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**RESPONSE OF *ROSA GRUSS-AN-TEPLITZ* TOWARDS VARIOUS LEVELS OF  
FERTILIZER APPLICATION**

MUMTAZ S<sup>1</sup>, KHAN NA<sup>1</sup>, NADEEM S<sup>1\*</sup>, IKRAM S<sup>2</sup>, AHMAD S<sup>3</sup> AND ALI Q<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Horticulture Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup>Horticulture Research Institute for Floriculture and Landscaping, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590, Pakistan

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan

\*Corresponding Author: E Mail: [shahidnarc@gmail.com](mailto:shahidnarc@gmail.com), [saim1692@gmail.com](mailto:saim1692@gmail.com)

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**ABSTRACT**

The objectives of present research were to examine the influence of different fertilizer application (NPK) on vegetative and reproductive attributes of *Rosa Gruss-an-teplitz*. For this purpose, various treatments of nitrogen (Urea), phosphorus (SSP) and potassium (MOP) “alone and in combination” were applied on one year old plants. Significant difference was noticed among nitrogen applications (alone) for plant height, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, stem diameter and number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>. Maximum plant height (46cm) and stem diameter (2mm) was observed at T3. More number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (9.75), flower weight (2.17gm) and flower diameter (4.7mm) was examined at T5. For phosphorus application, maximum number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (3.5), number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (29), flower weight (4.3g) and flower diameter (5.1mm) was best achieved at T5. Considering the potassium treatments, highest plant height (46.6cm), flower weight (1.88g), flower diameter (4.58mm) and number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (18.7) was observed at T5. Results pertaining different combinations of NPK, highest plant height (58.3cm) and more number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (27.50) were produced at T3 while maximum flower diameter (3.87cm) and heaviest flowers (2.25g) were achieved at T<sub>11</sub> and T<sub>1</sub> respectively.

**Keywords:** *Gruss-an-teplitz*, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, NPK

## INTRODUCTION

Roses are called king of flowers and are the most popular ornamental plants that are cultivated systematically [1, 2]. Among 200 rose species and 18000 cultivars, Surkha (Gruss-an-teplitz) is mainly grown as a loose flower for its use in making garlands, wedding ceremonies and other events of joy and grief. It has a remarkable range of flowers with long blooming period which makes it farmer's preference [3]. It likes hot climates and is grown more often in hot areas of Pakistan [4]. Application of fertilizers plays crucial role in quality rose production. Like other rose cultivars, Gruss-an-teplitz responds significantly to balance nutrition for better flower growth and yield. Plants require adequate amount of macro and micro nutrients for their optimum growth and yield. Among macro nutrients N (Nitrogen) significantly affects vegetative growth and also promotes flower blooming period while K (Potassium) has positive effect on flower yield but their proper combinations enhance both yield and size of flowers [5, 6]. Nitrogen application at low density also increases plant height, flower weight and yield [7] it also affects dry matter contents and other floral parameters [8]. The applications of  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  (Ammonium nitrate) @ 200 kg hectare<sup>-1</sup>

enhanced growth and physiological characteristics of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* [9]. N fertilization produced the longest flower stems for cosmos and both sunflower cultivars [10]. Maximum yield of Gruss-an-teplitz was obtained with FYM (Farmyard manure) @ 5 kg m<sup>-1</sup> and nitrogen 60 g m<sup>-1</sup> [11]. The application of 10 g N/m<sup>2</sup> along with 12.5 g P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>/m<sup>2</sup> produced maximum flower diameter in Gerbera [12]. Elevated P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> concentration in fertilizer solution increased the stem diameter of red pepper in plug culture and chrysanthemum in pot plant culture [13, 14]. Furthermore the elevated P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (Phosphorus oxide) concentrations increased the stem hardness in oriental hybrid lily 'Casa Blanca' [15].

