



Performance of different cultivars of gerbera under polyhouse condition

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to evaluate the performance of thirty cultivars of gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii*) at Hi-tech Floriculture and Vegetable Improvement Project, College of Agriculture, Pune during 2008-09 under naturally ventilated polyhouse condition. The results revealed that the cultivar Sonata performed better in number of leaves plant⁻¹, plant spread and flower yield. However, cultivar Martinique had larger diameter of flower, Danelli with maximum flower stalk length. Maximum stalk thickness was observed in cultivar California. Cultivar Bastion recorded maximum vase life. Overall performance of cultivars Sonata, Entourage, Bastion, Danelli, Frisbel, Onedine, California were found better.

Chobe, R.R., Pachankar, P.B. and Warade, S.D. (2010). Performance of different cultivars of gerbera under polyhouse condition, *Asian J. Hort.*, 5 (2) : 333-335.

Key words : Gerbera, Polyhouse, Performance

Gerbera is an ideal flower for cut flower, beds, borders, rock gardens and pot culture. The flowers are of attractive colour and used for floral arrangement. Now a day, gerbera is one of the most important cut flower and it has tremendous demand in local as well as foreign market. Therefore present study was carried out to evaluate 30 exotic cultivars of gerbera for their growth, quality and yield under naturally ventilated polyhouse condition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out at the Hi-tech Floriculture and Vegetable Improvement Project, College of Agriculture, Pune. during 2008-09 to study the performance of gerbera cultivars viz., Entourage, Bastion, Softcell, California, Monthblanc, Danelli, Frisbel, Fiction, Carambole, Scope, Picobella, Onedine, Loveliness, W. Grizzly, Lomboegine, Dina, Esperenza, Gucci, Grizzly, Solem, Verginia, Tecla, Devil, Banesa, Martinque, Skyline, Viviane, Opium, Woman, Sonata under naturally ventilated polyhouse of 560m² area. Polyhouse was clad with UV stabilized rigidex film of 200 micron. For temperature and light intensity control overhead foggers and 50 per cent rollable shadenet was used inside the polyhouse.

The tissue cultured plantlets of 30 different gerbera varieties procured from M/s Kumar Florist Bioplants,

M/s Gemini Agrovet, Spic Floriculture all are from Pune, planted in Jan. 2007 in pots lifted on iron stands of height 60 cm occupying 30 pots arrangement in two rows unit of 30 pots. Walkway distance between two stands was of 60 cm. For planting, clay pot having capacity three liters and media cocopeat were used. The irrigation and fertigation was provided in cycles by computer controlled system. The experiment was laid out in Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three replications. Each treatment in each replication consist of 5 plants. The observations on growth, flower quality, flower yield and vase life parameters were recorded in each replication treatment⁻¹.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarised under following heads:

Growth:

Data from Table 1 revealed that significant variation was observed among different cultivars. Cultivar Sonata (48.33) recorded highest number of leaves plant⁻¹ followed by Fiction, Verginia and Entourage while cultivar Bastion (30.73) recorded least number of leaves plant⁻¹. The cultivar Sonata (74.26 cm) recorded significantly