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Effect of spacing and pinching on flower production in marigold cv. PUSA NARANGI GAINDA in mid-hills of J&K state

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ABSTRACT : Studies were undertaken to assess, refine and standardize the spacing and pinching for optimum flower yield with better flower quality in Marigold cv. Pusa Narangi Gainda during the years 2009 and 2010.Three spacings (40 x 40, 50 x 50 and 40 x 60 cm) and three stages of pinching (pinched at 20, 30 and 40 days after transplanting) and control were tried. The maximum flower yield (248.12 q/ha) was obtained under close spacing (40 x 40 cm)with delayed pinching (40 DAT). Planting at wider spacing (40 x 60) and delayed pinching (40 DAT) increased the size and quality of flowers. However, the increase in number of secondary branches,flowers per plant and duration of flowering were recorded under delayed pinching (40 DAT) treatment.

KEY WORDS : Spacing, Pinching, Marigold, Flower production

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Marigold (*Tagetes erecta* L.) a member of family Compositae, is very useful and easily grown flower of gardens. It is commercially grown for cut flowers and has exclusive use in religious and ceremonial functions. It is also grown as annual in pots and beds and blooms for many months in a year. So far as commercial cultivation of marigold is concerned, the climatic factors are beyond the control of human beings but growth, flowering and flower production of marigold can be improved to a large extent by the judicious use of fertilizers, appropriate planting distance, cultural operations and pinching etc.

The economic yield is largely affected when plants are not planted at appropriate planting distance. Beside this, piching also plays an important role in plant growth and flowering production. Therefore, on farm trials were undertaken to assess, refine and standardize spacing and spacing for optimum flower yield with better flower quality in marigold cv. PUSA NARANGI GAINDA.

RESEARCH METHODS

The experiments on marigold cv. PUSA NARANGI GAINDA were conducted on farmer's fields under the aegis of SKUAST-Jammu during the years 2009 -2010 in hilly district of erstwhile Doda of J&K state. The treatments comprised of three spacing's *viz.*, S_1 (40 x 40 cm), S_2 (40 x 50 cm) and S_3 (40 x 60 cm) and four pinching P_0 (No pinching), P_1, P_2 and P_3 (pinching at 20, 30 and 40 days after transplanting, respectively). The treatments were replicated three times in a Randomized Block Design with factorial concept. Plots were prepared by mixing well rotten FYM (10 kg/m^2) and basal dose of N, P and K (10g/m^2). The seeds were sown in a well prepared nursery bed and transplanted after one month. All cultural practices were followed uniformly. The observations were recorded on eight qualitative characters *viz.*, plant height, number of secondary branches per plant, days taken to first flower bud initiation, duration of flowering, average size and weight of flower, number of flowers per plant and flower yield.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the investigation presented in Table 1 and 2 revealed that the plant height and number of secondary branches were significantly influenced by spacing and