Application of 9g N, 8g P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 8g K<sub>2</sub>O/m<sup>2</sup>/week was considered the best dose for achieving higher yield and better quality cut flower rose (Pusa Gaurav, Dr Bharat Ram, Arjun and Nehru Centenary) grown under polyhouse conditions [16]. Maximum number of rose flowers per plant, longest pedicle length, largest flower size and maximum petals per flower were recorded for treatment with (20-00-12) g of NPK (Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in combination) plant<sup>-1</sup>. Maximum flower duration and flower vase life were also recorded in same treatment [17]. Uma and

Gowda [18] observed maximum shoot length as well as maximum fresh weight of 'Super Star' rose flowers with the application of 16g of nitrogen alone and 16g of each of nitrogen in combination with potassium respectively.

In Pakistan the application of NPK fertilizer is very wide, each area has its own requirement [19] therefore present research study was conducted to study the effect of NPK alone and in combinations on growth and flowering of *Gruss-an-teplitz*.

#### METHODS AND MATERIALS

To study the effect of varying levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (alone and in combination) on vegetative and reproductive attributes of rose cultivar "Gruss-an-teplitz" the present research was conducted in the field of Floriculture Program, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad during 2014. The experiment was carried out one year old plants that were planted keeping plant to plant and row to row distance 15cm<sup>2</sup> and

30cm<sup>2</sup> respectively and pruned to 1 feet height. RCBD (Randomized Completely Block Design) design was laid out and plot size of 1×2 m<sup>2</sup> was prepared for each replication (containing 20 plants). Treatments (each containing four replications) of three different fertilizers viz., nitrogen (Urea\*), phosphorus (Single Super Phosphate\*) and potassium (Muriate of Potash\*) were applied on plants in December to observe the effect of these fertilizers on vegetative and flowering attributes of rose plants (Table: 1). Nitrogen treatments were applied in two splits, first half before the onset of flowering and remaining half was applied 60 days after application of first dose. Cultural practices were performed on weekly basis.

Parameters under study:

Plant height (cm), number of branches, stem diameter (mm), number of flowers plant-1, flower diameter (mm) and flower weight (g) were studied under this research study with standard procedures (AOAC, 1990).

**Table 1: Application of various levels of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (alone and in combination) on *Gruss-an-teplitz***

Nitrogen		Phosphorus		Potassium	
Treatments	g/plant	Treatments	g/plant	Treatments	g/plant
T1 (control)	0	T1 (control)	0	T1 (control)	0
T2 (N)	5g	T2 (P)	5g	T2 (K)	10
T3 (N)	10g	T3 (P)	10g	T3 (K)	20
T4 (N)	15g	T4 (P)	20g	T4 (K)	30
T5 (N)	20g	T5 (P)	30g	T5 (K)	40
N:P:K					
Treatments	g/plant	Treatments	g/plant	Treatments	g/plant
T1(Control)	0	T6	5:5:15	T11	10:10:20
T2	5:5:5	T7	10:10:10	T12	10:10:25

T3	5:10:5	T8	10:15:10	T13	15:10:10
T4	5:15:5	T9	10:20:10	T14	20:10:10
T5	5:5:10	T10	10:10:15	T15	25:10:10

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analysis were conceded out by means of analysis of variance (ANOVA) method and differences among treatment means were analyzed with Least Significance Difference (LSD) Test at 5%  $p$  level [20].

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Effect of Nitrogen on Growth and Flowering of Gruss-an-Teplitz

**Plant Height, stem diameter and number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>:** There was significant difference among nitrogen applications for plant height, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> and stem diameter as explicated in Table 2. Highest plant height (46cm) and stem diameter (2mm) was noticed at T<sub>3</sub> while lowest plant height (38.4cm) and stem diameter (0.97mm) was achieved at T<sub>1</sub> (control) and T<sub>2</sub> respectively. Number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> was significantly higher (2.3) at T<sub>2</sub> and least number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (0.9) was noticed at T<sub>5</sub>. Our outcomes show that nitrogen has deliberate effect on plant height, stem diameter and number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>. Although increased nitrogen level enhances the vegetative growth [4, 21] but optimum level of nitrogen may be required for best growth of *Rosa*

*hybrida*, any deviation from optimum levels negatively effects growth. The same observations were reported by Ghaffar *et al.* [22].

