

**Article history:**

Received : 16.04.2011

Accepted : 05.09.2011

Studies on flowering days of improved varieties of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.)

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Abstract : A field experiment was conducted to study on flowering days of improved varieties of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) under agro climatic conditions of Kokan region of Maharashtra. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications. The results revealed that improved variety of bitter gourd Preethi required the minimum days for appearance of first male flower, while PBIG-1 and RHRBG-5 varieties required minimum days for female flower appearance. However, MC-84 and Preethi required the minimum days for 50 per cent male flowering, while Preethi variety required minimum days for 50 per cent female flowering. Days to first harvesting was significantly minimum under MC-84 variety which also gave the maximum period of harvesting over rest of the varieties.

Key words : Bitter gourd, Quality, Yield, Varieties

How to cite this article : Dhanwate, K.P., Patil, D.R., Patil, S.J. and Gaikwad, S.S. (2011). Studies on flowering days of improved varieties of bitter ground (*Momordica charantia* L.), *Asian J. Hort.*, 6 (2) : 534-535.

Bitter gourd is well known for its high nutritive value as a source of proteins, minerals and vitamins. Some globalization, the demand for fresh vegetables for export is increasing in recent years. To meet this increasing demand of export as well a super markets of metropolitan cities different high yielding varieties have been evolved for general cultivation in India. The information regarding the varietal evolution on flowering days of bitter gourd is very meagre. Hence, the present study was conducted to evaluate the different improved varieties of bitter gourd for their flowering days under agro climatic conditions of Kokan region of Maharashtra.

Field trial was conducted at the Vegetable Improvement Scheme, Central Experimental Station, Wakawali, Dist. Ratnagiri (M.S.) during *Kharif* 2000 with ten treatments and three replications in RBD. The treatment consisted of ten improved varieties *viz.*, MC-84, Kokan Tara, Hirkani, RHRBC-4-1, PBIG-2, RHRBC-5, PBIG-3, PBIG-1 DVBTG-1 and Preethi.

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that improved variety of bitter gourd Preethi required the minimum (34.33 days) days for appearance of first flower. The differences observed in relation to vine length in different varieties could be attributed to their varietal characteristics. This result was in line with the findings reported by Pranjape (1992) and Sirohi and Chaudhary (1983).

PBIG-1 and RHRBG-5 varieties required minimum days (38.00 days) for female flower appearance. The result was conformity with the observations recorded by Pranjape (1992) and Sirohi and Chaudhary (1983).

However, MC-84 and Preethi required the minimum days (40.00 days) for 50 per cent male flowering, while Preethi variety required minimum days for 50 per cent female flowering. The results are analogous with those obtained by Anonymous (1991) and Moon (1989).

Days to first harvesting (55.33) was significantly minimum under MC-84 variety which also gave the

Table 1 : Flowering and harvesting days of improved varieties of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.)

Treatments	Days to appearance of		Days for 50 per cent flowering		Days to first harvest	Period of harvesting (days)
	First male flower	Fist female flower	Male	Female		
MC-84	36.33	42.67	40.00	46.67	55.33	64.67
Kokan Tara	35.33	42.33	41.00	50.33	57.00	62.00
Hirkani	36.67	43.33	41.00	47.67	56.33	62.33
RHRBG-4-1	38.33	43.00	42.00	47.00	56.67	63.00
PBIG-2	34.67	38.67	40.33	49.67	58.00	59.00
RHRBG-5	36.00	38.00	40.67	48.67	55.67	62.00
PBIG-3	37.00	39.33	41.00	49.33	57.33	61.67
PBIG-1	35.00	38.00	41.00	47.67	56.00	64.00
DVB TG-1	35.33	39.33	40.67	46.33	56.33	63.67
Preethi	34.33	40.00	40.00	44.33	56.33	63.67
S.E. \pm	0.23	0.28	1.05	0.42	1.54	0.005
C.D. (P=0.05)	0.68	0.82	3.11	1.26	4.58	0.016

maximum period of harvesting over rest of the varieties. The results are in conformity with the observations recorded by Anonymous(1995) and Sirohi and Chaudhary (1983).

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