**Study for morphological characteristics on different cultivars of gladiolus flower**

**ABSTRACT**

The experiment was conducted at Horticulture Research Farm, Institute of Agriculture Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during the year 2023-2024 out to assess the performance of both indigenous and foreign gladiolus varieties under the climatic conditions of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design (RBD) with five replications in plot size of 1m x 1m. Healthy, disease-free corms from both Indian and exotic varieties were planted in November 2023. Results showed that cultivars Arka Lohit and Red Majesty showed 100% sprouting. Cultivar Arka Amar had maximum sprouts per hill than others. Cultivar White Prosperity topped in terms of plant height, scape width and internodal distance whereas, cultivar **Gunjan** (2.68) had maximum no. of corms while cultivar Suchitra has maximum corm weight. These findings show how different gladiolus varieties have unique physical traits, helping breeders and commercial growers choose the best ones for producing cut flowers.

**Keywords**: Gladiolus, Flowering, Spike emergence, Corm, Exotic.

**INTROUCTION**

Gladiolus (Gladiolus grandiflorus) is a widely cultivated ornamental plant known for its eye-catching floral spikes and impressive vase life, making it a significant player in the global floriculture industry. It is bulbous in nature and due to its popularity, it is often called queen of bulbous flowers. Leaves are in sword like appearance that is why often regarded commonly as sword lily. With around 260 species, predominantly native to sub-Saharan Africa, gladiolus has become an essential cut flower in major flower-producing countries in domestic as well as international market (Singh and Sisodia, 2017). It has vibrant and fascinating florets which develops on long spikes that emerges from central growing portion of the corm, specifically from axil of leaves.

Due to the diverse range of climatic conditions around the world and most of the conditions prevail in India, it became an essential part in order to check the credibility and nature of available cultivars further, selecting varieties that thrive under specific environmental conditions while meeting commercial standards is crucial. Negi *et al.* (1978) carried out a study on gladiolus and reported that plant height, corm production and flower yield exhibited the highest degree of variability. Evaluating these cultivars for their growth patterns, floral characteristics, and overall yield helps identify superior varieties that offer better performance and market appeal. This study aims to assess selected gladiolus varieties to determine their suitability for commercial production, providing insights that may benefit growers in improving productivity and quality.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The experiment is carried out at Horticulture Research Farm, Institute of Agriculture Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh during the year 2023-2024 to investigate the certain performance-based observations of different gladiolus genotypes. The experiment is carried out on healthy 27 gladiolus cultivars (Arka Amar, Arka Ayush, Arka Lohit, Arka Nazrana, Arka Pratham, Arka Sapna, Arka Sobha, Big Time Supreme, Charishma, CPG, Flavo Souvenir, GS-2, Gunjan, Hunting Song, Nova Lux, Peter Pears, Pink City, Priscilla, Punjab Dawn, Pusa Shubham, Pusa Srijana, Red Majesty, Suchitra, Tiger Flame, True Love, White Prosperity, and Yellow Stone). The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design having 5 replications. Manure (FYM) along with all other fertilizers were applied accordingly during the final land preparation. Corms were planted at a row spacing of 30 cm and plant to plant spacing at 20 cm. Necessary cultural operations were carried out timely for all the cultivars. The data were recorded on the selected parameters and were analyzed statistically.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Growth parameters**

The sprouting percentage varied greatly from 100% to 66.47 % (Table 1). The maximum sprouting percentage was found in cultivars Arka Lohit (100%) and Red Majesty (100%) while least performing cultivar was Charishma (66.47%). Early cultivars have shorter dormancy period and vice versa. It can be regulated by environmental conditions as well as soil temperature of experimental area. The data varied significantly as shown in Table 1. The maximum sprouts/hill recorded in cultivar Arka Amar (2.49) and lowest in cultivars Arka Lohit (1.37). More sprouts per hill means more spike from single corm and more multiplication. Bolagam Ravi Kumar (2018) found similar findings in gladiolus. The attribute plant height has varied enormously in the genotypes (Table 1) due to difference in genetically constituent as well their adaptability in environmental conditions (Kumari and Kumar, 2015). The tallest plant was found in variety White Prosperity (65.31 cm) and the shortest plant height was found in cultivar Arka Ayush (43.19 cm). The variation in plant height in different genotypes may be due to influence of genetic and environmental factors. Jagdish *et al.* (2018) and Baruah and Bora (2022) in gladiolus found similar findings.