#### Number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, Flower weight (g) and diameter (mm):

Data explicated in Table 2 elaborates significant differences among nitrogen treatments and their impact on number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, flower weight and diameter at  $p < 0.01$ . More number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (9.75), flower weight (2.17gm) and flower diameter (4.7mm) was achieved at T<sub>5</sub>. Whereas, minimum number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (4.3), flower weight (1.21g) and flower diameter (4.12mm) were attributed under T<sub>1</sub> (control). It is clear from the results that nitrogen has positive impact on number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>. With increase in nitrogen level from control to 20g plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, flower weight and flower diameter also rises. Our findings are in line with the work of Kilian *et al.* [23] and Avinash *et al.*, [24] who reported that nitrogen application significantly affects the flower yield and quality.

#### Effect of Phosphorus on Growth and Flowering of Gruss-an-Teplitz

**Plant height (cm) and stem diameter (mm):**

Statistical analysis showed considerable difference among all the treatments for plant height and stem diameter. Maximum plant height (50cm) and stem diameter (2.02mm) on average basis was observed at T<sub>2</sub> while minimum plant height (33.2cm) and stem diameter (0.4 mm) was attained at T<sub>3</sub>. Further increase in P concentration does not have deliberate effect on plant height and stem diameter. Sedibe and Allemann [25] in his trial confirmed these results.

**Number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, Number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, flower weight and flower diameter:** For number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> results of ANOVA indicated that there is a significant difference among treatment at  $p < 0.01$ . Maximum number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed at T<sub>5</sub> with 3.5 branches plant<sup>-1</sup> followed by T<sub>4</sub> with 3.0 branches plant<sup>-1</sup>. Minimum number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed at T<sub>1</sub> (control) with 2 branches plant<sup>-1</sup>. Data regarding quantitative traits in the form of flower numbers plant<sup>-1</sup> showed significant variation ( $p < 0.001$ ). Maximum number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed at T<sub>5</sub> with 29 number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, followed by T<sub>4</sub> with 24 number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> were obtained. Minimum

number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> were obtained at T<sub>1</sub> (control) with 13.2 flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>.

More flower weight (4.3g) was observed at T<sub>5</sub>, followed by T<sub>4</sub> with 3.8g weight. Lower flower weight was achieved at T<sub>1</sub> (control) with 2.2g weight. Diameter of flower varied significantly among all the treatments. Highest mean flower diameter was exhibited at T<sub>5</sub> with 5.1mm followed by T<sub>4</sub> with 4.5mm. Lowest flower diameter was observed at T<sub>1</sub> (control) with 3mm. By increasing the concentration of P, the number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, flower weight and flower diameter increased significantly, this shows that P have significant effect on number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>, flower weight and flower diameter. The same observation was recorded Mishra *et al.* [21].

**Effect of Potassium on Growth and Flowering of Gruss-an-Teplitz**

**Plant height (cm), flower weight (g) and flower diameter (mm):** Statistically all potassium treatments varied significantly for plant height, flower weight and diameter of Gruss-an-teplitz at  $p < 0.01$  (Table 2). The most superior interaction was noticed at T<sub>5</sub> in terms of plant height (46.6cm), flower weight (1.88g) and flower diameter (4.58mm). Whereas, lowest plant height

(38.7cm), 0.90g flower weight was obtained at T<sub>1</sub> (control) while minimum flower diameter was attained at T<sub>3</sub>. Application of K significantly affects the plant height, flower weight and flower diameter. Waikar and Jadhav, [26] is in agreement that addition of K positively increased the vegetative as well as floral parameters.

**Number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> and stem diameter:** Non-significant interaction was noticed between treatments for number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> and stem diameter (Table 2). More number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> [27] was found at T<sub>1</sub> (control) and least number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>(1.25) were observed at T<sub>5</sub>. Increasing level of K do not results in increase in number of branches and it is clear from the observations that K does not have strong relation with the number of branches/plant. For stem diameter maximum stem diameter (0.98mm) was observed at T<sub>4</sub> while minimum (0.84mm) was found at T<sub>1</sub> (control).

