recorded significantly higher leaf yield (54319 kg) in 100 per cent raw sewage water irrigation, compared to borewell water irrigated plot (46760 kg) in mulberry. Similarly, Ravindra Chary [9] recorded a leaf yield of 42,276 kilograms per hectare per year when sewage effluent was applied with the recommended doses of FYM and NPK compared to borewell water irrigation that yielded 37,928 kilograms per hectare per year [15].

## 4. CONCLUSION

Reeling effluent contains significant quantities of essential nutrients, required for growth and development of plants, offering an effective and

eco-friendly solution for an alternate source of irrigation. Among the different treatments 100 per cent reeling effluent irrigation has recorded maximum growth and yield attributes viz., Number of shoots/plant, mean shoot length, plant height, internodal distance, No. of leaves/ plant, leaf area and leaf yield compared to all other treatments.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors gratefully acknowledge the institute College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bengaluru, (Karnataka), India for their cooperation and assistance.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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