



Research Paper

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Effect of mulching on weed control and tuber yield of medicinal coleus (*Coleus forskholli* Briq.)

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ABSTRACT : The effect of mulching with organic materials and black polythene sheet on weed population and tuber yield of *Coleus forskholli* was evaluated in a farmers field at Perundururai Block of Erode district. The experiment was carried out in a Randomized Block Design with four replications and six treatments with a plot size of 3 x 2 m. The results of the experiments showed that the weed density (number/m²) and weed biomass (g/m²) were lowest in the treatment T₅ (black polythene mulch). The weed control index and fresh tuber weight (20.10 mt ha⁻¹) were also the highest in the black polythene mulch treatment (T₅). Among the tuber characters studied, black polythene mulch (T₅) recorded highly significant values for number of tubers per plant (21.50), tuber length (20.20 cm), tuber girth (2.80 cm), tuber volume (238 cm³plant⁻¹), tuber fresh weight (361.76g plant⁻¹), tuber fresh weight per plot (12.30 kg plot⁻¹) and tuber fresh weight per hectare (20.10 mt), except forskolin content (0.56 %). It was concluded that mulching practices was very useful to control the weeds and it also enhanced the tuber characters and yield of *Coleus forskholli*.

KEY WORDS : Coleus, Mulching, Weed control, Tuber yield, Forskolin

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