



Bhagwa a promising variety of pomegranate for dry regions of Karnataka

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Abstract : Field experiment was conducted at farmer's field near Hiriur, Chitradurga district to know the performance of Bhagwa variety in comparison with Ganesh variety of pomegranate with respect to their physico-chemical characters. The results revealed that the Bhagwa variety of pomegranate is an outstanding variety for all the characters studied. Bhagwa variety recorded the maximum fruit weight and weight of arils (320.60 g and 220.80 g), maximum number of arils recorded in the variety Ganesh and maximum quantum of juice recovered in the variety Ganesh (161.60 ml/fruit). With regard to overall acceptance of fruit for organoleptic qualities, Bhagwa variety emerged as the best variety fetching highest score of 90.80 out of 100.

Key Words : Bhagwa, Physico-chemical characters, Ganesh

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INTRODUCTION

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum L.*) is an important arid zone fruit crop. It is being grown since ancient times for its fruit, ornamental and medicinal purpose and in recent times, it has emerged as a commercially important fruit crop. The hardy nature, low maintenance cost, steady and high yields, fine table and therapeutic values, better keeping quality and the possibility to put the crop into rest period whenever the water potential is low are some of the qualities which make the plant ideally suitable for semi-arid and arid regions. However, the performance of the plant will be excellent if maintenance is with protective irrigation. In the recent past, pomegranate has attained export potential and foreign exchange. Fruits are exported to Europe, Middle East, Africa, America and Asian countries. It is commercially cultivated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The major pomegranate growing districts in Karnataka are dry regions (Bijapur, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Bellary, Chitradurga, Koppal and Gulbarga). Many varieties are under cultivation in this region but evaluation and recommendation regarding their

suitability for this zone has not been done. In this regard, present work was carried out to know promising variety which is suitable to dry regions of Karnataka.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field experiment was conducted at farmer's field near Hiriur, Chitradurga district. In this experiment five varieties which are cultivated commercially in this region Ganesh, G-137, Bhagwa, Arakta, Ruby and MHP 7/2 which is a multiple hybrid from Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore. Ganesh was used as a control. The design of experimental plot was Randomized Complete Block Design replicated thrice with two plants per replication. For observation of shoot length, number of leaves per shoot, leaf area per shoot, number of flowers, fruits set per shoot were taken by randomly selecting twenty shoots in each plant. Ten fruits from each variety were selected for taking observations of fruit characters and for organoleptic evaluation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study Bhagwa variety emerged as highly

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