



Research Paper

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Effect of different media on growth, flowering and cut flower yield of gerbera under protected condition

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ABSTRACT : An experiment was conducted to study the effect of different media on growth, flowering and cut flower yield in gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii* Bolus) cv. Alcochete under protected condition using various media viz., normal soil, rice husk, coco peat, castor cake, vermicompost, farm yard manure (FYM) and sawdust. The experiment was conducted in Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three replications. The results revealed that the media amended with normal soil + rice husk + coco peat + castor cake + vermicompost (1:1:1:1) performed better for maximum plant height (22.93 and 24.50 cm, respectively) and plant spread (34.49 and 42.07 cm², respectively) at first flower appearance and pick flowering stage as well as highest number of leaves and suckers per plant (17.13 and 3.61, respectively). The similar trend was also noted for flowering parameters and lowest number of days to the appearance of first flower bud and opening the first flower (50.16 and 56.83 days, respectively), longest flowering span (141.97 days), diameter of flower (12.03 cm), length of flower stalk (54.59 cm), thickness (6.44 mm), number of ray florets per flower (190.09), longevity (15.70 days) and vase life (10.31 days) of flower were also found better under the treatment of media amended with normal soil + rice husk + coco peat + castor cake + vermicompost (1:1:1:1) (M₄). In case of yield parameters, the same treatment was also found better for fresh and dry weight of cut flower (42.10g and 14.11g, respectively), number of flowers per plant (8.97), per square meter (89.67) and yield of flowers (17.93 lacs/ha). While, the normal soil as control found for poorest response in all parameters.

KEY WORDS : Gerbera, Media, Protected condition, Cut flower

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