**Number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>:** Data exhibited in Table 2 substantiates significant interaction (P<0.01) between treatments and number of flowers/plant. 18.7 flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> was observed at T<sub>5</sub> (K: 40g plant<sup>-1</sup>), followed by T<sub>4</sub> with 17.5 flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>. Least number [28] of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> was achieved at T<sub>2</sub>. Haq *et al.* [29] and Gurav *et*

*al.*, [4] are in agreement that high dose of K is necessary for more number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> in *rosa spp.*

### **Effect of N:P:K on Growth and Flowering of Gruss-an-Teplitz**

**Plant height (cm):** The statistical data related plant height of rose as effected by the application of NPK presented in Table 2 reveals that there is no significant difference among all treatments and the results are at par with each other. Highest plant height (58.38cm) is produced by T<sub>3</sub> and the smallest (42.39cm) by T<sub>14</sub> the rest of the treatments contributed to the plant height of 42cm, 45.17cm, 55.03cm, 54.81cm, 55.85cm, 49.08cm, 47.85cm, 52.05cm, 51.64cm, 55.10cm, 47.93cm, 44.38cm and 46cm respectively. Our findings are in contradiction with the work of De-wit [30] who reported that the maximum plant height (65cm) was recorded with combined application of (200 kg N and 400 kg K<sub>2</sub>O/ha) this may be due to inappropriate soil pH or EC because of which the nutrients were not available to the plants. Soil physical and chemical properties affect soil nutrients and their availability to plants [31, 32].

**Stem diameter (cm):** Statistically analyzed data of stem diameter as presented in Table 2 shows insignificant difference among the means of treatments, the thickest stem of

1.66cm is contributed by T<sub>2</sub> and thinnest stem of 0.85cm is produced by T<sub>6</sub>. Other treatments contributed to the stem diameter with 0.94cm, 0.95cm, 0.89cm, 0.98cm, 0.88cm, 1.08cm, 0.92cm, 1.29cm, 1.03cm, 1.41cm, 1.30cm, 1.13cm and 0.91cm respectively. The previous findings as reported by Hagag *et al.* [33] state that increasing NPK rate decreased the stem diameter.

**Number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>:** Data pertaining to number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> prompted by NPK illustrate that application of NPK in different combinations have similar effect on number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>. Maximum number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup> (2.5) were counted for T<sub>5</sub> and minimum of 1.5 for T<sub>3</sub> whereas rest of the treatments contributed to 1.75, 1.75, 2.00, 1.75, 1.75, 1.75, 2.00, 2.00, 1.50, 1.50 and 1.75 respectively. Our outcomes are in contrary with the previous findings of Qasim *et al.* [34] who reported that fertigation of NPK combination @ 2 days interval on (*Rosa hybrida* L.) cultivars had a marked increasing effect on vegetative as well as reproductive parameters, the possible reason for this may be inappropriate combinations of fertilizer under study or abiotic factors interfering with plant growth.

**Number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>:** Statistical analysis of number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> proved

that the application of NPK in different combinations has a significant increasing effect on number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>. More number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> (27.50) were counted for T<sub>3</sub> and minimum number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup> [28] were achieved at T<sub>2</sub>. The research findings are in line with the work of Younis *et al.* [35] and Katwate *et al.*, [29] who reported that combination of NPK have significant effect on flower diameter and length of flower bud whereas maximum number of flower per bush is reported by Sharma *et al.*, [36].

**Flower diameter (mm):** Application of NPK presented in Table 2 shows a significant difference among means of different treatments ( $P < 0.05$ ) for flower diameter. Maximum flower diameter of 3.87cm is produced by T<sub>11</sub> and the minimum of 2.5cm is contributed by T<sub>7</sub>. Other treatments contributed to flower diameter of 3.12cm, 3.14cm, 3.33cm, 3.53cm, 3.66cm, 2.70cm, 3.10cm, 3.32cm, 3.35cm, 3.60cm, 3.42cm, 3.74cm and 3.75cm respectively. Our results are in line with the previous findings [35] who reported that foliar application of micronutrients along with NPK significantly increases the plant growth characteristics like plant height, number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>, bud diameter, flower

diameter, flower quality, flower stalk length, fresh and dry weight of flower of roses.

