

**Table S1.** Effect of different potting substrates on germination of tomato ‘Valencia’ and ‘Rio grande’, pepper and eggplant. S1: 100% peat, S2: 60% coconut husk + 30% vermicompost + 10% perlite, and S3: 60% peat + 30% vermicompost + 10% perlite. maxG: maximum germination; t50 maxG: time to 50% of maximum germination; t10 maxG: time to 10% of maximum germination; t50 totS: time to 50% germination of total seeds; t10 totS: time to 10% germination of total seeds. MGT: mean germination time.

| Substrates               | Average  |              |              |              |              |       | Standard error |              |              |              |              |      | T-Student results |              |              |              |              |     |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|
|                          | maxG (%) | t50 maxG (h) | t10 maxG (h) | t50 totS (h) | t10 totS (h) | MGT   | maxG (%)       | t50 maxG (h) | t10 maxG (h) | t50 totS (h) | t10 totS (h) | MGT  | maxG (%)          | t50 maxG (h) | t10 maxG (h) | t50 totS (h) | t10 totS (h) | MGT |
| <i>Tomato Rio grande</i> |          |              |              |              |              |       |                |              |              |              |              |      |                   |              |              |              |              |     |
| S1                       | 92%      | 126.5        | 88.6         | 129.7        | 89.7         | 129.4 | 2%             | 5.7          | 12.3         | 7.1          | 12.1         | 7.1  | a                 | b            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S2                       | 95%      | 106.8        | 75.3         | 107.8        | 75.7         | 112.4 | 4%             | 4.1          | 13.8         | 4.1          | 13.9         | 1.4  | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S3                       | 90%      | 102.8        | 71.5         | 107.0        | 72.7         | 108.9 | 2%             | 6.8          | 17.1         | 4.7          | 16.7         | 3.2  | a                 | ab           | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| <i>Tomato Valencia</i>   |          |              |              |              |              |       |                |              |              |              |              |      |                   |              |              |              |              |     |
| S1                       | 49%      | 207.3        | 166.5        | 273.8        | 181.5        | 210.4 | 2%             | 25.0         | 39.3         | 39.2         | 33.6         | 24.7 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S2                       | 44%      | 204.7        | 171.3        | 276.8        | 186.7        | 208.6 | 5%             | 28.2         | 38.5         | 40.3         | 32.9         | 27.7 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S3                       | 55%      | 207.6        | 161.9        | 278.3        | 174.3        | 210.6 | 4%             | 22.2         | 38.6         | 39.8         | 34.8         | 21.7 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| <i>Pepper</i>            |          |              |              |              |              |       |                |              |              |              |              |      |                   |              |              |              |              |     |
| S1                       | 81%      | 188.0        | 168.5        | 193.1        | 170.4        | 189.8 | 10%            | 16.3         | 18.9         | 13.9         | 18.0         | 16.5 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S2                       | 69%      | 187.7        | 164.2        | 204.8        | 167.4        | 189.5 | 14%            | 12.9         | 4.4          | 10.0         | 3.4          | 13.6 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S3                       | 60%      | 199.5        | 172.8        | 226.0        | 179.5        | 201.5 | 6%             | 15.7         | 16.5         | 15.5         | 16.6         | 15.7 | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| <i>Eggplant</i>          |          |              |              |              |              |       |                |              |              |              |              |      |                   |              |              |              |              |     |
| S1                       | 80%      | 22.4         | 20.9         | 22.9         | 21.1         | 21.5  | 4%             | 0.7          | 1.1          | 0.5          | 1.0          | 0.5  | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S2                       | 78%      | 20.6         | 19.3         | 21.0         | 19.5         | 19.6  | 8%             | 3.6          | 3.6          | 3.7          | 3.7          | 3.8  | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |
| S3                       | 81%      | 20.2         | 17.6         | 20.8         | 17.8         | 19.8  | 4%             | 2.4          | 3.3          | 2.1          | 3.3          | 2.0  | a                 | a            | a            | a            | a            | a   |