**Flowering parameters**

Table 1 showed the data for the spike emergence that varied from 72.30 days to 91.96 days. The cultivar Arka Pratham (72.30 days) reported early spike emergence (72.30 days) followed by cultivar Arka Sapna (74.95 days) whereas, cultivar White Prosperity (91.96 days) reported longest duration for spike emergence. The time taken for spike emergence is an important trait in gladiolus varieties and is likely influenced mainly by the plant’s genetic makeup. It may also depend on the food reserves within the plant, which are linked to the plant’s growth rate and its ability to accumulate enough carbohydrates needed for spike development. Patel *et al.* (2023) and Rao *et al.* (2020) observed similar finding in gladiolus. Maximum scape width (Table 1) was recorded in cultivar **White Prosperity** (**2.55 cm**) and cultivar **Charishma** had recordedthe **narrowest scape** (1.66 cm). Greater scape width enhances plant’s ability to support multiple florets without breaking. The variation in internodal distance varied from 7.06 cm to 2.93 cm significantly. Cultivar White Prosperity (7.06 cm) noticed longest internodal distance followed by Suchitra (6.70 cm) while cultivar GS-2 has the shortest internodal length. The variation in internodal length could be attributed to the plant's genetic composition, which is influenced by its genotypic traits. Shravan Kumar *et al.* (2017) and Rakesh Kumar *et al.* (2020) in gladiolus observed similar finding. The data shown in the Table 2 showed variation in days that varied enormously for different cultivar. For 1st 3rd and 5th floret, cultivar GS-2 takes minimal duration while cultivar Suchitra had taken maximum days. The earliest cultivars open their flowers early which is of important use in the market.

**Table-1: Performance of cultivars of gladiolus on growth and flowering parameters.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatments** | **Sprouting percentage (%)** | **No. of sprouts per hill** | **Plant height**  **(cm)** | | **Spike emergence**  **(days)** | **Scape width**  **(cm)** | **Internodal distance (cm)** |
| Arka Amar | 94.68 | 2.49 | 64.70 | 89.41 | | 2.30 | 4.27 |
| Arka Ayush | 87.21 | 1.57 | 43.19 | 85.30 | | 2.41 | 3.75 |
| Arka Lohit | 100 | 1.37 | 57.78 | 81.44 | | 2.32 | 4.08 |
| Arka Nazrana | 98.5 | 1.41 | 57.33 | 79.97 | | 2.23 | 4.23 |
| Arka Pratham | 88.28 | 1.83 | 65.61 | 72.30 | | 2.43 | 4.99 |
| Arka Sapna | 94.38 | 1.62 | 58.08 | 74.96 | | 2.03 | 4.51 |
| Arka Sobha | 82.42 | 1.68 | 59.00 | 75.74 | | 1.95 | 5.10 |
| Big Time Supreme | 84.06 | 1.91 | 58.73 | 80.26 | | 2.11 | 4.25 |
| Charishma | 66.47 | 1.49 | 49.90 | 78.20 | | 1.66 | 4.01 |
| CPG | 93.58 | 1.98 | 59.44 | 79.97 | | 1.79 | 4.42 |
| Flavo Souvenier | 73.81 | 2.37 | 54.82 | 87.88 | | 2.16 | 4.91 |
| GS-2 | 97.41 | 1.65 | 57.78 | 87.31 | | 2.21 | 2.93 |
| Gunjan | 79.32 | 2.00 | 59.46 | 82.65 | | 2.18 | 3.73 |
| Hunting Song | 92.11 | 1.89 | 60.77 | 82.96 | | 2.32 | 5.12 |
| Nova Lux | 88.33 | 2.02 | 64.06 | 82.22 | | 2.07 | 4.27 |
| Peter Pears | 86.14 | 1.64 | 56.55 | 74.08 | | 2.22 | 5.23 |
| Pink City | 76.28 | 1.56 | 52.09 | 79.15 | | 1.94 | 4.23 |
| Priscilla | 83.69 | 1.75 | 57.90 | 82.92 | | 2.13 | 4.30 |
| Punjab Dawn | 94.23 | 2.05 | 58.87 | 81.62 | | 2.18 | 4.80 |
| Pusa Shubham | 86.18 | 1.47 | 59.44 | 86.14 | | 2.08 | 6.03 |
| Pusa Srijana | 83.57 | 2.00 | 57.73 | 78.92 | | 2.04 | 3.37 |
| Red Majesty | 100 | 1.81 | 60.70 | 84.44 | | 2.10 | 4.47 |
| Suchitra | 78.36 | 1.70 | 62.12 | 77.74 | | 2.42 | 6.70 |
| Tiger Flame | 68.39 | 1.69 | 60.53 | 79.22 | | 2.21 | 5.25 |
| True Love | 88.34 | 1.99 | 58.96 | 85.38 | | 2.08 | 4.18 |
| White Prosperity | 87.26 | 1.57 | 65.31 | 91.96 | | 2.56 | 7.07 |
| Yellow Stone | 79.29 | 1.47 | 56.94 | 83.10 | | 2.13 | 4.52 |
| **CD at 5%** | 10.83 | 0.35 | 5.87 | 5.91 | | 0.46 | 2.18 |