**Flower weight (g):** Effect of NPK application on flower weight reveals a significant change in flower weight when NPK applied in different combinations. Heaviest flowers (2.25g) were produced by

T<sub>1</sub> (control) and lightest (0.71g) by T<sub>9</sub>. Fresh and dry weights of plant are parameters indicating plant biomass and previous study [37] revealed that increase in biomass were found to initial fresh weight for root and shoot of *Amaranthus palmeri* when NPK was applied.

**Table 2: Effect of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (alone and in combination) on growth and flowering of *Grass-an-teplitz***

Treatment	PH (cm)	NB	SD (mm)	NF	FW (g)	FD (mm)
<b>Nitrogen</b>						
T1	38.4±1.27 <sup>c</sup>	1.65±0.34 <sup>b</sup>	1.09±0.22 <sup>b</sup>	4.3±0.47 <sup>c</sup>	1.21±0.4 <sup>c</sup>	4.12±0.3 <sup>a</sup>
T2	42.2±3.11 <sup>abc</sup>	2.3±0.34 <sup>a</sup>	0.97±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	4.85±0.25 <sup>d</sup>	1.88±0.6 <sup>ab</sup>	4.61±0.58 <sup>a</sup>
T3	46±4.66 <sup>a</sup>	1.17±0.17 <sup>bc</sup>	2.0±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	5.9±0.47 <sup>c</sup>	1.34±0.25 <sup>c</sup>	4.3±0.18 <sup>a</sup>
T4	44.1±2.29 <sup>ab</sup>	1.0±0.33 <sup>c</sup>	1.06±0.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.92±0.58 <sup>b</sup>	1.5±0.16 <sup>bc</sup>	4.49±0.34 <sup>a</sup>
T5	40.75±3.42 <sup>bc</sup>	0.9±0.39 <sup>c</sup>	1.10±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	9.75±0.77 <sup>a</sup>	2.17±0.45 <sup>a</sup>	4.7±0.46 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Phosphorus</b>						
T1	42±1.1 <sup>c</sup>	2±0.08 <sup>c</sup>	1.1±0.14 <sup>c</sup>	13.2±1.8 <sup>d</sup>	2.2±0.25 <sup>d</sup>	3±0.25 <sup>c</sup>
T2	50±1.56 <sup>a</sup>	2.2±0.21 <sup>c</sup>	2.02±0.16 <sup>a</sup>	15.6±0.98 <sup>cd</sup>	2.7±0.61 <sup>cd</sup>	3.4±0.22 <sup>c</sup>
T3	33.2±3.01 <sup>e</sup>	2.6±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>	0.4±0.15 <sup>d</sup>	18±1.4 <sup>c</sup>	3.3±0.18 <sup>bc</sup>	4.1±0.2 <sup>b</sup>
T4	45.55±2.26 <sup>b</sup>	3±0.45 <sup>ab</sup>	1.5±0.36 <sup>b</sup>	24±4.7 <sup>b</sup>	3.8±0.62 <sup>ab</sup>	4.5±0.38 <sup>b</sup>
T5	37±1.73 <sup>d</sup>	3.5±0.64 <sup>a</sup>	0.7±0.21 <sup>d</sup>	29±1.7 <sup>a</sup>	4.3±0.63 <sup>a</sup>	5.1±0.33 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Potassium</b>						
T1	38.7±0.32 <sup>c</sup>	2±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.84±0.08 <sup>a</sup>	17.25±0.5 <sup>b</sup>	0.90±0.05 <sup>c</sup>	3.67±0.99 <sup>c</sup>
T2	44.5±0.47 <sup>b</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.86±0.06 <sup>a</sup>	15±0.81 <sup>c</sup>	0.91±0.09 <sup>c</sup>	3.77±0.06 <sup>c</sup>
T3	41±1.31 <sup>d</sup>	1.75±0.57 <sup>a</sup>	0.85±0.23 <sup>a</sup>	16±0.81 <sup>c</sup>	1.22±0.19 <sup>b</sup>	3.35±0.06 <sup>d</sup>
T4	42.5±0.9 <sup>c</sup>	1.5±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.98±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	17.5±0.57 <sup>b</sup>	0.97±0.07 <sup>c</sup>	4.16±0.04 <sup>b</sup>
T5	46.6±0.66 <sup>a</sup>	1.25±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	0.95±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	18.7±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	1.88±0.09 <sup>a</sup>	4.58±0.09 <sup>a</sup>
<b>N:P:K</b>						
