CONSIDERABLE interest has arisen during the past few years in
determining the practicability of producing, both domestically
and in the tropical and subtropical countries of this hemisphere,
various types of vegetable fibers. Particular attention has been given
to several malvaceous plants, as the fiber obtained from them is
similar to jute fiber and is suitable for the manufacture of burlap and
bagging material in which jute is generally used. Concerning the
yield of fiber, Ergle, Robinson, and Dempsey (6) in Alabama and
Crane and Acuña (3) in Cuba reported greater yields of fiber were
obtained from the kenaf plant than from the several other plants
studied. Crane and Acuña (4, 5) also reported the response of this
plant to length of day and the resulting fiber and seed yields obtained
from plantings made late in the growing season when the days were
decreasing in length.

The objectives of the investigation reported in this paper were to
determine the effect of plant spacing and time of planting on growth
and yield of fiber of kenaf when planted at monthly intervals through-
out the growing season.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

PLOT CULTURE

This investigation was conducted at the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Sta-
tion at Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba, on a Matanzas clay soil which had been
planted to sugar cane for several years. The soil, slightly acid in reaction and of
moderate fertility, contained a large population of nematodes as evidenced by the
fact that when samples of plants were dug periodically for yield determinations,
the roots were severely infested with root knot.

Soil preparation consisted of plowing and cross-plowing to a depth of 10 inches
followed by harrowing several times. No fertilizer was applied to the land either
before or after preparation of the seedbed.

The seed used in this investigation came originally from seed introduced in
Cuba from El Salvador by the Board of Economic Warfare in 1941 and consisted,
as previously reported (2), of at least two varieties, namely, *viridis* and *vulgatis*.

Four randomized plots were planted on each of the following dates: April 29,
May 31, July 1, and July 29, 1944, hereafter referred to as May, June, July, and
August plantings, respectively. Each plot consisted of an equal number of rows
8, 16, and 24 inches apart. These distances were used so that recommendations
could be made which would be adaptable to the distance between drills on the
existing equipment in Cuba. Seeds were sown rather thickly by hand but after
the resulting plants were about 6 inches tall, they were thinned to an average dis-

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2Associate Agronomist, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Dept.
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Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station, respectively.

*Figures in parenthesis refer to "Literature Cited", p. 59.