



Research Note

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Studies on flower and fruiting behavior of aonla cultivars

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The aonla (*Emblia Officinalis*) is one of the most important minor fruits and a crop of commercial significance. It is quite hardy, prolific bearer and highly remunerative without much care. The fruit set is the most potent factor which determines the yield. Problem of seeding and low productivity in Banarasi aonla was reported by Bajpai (1968) under North Indian conditions.

Studies on fruit characters generate basic data for any crop improvement or production programme. This study was undertaken with an objective to assess the extent of post set fruit drop in six cultivars of aonla.

A total number of 1239 female flowers were tagged during flowering season in February 2010. To determine the number

of fruits dropped at different periods observations were recorded on two trees in four directions on 20 branches in each cultivar. A periodic counting of fruits which remained on the tree was done and the first observation was taken in June and subsequent observations were recorded at 30 days interval.

The mean percentage of post set fruit drop in different months and fruit set retained till end is given in Table 1. Yamgar (1996) stated that in aonla after the fruits have set, the zygote lines in rest of 120 to 125 days and ovary did not show any symptoms of growth until end of May and the full growth of fruits is achieved by October. In the present study the extent of the fruit set ranged from 81.90 per cent in cultivar Francis to

Table 1 : Post-set fruit drop in different cultivars of aonla under tropical conditions of Central India

Cultivars	Total number of flowers observed	Extent of fruit set		Cumulative drop of percentage			No. of fruits finally observed	% of fruiting
		Number of fruits	%	July	August	September		
NA-10	87	64	73.56	6.25	12.5	37.50	40	45.97
Chakaiya	133	87	65.41	16.10	37.94	54.03	40	30.07
Francis	105	86	81.90	4.66	29.07	34.63	52	49.52
Kanchan	242	185	76.44	9.19	21.63	40.45	100	41.32
Krishna	70	50	71.42	0.00	16.0	47.50	29	41.42
Neelam	225	164	72.88	12.81	29.88	34.20	103	45.77
Mean	-	-	70.37	13.19	28.79	42.37	-	37.04