1. INTRODUCTION

Citrus is considered one of the most important fruit crops in Egypt, since it occupies about 349164 feddans,* represent 36.69 % of the total fruit cultivated area (951614 feddans).

One of the keys to the profits of horticultural crops is an efficient propagation. Citrus rootstocks can be produced by seeds from nucellar rootstock selections, nevertheless they are raised by cuttings, when desired species have low seed viability, few seeds per fruit or low degree of nucellar embryo (Ferguson et al., 1986). Moreover, the potentiality to produce new plants at different times of the year and in case of low seed germination or missing time of collecting the seeds.

It is well known that propagating lime by cuttings is easier than seeds propagation as seeds give low germination percentage, besides the difficulty of implementing budding technique to the presence of thorns, whereas layering propagation is a tedious procedure for the parent trees and is not commercial method.

On the other hand, the spread of quick decline "tristeza" disease in the Mediterranean region was the forcible key for the replacement of the common rootstock, sour orange "Citrus aurantium, L" "Susceptible rootstock to this disease by new resistant rootstocks.

Therefore, the present investigation was undertaken to throw some lights on the possibility of stem cutting propagation of four citrus rootstocks namely Volkamer lemon (Citrus volkameriana, Ten x Pasq.), Mexican lime (Citrus aurantifolia, Swingle), Cleopatra mandarin (Citrus reticulata, Blanco) and Rangpur lime (Citrus limonia, Osbeck) at three times of the year i.e. mid-March, mid-June and mid-September using wounding technique with the aid of indole butyric acid.