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INFLUENCE OF MULCHING ON GROWTH YIELD AND BIOMASS PRODUCTION OF *ALBIZIA PROCERA* IN LIMESTONE MINE OVERBURDEN

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ABSTRACT: Limestone mine overburden from Kuteshwar, Barhi, Katni (M.P) was used for pot experiment with five mulches (gravels, husk, leaf litter, grass and wood chips) and a control. Growth performance and biomass production of *Albizia procera* (test species) were studied. After nine months of seed sowing, all parameters of study, viz., shoot height, root length, collar diameter, no. of nodules, shoot biomass and root biomass were higher in mulches than the control. Results were, however, significant for shoot height, root length, no. of nodules and root weight. Almost equal and better shoot height was observed in leaf litter and husk treatment followed by stone / gravel, grasses and woodchips in subsequent order. Control exhibited the least height.

Key words : *Albizia procera, Growth biomass, Limestone mine overburden, Mulching.*