‘CIMAP SIL-9’: A Dwarf and High Silymarin Yielding Variety of Milk Thistle (Silybum marianum)


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ABSTRACT

Silybum marianum commonly known as milk thistle is a herb belonging to the family Asteraceae. The ripe seeds of the plant contain silymarin which is used as medicine for treating diseases like liver cirrhosis, jaundice, hepatitis and liver poisoning. Other major medicinal properties of Silybum are anticancer, antidepressant, antioxidant, cardio protective, demulcent, digestive tonic, hepatoprotective, hepatoregenerative, immunostimulatory and neuroprotective. A new variety of Silymarin named as “CIMAP SIL 9” has been developed by CSIR-CIMAP through directed breeding efforts. The developed variety has silymarin content of 8% and has an appropriate height of 80-90 cm, making its harvesting very easy. Whereas, the check (CIM Liv) is very tall which makes its handling very difficult. The variety therefore has a dual advantage of dwarfness combined with very high content of silymarin.

KEYWORDS

CIM- Liv, genotypes, Hepatoprotective, Population improvement, Silymarin.