**Table-2: Performance of cultivars of gladiolus for flowering and corm attributes.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treatments** | **Days for colour show of 1st floret** | **Days for colour show of 3rd floret** | **Days for colour show of 5th floret** | **Number of corms / hill** | **Weight of corms**  **(g)** | **Diameter of corms**  **(g)** |
| Arka Amar | 90.91 | 92.46 | 93.59 | 2.49 | 45.41 | 37.18 |
| Arka Ayush | 92.03 | 93.31 | 94.07 | 1.53 | 16.98 | 36.93 |
| Arka Lohit | 89.35 | 90.84 | 91.77 | 1.80 | 35.24 | 41.34 |
| Arka Nazrana | 93.40 | 94.46 | 95.39 | 1.64 | 19.53 | 38.84 |
| Arka Pratham | 80.71 | 82.06 | 84.60 | 1.50 | 37.10 | 41.40 |
| Arka Sapna | 86.87 | 87.73 | 88.94 | 1.17 | 35.50 | 37.52 |
| Arka Sobha | 85.69 | 86.82 | 87.78 | 1.13 | 32.99 | 46.90 |
| Big Time Supreme | 91.60 | 92.87 | 93.58 | 1.12 | 38.81 | 33.80 |
| Charishma | 95.83 | 96.79 | 97.74 | 1.73 | 30.63 | 31.12 |
| CPG | 82.63 | 83.84 | 85.15 | 1.27 | 11.76 | 29.32 |
| Flavo Souvenier | 96.31 | 97.71 | 98.52 | 1.74 | 22.78 | 42.07 |
| GS-2 | 72.92 | 74.10 | 75.17 | 2.41 | 37.02 | 43.49 |
| Gunjan | 80.03 | 81.32 | 81.95 | 2.69 | 25.89 | 30.95 |
| Hunting Song | 86.23 | 87.45 | 88.34 | 2.42 | 35.54 | 30.95 |
| Nova Lux | 77.15 | 79.46 | 80.54 | 2.14 | 34.09 | 43.31 |
| Peter Pears | 79.53 | 80.75 | 82.05 | 2.59 | 30.58 | 42.30 |
| Pink City | 94.02 | 95.22 | 96.52 | 1.72 | 27.47 | 40.98 |
| Priscilla | 80.67 | 82.31 | 83.59 | 1.75 | 71.73 | 47.14 |
| Punjab Dawn | 87.09 | 88.32 | 89.38 | 2.33 | 60.31 | 44.96 |
| Pusa Shubham | 92.25 | 93.55 | 94.72 | 2.57 | 31.86 | 39.15 |
| Pusa Srijana | 87.06 | 88.36 | 89.88 | 1.49 | 30.48 | 34.08 |
| Red Majesty | 96.46 | 97.76 | 98.84 | 1.48 | 20.53 | 29.93 |
| Suchitra | 99.42 | 100.40 | 101.91 | 2.01 | 68.50 | 54.36 |
| Tiger Flame | 86.13 | 87.36 | 88.54 | 1.23 | 20.29 | 40.42 |
| True Love | 89.27 | 90.63 | 91.73 | 1.72 | 22.63 | 38.19 |
| White Prosperity | 80.73 | 82.20 | 83.61 | 2.48 | 44.20 | 45.88 |
| Yellow Stone | 91.86 | 93.10 | 94.52 | 1.98 | 26.49 | 35.07 |
| **CD at 5%** | 15.98 | 15.75 | 15.60 | 1.19 | 34.64 | 14.64 |

**Corm parameters**

Cultivar **Gunjan was found to have maximum number of corms** (2.68) followed by cultivar **Peter Pears (**2**.**59**)** shows maximum number of corms as compared to others whereas cultivar **Arka Shobha** (1.12) observed to have least number of corms. The significant variation is observed among all the cultivars which varies according to their different genotype as well as environmental factors. Anuradha and Gowda (1994) observed difference in variation (1.0 to 4.0) in some cultivars for corm production. Each variety’s genetic makeup affects how it responds to different soil types and weather conditions. More corm production led to more multiplication and can be used for further breeding programs. Kumawat *et al.* (2018) in gladiolus and Singh *et al.* (2020) in gladiolus observed variability in number of corms in their study. The data of cultivars for weight of corms were varied vastly (Table 2). The cultivar **Suchitra** (68.50 g**)** shows maximumweight and cultivar C**PG** (11.76 g) shows least in terms of weight. The variation observed attributable to greatest corm weight and corm size at the time of planting. Number of corms produced per plant may also impacted the weight of corms. **Bhat and Khan** (2017)in gladiolus observed same findings.

**Conclusion**

The study demonstrated that different gladiolus genotypes significantly influenced the plant's growth, flowering, and yield characteristics. Out of the twenty-seven genotypes tested Arka Amar, Arka Pratham, Hunting Song, GS-2 and White Prosperity emerged as the most promising, showing superior flower quality and yield performance, making them well-suited for cultivation.

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