T1	42.64 ± 2.16 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±1 <sup>a</sup>	0.94±0.02 <sup>a</sup>	15.25±1 <sup>fg</sup>	2.25±0.05 <sup>a</sup>	3.12±0.26 <sup>abc</sup>
T2	45.17±4.25 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.95±0.05 <sup>a</sup>	15±0.8 <sup>g</sup>	0.95±0.09 <sup>cf</sup>	3.14±0.34 <sup>abc</sup>
T3	58.38±2.66 <sup>a</sup>	1.5±0.57 <sup>a</sup>	0.89±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	27.5±0.57 <sup>a</sup>	1.29±0.16 <sup>cd</sup>	3.33±0.18 <sup>abc</sup>
T4	55.03±10.91 <sup>a</sup>	2±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	0.98±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	19.75±0.95 <sup>cd</sup>	1.30±0.11 <sup>cd</sup>	3.53±0.37 <sup>ab</sup>
T5	54.81±13.11 <sup>a</sup>	2.5±0.57 <sup>a</sup>	0.88±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	22±0.81 <sup>bc</sup>	1.59±0.02 <sup>b</sup>	3.66±0.53 <sup>ab</sup>
T6	55.85±3.51 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.85±0.03 <sup>a</sup>	22±0.81 <sup>bc</sup>	0.97±0.12 <sup>cf</sup>	2.7±0.14 <sup>bc</sup>
T7	49.08±6.51 <sup>a</sup>	2.00±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.08±0.25 <sup>a</sup>	19±0.81 <sup>d</sup>	1.37±0.15 <sup>bc</sup>	2.5±1.0 <sup>c</sup>
T8	47.85±2.96 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.92±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	18.75±0.95 <sup>d</sup>	1.05±0.12 <sup>de</sup>	3.1±0.14 <sup>abc</sup>
T9	52.05±6.90 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	1.29±0.04 <sup>a</sup>	24.25±0.95 <sup>b</sup>	0.71±0.08 <sup>f</sup>	3.32±0.09 <sup>abc</sup>
T10	51.64±5.87 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.5 <sup>a</sup>	1.03±0.07 <sup>a</sup>	17.50±0.57 <sup>def</sup>	1.05±0.12 <sup>de</sup>	3.35±0.05 <sup>abc</sup>
T11	55.1±11.2 <sup>a</sup>	2±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	1.41±0.50 <sup>a</sup>	27.25±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	1.53±0.04 <sup>bc</sup>	3.87±0.79 <sup>a</sup>
T12	47.93±4.75 <sup>a</sup>	2±0.81 <sup>a</sup>	1.66±1.02 <sup>a</sup>	21.75±1.25 <sup>c</sup>	1.35±0.05 <sup>bc</sup>	3.60±0.47 <sup>ab</sup>
T13	44.38±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	1.50±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	1.30±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	18.00±1.29 <sup>de</sup>	1.29±1.29 <sup>cd</sup>	3.42±1.29 <sup>abc</sup>
T14	42.39±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	1.50±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	1.13±1.29 <sup>a</sup>	15.75±1.29 <sup>efg</sup>	1.08±1.29 <sup>de</sup>	3.74±1.29 <sup>a</sup>
T15	46±4.63 <sup>a</sup>	1.75±0.95 <sup>a</sup>	0.91±0.19 <sup>a</sup>	16.00±0.81 <sup>efg</sup>	1.31±0.07 <sup>cd</sup>	3.75±0.2 <sup>a</sup>

Means±S.D of four replicates of 20 plants, Means showing same letter do not differ significantly  
 PH: Plant height; SD: Stem diameter; NB: Number of branches plant<sup>-1</sup>; NF: Number of flowers plant<sup>-1</sup>; FW: Flower weight; FD: Flower Diameter

## CONCLUSION

Nitrogen and phosphorus alone had significant effect on both vegetative and

reproductive characteristics, while potassium considerably affected plant height, flower weight, diameter and number

of Flowers. Whereas, the NPK in combination caused more efficient affects for better flower weight and diameter.

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