Abstract

Chrysanthemum, an ornamental plant belongs to the family Asteraceae and used as a cut flower for interior decoration, pot plant, bedding for garden display and beautification of avenues. It is also widely used for making value added products like dehydration of flowers and floral craft, landscape, wall hanging etc. Fifteen cultivars of chrysanthemum were evaluated at G.B.P.U.A.&T., Pantnagar in 2010-11 under protected conditions. The cultivars (Kirti, Gauri, Sunil, Acc.3, Neelima, Punjab Gold, Ravi Kiran, Chandrica, Lilith, Acc.25, Acc.45, Red Queen, Punjab Anuradha, Acc.9 and Acc.6) were evaluated for various growth and flowering parameters. The results showed that cv. Neelima had the tallest plants (44.22 cm) followed by cv. Gauri (43.71 cm) which were statistically at par. Similarly, different cultivars varied significantly for various floral traits with cv. Kirti taking minimum days (64.5) for first bud appearance whereas, it was delayed most in Red Queen which took 111.91 days. Length of spray/stem was found maximum (36.33 cm) in Acc.3. The cv. Gauri resulted in highest number of flowers per plant (81.03). Flower diameter (11.93 cm) and average flower weight (11.63 g) were both observed highest in cv. Red Queen. Regarding flowering duration, cv. Lilith recorded longest flowering duration (78.33 days). Therefore, based on the performance of the cultivars for growth and flowering characteristics cv. Kirti, Gauri, Lilith, Acc.3 and Red Queen can be further recommended for cut flower production under protected conditions in Terai region of Uttarakhand.