Research Paper

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Effect of different levels of pruning on yield, quality and vase life of rose (*Rosa indica* L.) cv. GLADIATOR

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Department of Horticulture, Marathwada Agricultural University, PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA **Abstract:** The field experiment was conducted at Department of Horticulture, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani during 2009-10 to study the effect of different levels of pruning on growth and flowering of rose (*Rosa indica* L.) cv. Gladiator. In this investigation roses were pruned at different levels *viz.*, 10 cm, 20 cm, 30 cm, 40 cm, 50 cm and 60 cm from ground levels. The effect of these treatments were noted on yield, quality and vase life of rose. The pruning of 60 cm from ground level emerged significantly superior in increasing yield, quality and vase life of cut flowers. However, the next best treatment was pruning at 50 cm height from the ground level in respect of yield and vase life of cut flowers.

Key words: Pruning, Rose, levels, Vase life

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The rose (*Rosa* species) has captured the heart of all. The rose flower its different types having beautiful flower of exquisite shape, different size, bewitching colours and most delightful fragrance has made it an important flower for various uses.

Major rose growing states in India are Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujrat, Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. Maharashtra is leading state in rose production. Roses are grown particularly in Nashik, Pune, Sangali, Ahmednagar, Nagpur and Aurangabad. The area under rose cultivation in Marathwada is negligible.

The demand of the flower of this region is fulfilled by transporting flowers from western Maharashtra.

Rose cv. GLADIATOR is a popular hybrid 'T' rose grown for cut flowers due to its attractive colour, large size flowers with long stalk and more vase life. In Maharashtra, it plays dominant role in flower trade and hence, it is grown on a large scale in this region for production of cut flowers. The flowers of this variety are deep red, well shaped and abundantly produced on long stem (Pal, 1991).

Rose requires regular pruning to encourage more

number of shoots and sprounting of dormant buds. In Maharashtra roses are pruned twice in a year *i.e.* June and October pruning. Pruning refers to the removal of certain portion of a plant. It is important for maintenance of floriferousness and flower quality along with vigour of rose plant. Correct pruning is an essential factor of success in rose growing and therefore, it should be done with precision and care (Gault and Synge, 1971).

The best time of pruning is the period when the activity of the rose plant is least and the plant at dormant to near dormant stage. The rose blooms harvested after pruning have longer stem than those cut from unpruned bushes. Correct pruning is an essential factor for success in growing roses, particularly to regulate flowering. The general principle of pruning is that all dead, diseased or insect-infected wood and all the weaker branches to be removed. Only strong and healthy cones are retained. The branches which grow irregularly affect the shape of neat busy plant should be removed without waiting for proper season.

RESEARCH METHODS

The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block