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Research Paper

Evaluation of different cultivars of gerbera (*Gerbera jamisonii* Bolus ex hooker F.) for growth, yield and quality grown under fan and pad cooled green house conditions

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted to evaluate of five cultivars of gerbera (*Gerbera jamisonii* Bolus ex hooker F.) at the Horticulture Research Farm, A.A.U., Anand, Gujarat. The cultivars *viz.*, Dhoni, Zingaro, Roselin, Dune and Balance were evaluated under fan and pad cooled greenhouse conditions at Gujarat during August 2008- 09.The analysed data indicated that Balance cultivar showed best performance with respect to tallest plant (41.05cm), number of leaves per plant (25.91 leaves), leaf area (5895.00 cm^2), leaf area index (5.24),), number of flowers per plant (10.59),number of flowers per sq. m. (94.04), number of suckers per plant (4.88) as well as maximum shelf life of flowers (10.11 days and 15.30 days) at ambient temperature (25.12^0 C) and 18$^?$ C temperature, respectively, as compared to all other cultivars under studied.

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Key words : Gerbera, Evaluation, Fan and pad cooled greenhouse

Gerbera, also known as Transvaal Daisy, Barberton Daisy or African Daisy and belongs to family Asteraceae. Its flowers having durability and attractive colours are commonly used in floral arrangements as well as for cut flowers. It is highly suitable for beds, borders, pots and rock gardens. Its cut blooms remain fresh at least for a week and are in great demand for presentation and interior decoration. The marketing potential can be exploited by introduction and evaluation of gerbera cultivars. There are many excellent varieties of gerbera with magnificent flowers in exhaustive range of colours, different shades and size and wide range of keeping quality. It is very much necessary to evaluate gerbera cultivars. As these varieties are recently introduces and their performance is not studied systematically under protective condition. Hence, present investigation was conducted to study the relative performance of 5 genotypes of gerbera for their growth, flowers quality and yield characters under greenhouse conditions at Gujarat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out during 2008-2009 at the Horticulture Research Farm, A.A.U., Anand, Gujarat to evaluate five gerbera cultivars under fan and pad cooled green house conditions. Under fan and pad cooled greenhouse the temperature (23$^?$C to 25$^?$ C) and relative humidity (80 – 85%) were maintained throughout the experimental period. Healthy tissue cultured plants of five cultivars *viz.*, Dhoni, Zingaro, Roselin, Dune and Balance were planted on 30th August, 2008 in a completely randomized design with eight replications, at a spacing of 30.0 cm × 37.5 cm in a raised beds of 45 cm height, 75 cm base and 60 cm top in two rows. Observations on different parameters of vegetative growth, floral quality and yield parameters were recorded. The mean values of the recorded data on various biometrical parameters were subjected to statically analysis as per the procedure given by Panse and Sukhatme (1985) and presented in Table 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are presented in Table 1 are revealed that all the growth characters were found significant. Variety Balance produced tallest plants (41.05 cm),