

Original Research Article

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Effect of Plant Growth Retardants on Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L. var. Orange viana) in Prayagraj Agro-climatic Condition

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

CCC (Cycocel),
MH (Maleic
Hydrazide),
ETHRIL
(Ethephon), Plant
Growth Regulator,
PGR, Plant growth
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An experiment was carried out in Randomized Block Design to study the effect of plant growth retardants on carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L. var. Orange viana) in Prayagraj agro-climatic condition at Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science, Prayagraj. Based on the experiment, it can be concluded that CCC @ 1000 ppm is better in increasing side shoots (7.6), Minimum plant height was recorded in CCC @ 1500 ppm (57.7 cm). Maximum number of leaves was recorded in CCC @ 1500 ppm (135.07). Highest days to flower bud initiation were taken in CCC @ 1500 ppm (111.11), Maximum flower stalks were harvested from the treatment CCC @ 1000ppm (6.6). Maximum cost: Benefit ratio was recorded from CCC@1000 ppm 1:5.31).

Introduction

Dianthus caryophyllus L., which belongs to the family Caryophyllaceae having a diploid chromosome number, $2n=30$ is native to the Mediterranean region. Even though the popularity, the commercial growers faces certain practical difficulties, among that, the main is apical dominance. Carnation is preferred to roses and chrysanthemums by several exporting countries, on account of its

excellent keeping quality, wide range of forms and colours and ability to withstand long distance transportation. Cut carnations, roses and chrysanthemums contribute close to 50% of the world cut flower trade (Kiss *et al.*, 2001). Apical dominance is one of the serious problems for commercial carnation growers, as it does not permit the lateral buds to develop, resulting in a limited number of lateral branches and flowers (Pathania *et al.*, 2000). Commonly in carnation, the length of the shoot is another problem. To tackle most

of the problems which are faced by the grower's several growth retardants have been used to analyze their effect in inducing more likely characters like an increased number of healthy branches, dwarfness, reduced internodal length.

Plant growth retardants are synthetic organic chemicals which, when applied to a responsive plant, reduce the rate of stem elongation, generally without eliciting serious developmental malformations (Cathey, 1964). The category of growth retardants comes directly under plant growth regulators. Their effect on stem growth has been traced to the sub-apical region of the shoot tip, where cell division and, to a lesser extent, cell elongation are inhibited growth retardants and pot plants (Sachs and Kofranek, 1963; Wilde and Edgerton, 1969).

Certain retardants, inhibit the biosynthesis of gibberellins required to maintain sub apical meristem activity. Some growth retardants are of economic importance in agriculture and horticulture like cycoel, MH, Ethrel since they can be employed to affect the morphology of cultivated plants in the desired way. Maleic hydrazide (MH) has been introduced into agriculture as a major commercial herbicide and a depressant of plant growth and in retardation of flowering and prolongation of the dormancy period. Cycocel presumably inhibits cell growth but does not reduce the number of cells. Ethepon is a systemic plant growth regulator belonging to the phosphonate family. It is readily absorbed by the plant and releases ethylene which is a natural plant hormone. Ethepon may be employed to increase branching in crops by increasing the ratio of ethylene: auxin, which diminishes apical dominance and releases axillary buds, resulting in enhanced lateral branch development.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted in Naturally ventilated polyhouse at Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Science, Prayagraj. The study was laid out as Randomized Block Design with 16 different treatments which were replicated 3 times. Variety used for experiment was Orange viana. Three retardants were selected for the experiment Cycocel, Ethrel, Maleic hydrazide (500 ppm, 750 ppm, 1000 ppm, 1250 ppm, 1500 ppm.) in varying concentration.

Results and Discussion

Minimum plant height after spraying was recorded in CCC @ 1500 ppm (57.7 cm) followed by CCC @ 1250 ppm (59.00 cm) and the highest plant height was observed in plants sprayed with water that is the control (78.53 cm). CCC @ 1000 gave highest shoots per plant (7.6) followed by MH @ 1500ppm (7.5) and CCC @ 1500 (7.5), least value was recorded in CCC @ 500ppm (3.6). Maximum number of leaves was recorded in CCC @ 1500 ppm (135.07) followed by CCC @ 1250 (132.27) and minimum number of leaves was recorded in ETHREL @750ppm (111.33). minimum number of days taken to flower bud appearance (87.56) was recorded in control. Highest days to flower bud initiation were taken in CCC @1500 ppm (111.11), Followed by MH @ 1500 (109.16). Maximum stalks were harvested from the treatment CCC @ 1000ppm (6.6) followed by MH @ 1000 (6.5) and CCC @ 1250ppm (6.2). Least number of cut flower was obtained from ETHREL @ 1250 (4.43). CCC @ 1000 ppm gained maximum Cost Benefit Ratio (1:5.31) followed by MH @ 1000 ppm Cost Benefit Ratio (1:4.95) (Table 1).

