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## Effect of growth regulators on flowering and fruit characters of chillies

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**ABSTRACT :** Chilli is famous for its pleasant aromatic flavour, pungency and high colouring substance. Among the spices, dry chilli contributes the major share in India (Revanappa *et al.*, 1998). It is one of the important spices used very widely in culinary, pharmaceutical and beverage industries throughout the world. Chilli, both in ripe and green stage is an important condiment used for imparting pungency. India has emerged today as the foremost producer and exporter of chilli contributing to almost one fourth of world production. Number of plant growth regulators have been tried to control flower and fruit drop and to increase yields of Solanaceous crops like tomato, brinjal *etc.*, but very little work has been done on chilli. Foliar application of NAA 40 ppm resulted in early flowering *i.e.*, 34 days after transplanting. The treatment with NAA 40 ppm recorded the maximum number of flowers, fruits, fruit set, fruit length, fruit girth and 10 fruit weight.

**KEY WORDS :** Flower drop, Fruit drop, NAA, Chilli

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