

Title Performance of gerbera cultivars for cut flower production under polyhouse conditions
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Abstract

Gerbera is a high value ornamental used as a cut flower and widely grown in the tropical and sub tropical areas of the world. This is one of the most traded cut flowers. It is among the top ten cut flowers in the International floricultural trade. Seven cultivars of gerbera were evaluated at G.B.P.U.A&T., Pantnagar in 2010-11 under protected conditions. The plants were grown under 50% shade. The cultivars were evaluated for various vegetative and floral attributes. The results showed that cv. AL-17 had the tallest plants (35.58 cm) followed by cv. Loreto (35 cm) which were statistically at par. The plant spread was also found maximum in cv. AL-17 (61.2 cm) and it was minimum (46.8 cm) in cv. AL-20. Regarding number of leaves per plant, the range was observed from 8.6 in cv. Vilassal to 15.0 in cv. ALO-9. Similarly, different cultivars varied significantly for various floral attributes with cv. Loreto taking minimum days (118.4) for first flowering, whereas, it was delayed most in cv. AL-17 which took 151.8 days. Flower stalk length was observed longest (63.56 cm) in cv. Vilassal followed by cv. Marinilla (63.24 cm). Flower diameter was found maximum in case of cv. AL-17 (10.32 cm) which was also noticed for maximum flower stalk diameter (2.96 cm) and two cultivar viz. Loreto and Amlet produced equal size of flower stalks (2.02 cm each). Maximum yield per m² was recorded in cv. ALO-9 (274.6) followed by cv. AL-20 (238.4). So from the above observations, it can be concluded that cv. AL-17 and ALO-9 can be recommended for cut flower production under protected conditions in Tarai region of Uttarakhand.