

Effect of plant growth retardants and pinching on growth, flowering and yield of gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella* Foug.) cv. LORENZIANA

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was carried out to study the effect of plant growth retardants and pinching on growth, flowering and yield of gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella* Foug.) cv. LORENZIANA at college nursery, Department of Horticulture, A.A.U., Anand during the month of November, 2007 to April, 2008. The treatments comprised of two different concentrations of CCC (500 and 1000 ppm), MH (50 and 100 ppm), PP333 (25 and 50 ppm) sprayed at 30 days and 60 days after transplanting, pinching and control (water spray). The results revealed that CCC 1000 ppm was found most effective for obtaining maximum plant spread (50.92 cm²), more number of branches (53.84), higher yield (7.42 t/ha) and shelf life (37.82 hrs) of gaillardia. MH 100ppm was found for retarding plant height (58.50 cm).

Key words : Growth retardant, Pinching, Gaillardia, Yield

Gaillardia belongs to Asterace family; native of South-Western United States and Mexico. It is popularly known as blanket flower due to its colour and spreading habit. It resembles as blanket. It is one of the most popular flowers in India because of its easy cultivation, wide adaptability to varying soils and climatic conditions with long duration of flowering habit and attractive flower colour. Recently scientists have given more attention towards the regulation of plant growth, increasing yield and quality of flowers by using some plant growth retardants and pinching. Keeping the above facts in a view, the present investigation was carried out to know the effect of different growth retardants and pinching on growth, flowering and yield of gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella* Foug.) cv. LORENZIANA

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An experiment was conducted to study the effect of plant growth retardants and pinching on growth, flowering and yield of gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella* Foug.) cv. LORENZIANA was conducted at the college nursery, Department of Horticulture, B.A. College of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, during November, 2007 to April, 2008. The treatments comprised of two different concentrations of CCC (500 and 1000 ppm), MH (50 and 100 ppm) and PP333 (25 and 50 ppm) sprayed at 30 days and 60 days after transplanting, pinching and control (water spray). A control was maintained by spraying distilled water. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with 14 treatments, replicated thrice. In pinching treatment the

plants were pinched after 30 DAT. The spray of plant growth retardants was done twice at 30 (S₁) and 60 (S₂) days after transplanting. The plants were transplanted on November 22, 2007 at a spacing of 45 cm x 30 cm. The observations on plant growth, yield and quality parameters were recorded and subjected to statistical analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table 1 exhibited significant differences among the different treatments in respect of growth, flowering and yield parameters. The plant height was significantly retarded by MH 100 ppm (58.50 cm) followed by MH 50 ppm (59.46 cm). That may be due to the antiauxin effect on MH with stimulation of dwarfing properties and nullification of apical dominance (Crafts *et al.*, 1950). These results are in close conformity with finding of Khimani *et al.* (1994) and Patel (1997) in gaillardia. The data presented in Table 1 showed that the maximum number of branches were under the treatment CCC 1000 ppm (53.84) followed by CCC 500 ppm (50.66). Similar results have been reported by Makwana (1999) in gaillardia. There was no significant effect of various plant growth retardants and pinching on plant spread but maximum plant spread was recorded with CCC 1000 ppm (50.92 cm²) followed by CCC 500 ppm (50.63cm²) at 120 DAT. early flowering (66.67 DAT) and 50 per cent flowering (83.25 DAT) were recorded by treatment MH 50 ppm. These results are in agreement with result obtained by Makwana (1999). However, CCC 500 ppm and CCC 1000 ppm was most effective