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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Effect of planting date and spacing on performance of marigold (*Tagetes erecta* Linn) cv. PUSA NARANGI under North Bihar agro-ecological conditions

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ABSTRACT : A field trial was carried out for two years to ascertain performance of marigold (var. *Pusa Narangi*) planted at three spacings and on six different dates at bimonthly interval *i.e.* on first day of March, May, July, September, November and January. The crop planted on 1st March showed early flowering compared to other planting dates. The best performance with respect to flower size, weight and number of flowers per plant was recorded with 1st September planting. The highest number of branches and plant canopy spread were attained with May and July plantings. In both the years wider spacing of 40 cm × 40 cm produced best results with respect to maximum flower diameter, weight of individual flower and number of flower per plant. However, the total best yield per unit area was higher when the crop was planted on 1st September at 40cm × 20 cm spacing.

KEY WORDS : Marigold, *Tagetes erecta* Linn, Planting time, Spacing, Flower quality, Yield

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