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## THE SUITABILITY OF TEA CLONES FOR THE DIFFERENT REGIONS

*(This Circular cancels Circulars No. C 1 to C 13)*

Continuous efforts by TRI to evolve clones have led to the release of several clones of the TRI 2000, 3000 and 4000 series. Of these TRI clones, more than 90 per cent are derived from a single plant designated as ASM 4/10. In addition to the above clones, under the guidance of the TRI, tea estates have also selected several clones and these are known as estate clones.

At present over 55 per cent of Sri Lanka's tea extent is under clones. The majority of the clones are TRI 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. This has led to a narrowing of the genetic base thereby making them vulnerable to pests, diseases, drought and other hazards.

Wherever possible, the following should be adopted in selecting planting material:

- (i) Select at least 5 - 6 clones depending on their suitability for the particular location and extent, provided that not more than 10 per cent of the estate is under a single clone.
- (ii) Clonal suitability can be tested by small-scale planting (at least 200 bushes).

The recommended clones given in Table 1 and their characteristics in Tables 2a and 2b will help in the selection of clones for planting.

**Note: Though not listed in this Circular, clones performing well in a particular locality could be considered for planting in that locality.**

**Table 1 – Recommended clones for planting in different climatic regions**

| Region                             | Recommended clones   |   |   |  | No. of clones |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---------------|
|                                    | TRI 4000 Series  | TRI 3000 Series   | TRI 2000 Series & others  | Estate clones  |               |
| Up-Country                         | 4006**<br>4034<br>4052<br>4053<br>4067<br>4071<br>4078<br>4079<br>4085   | 3013<br>3015**<br>3016**<br>3018<br>3019<br>3020***<br>3072***<br>3073*** | 2023**<br>2025<br>2043*<br>62/5<br>777                                  | CY 9<br>DN<br>DT 1<br>K 145<br>N 2<br>NAY 3<br>PK 2+ | 29            |
| <i>Sub total</i>                   | 9  | 8   | 5   | 7  |               |
| Mid-Country wet zone               | 4006**<br>4042<br>4046<br>4047<br>4053<br>4071   | 3013<br>3014<br>3015**<br>3017**<br>3018<br>3019<br>3020***<br>3025       | 2023<br>2024<br>2025<br>2026<br>2027<br>2043*<br>62/5<br>62/9           | CH 13<br>CY 9<br>DG 7<br>DG 39<br>DN<br>K 145<br>N 2 | 29            |
| <i>Sub total</i>                   | 6  | 8   | 8   | 7  |               |
| Mid-Country semi-dry zone<br>(Uva) | 4042<br>4046<br>4052<br>4053<br>4071<br>4078   | 3013<br>3015**<br>3017**<br>3018<br>3019<br>3022<br>3035                  | 2022<br>2023**<br>2024<br>2025<br>2026<br>2027<br>2043*<br>62/5<br>62/9 | DG 7<br>DG 39<br>DN<br>K 145<br>KEN 16/3<br>NAY 3    | 28            |
| <i>Sub total</i>                   | 6  | 7   | 9   | 6  |               |
| Low-Country                        | 4004<br>4006**<br>4014<br>4024<br>4042<br>4043<br>4047<br>4049<br>4052<br>4053<br>4054<br>4055<br>4059<br>4061 | 3014<br>3022<br>3025<br>3047<br>3051<br>3052<br>3055<br>3069              | 2022<br>2025<br>2026<br>2027<br>2043*<br>62/5<br>62/6<br>62/9           | DG 7<br>DG 39<br>H 1/58<br>KP 204<br>S 106           | 35            |
| <i>Sub total</i>                   | 14   | 8   | 8   | 5  |               |

*Suitability criteria listed below are based on morphological characters and /or observations only*

- \* For production of silvery tip teas
- \*\* Suitable for high fertility regime
- \*\*\* Suitable for closer planting
- Suitable for infilling
- + Suitable for very high elevation (Nuwara Eliya)