

EFFECT OF PINCHING AND LEVELS OF GIBBERELIC ACID ON PLANT GROWTH AND YIELD OF AFRICAN MARIGOLD (TAGETES ERECTA L.)

H. P. Pandey, K. Mishra Tripathi, S. S. Pant, U. Pun

An experiment was conducted to evaluate the plant growth and yield of African marigold cv. Calcutta Local through pinching practice and levels of GA3 in the Abloom Flora Farm of Gunjanagar, Chitwan from March to August, 2013. The experiment was conducted in two factorial randomized complete block design with two pinching level (pinching and non-pinching practices) and five levels of GA3 (0, 50, 100, 150 and 200 ppm). Result showed a significant influence by pinching and levels of gibberellic acid on plant growth and flower yield. Number of branches, plant spread, number of flower per plant, yield per plant (299.33 g), yield per hectare (12.04 t/ha) was significantly increased by pinching practice. Earlier days to flower initiation was observed in non-pinching. Gibberellic acid at 50,100,150 and 200 ppm significantly increased the plant height, number of branches, plant spread, number of flower per plant, flower yield per plant and yield per hectare over control. Earlier days to flower initiation was observed with increase in level of GA3. Among all levels, GA3 at 200 ppm was found significantly superior due to its maximum flower yield (14.64 t/ha).