Table.1

Treatments	Vegetative Parameters			Floral Parameters			Economics
	Plant height	Number of leaves	Number of side shoots	Bud Initiation	Vase life	Cut flower stalks flowers per season	Cost : benefit ratio
Control	78.53	127.90	4.10	87.57	09.03	4.46	1:3.53
MH @500ppm	72.66	119.41	5.07	94.30	11.17	5.46	1:4.40
MH @750ppm	66.03	116.03	5.53	95.70	11.73	5.86	1:4.77
MH@1000ppm	66.73	119.30	6.36	103.47	12.20	6.50	1:4.95
MH@1250ppm	64.40	125.33	5.43	104.47	12.30	5.43	1:4.33
MH@1500ppm	60.63	128.63	7.53	109.17	12.47	5.56	1:4.44
CCC @500ppm	72.73	115.03	5.10	99.53	10.53	5.80	1:4.53
CCC @750ppm	62.90	114.10	4.50	98.43	10.80	5.93	1:4.59
CCC @1000ppm	64.30	122.37	7.60	106.07	11.83	6.66	1:5.31
CCC @1250ppm	59.00	132.27	6.40	107.53	11.97	6.23	1:4.87
CCC @1500ppm	57.70	135.07	7.50	111.10	12.83	5.36	1:4.20
ETHREL @ 500ppm	71.90	112.23	5.43	90.03	08.63	4.53	1:3.65
ETHREL @750ppm	68.83	111.33	4.40	97.10	08.43	4.50	1:3.66
ETHREL @1000ppm	66.46	114.67	5.30	97.07	08.33	5.06	1:4.01
ETHREL @1250ppm	64.76	111.47	5.50	102.97	07.90	4.43	1:3.58
ETHREL @1500ppm	63.80	119.37	5.66	107.77	07.57	4.53	1:3.63
Mean	66.34	120.28	5.75	100.77	10.48	5.40	
F-test	S	S	S	S	S	S	
S. Ed. (±)	0.39	1.10	0.35	0.82	0.30	0.29	
CD (5%)	0.81	2.24	0.71	1.67	0.60	0.59	

Reduced plant height at CCC @ 1500 ppm might be due to the interference of this chemical with auxin, may have resulted a anti-auxin reaction in plant. the action of CCC as an anti-auxin and by suppression of apical dominance which was suggested by Crafts *et al.*, (1950). As the concentration is increased interference with endogenous hormones have resulted in overall retardation of plant, due to this reason CCC@1000 ppm resulted in maximum number of side shoots but beyond this concentration a decline in no of shoots was observed.. Youssef *et al.*, (2013) suggested that increase in the endogenous level of cytokinin may have led to the increase in lateral shoots per plant. CCC @ 1500 ppm resulted in delay in bud initiation may be related to the capacity of growth retardants to reduce the level of endogenous gibberellins to a permissible concentration required for flowering, Malik *et al*, (2017) in dahlia, Khan *et al* (2012) in African marigold. Maximum stalks were harvested from the treatment CCC @ 1000ppm (6.6) followed by MH @ 1000 (6.5) and CCC @ 1250ppm (6.2). Least number of cut flower was obtained from ETHREL @ 1250 (4.43). Flower yield was increased due to reduction of plant height by suppressing the apical dominance, which increased the main and secondary branching, thereby increasing the flower number. Similar results were observed by Maheswari and Sivasanjeevi (2019) in tube rose. Khan *et al.*, (2012) in African marigold, Ahmad *et al.*, (2007) in carnation. CCC @ 1000 ppm gained maximum Cost Benefit Ratio (1:5.31), increment in Cost: Benefit is due to the increasing number of flowering shoots.

In conclusion among the three growth regulators, CCC @ 1000 ppm was most effective for increasing number of shoots, highest number of flower stalks while CCC @ 1500 ppm was effective in retarding plant height, increasing number of leaves, delaying

bud initiation. And highest cost: benefit ratio was obtained from CCC@ 1000 ppm.

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