

## STANDARDIZATION OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF PRUNING AND GROWTH REGULATORS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF IXORA (*IXORA COCCINEA* L.) CV. RED

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### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted to study the “Standardization of different levels of pruning and growth regulators on the performance of *Ixora (Ixora coccinea* L.) Cv. Red” at Manickapuram village, Thiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu during the year 2020 - 21. The treatment comprises of three different levels of pruning at 30 cm, 45 cm and 60 cm along with three different growth regulators *viz.*, GA<sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm, NAA @ 150 ppm and Ethrel @ 150 ppm alone and without application of growth regulator to pruned plants (Control). The experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design (FRBD) with three replications consists of twelve treatments. Considering all the treatments, observation recorded on growth, physiological and flower yield parameters, the treatment (T<sub>5</sub>) was significantly increased when compare to control (with out application of growth regulators to the pruned plants). Growth parameters *viz.*, plant height (93.62 cm and 105.23 cm), number of branches (82.96 and 90.66), number of leaves (3038.19 and 3197.04) at 240 and 300 days after pruning and canopy spread N-S (133.04 cm), E-W (135.01 cm) at 240 DAP respectively. With regard to physiological and yield parameters *viz.*, leaf length (8.01 cm), leaf width ( 5.21 cm), leaf area index (2.64 cm<sup>2</sup>), chlorophyll content index (CCI) ( 11.85 mg g<sup>-1</sup>), dry matter production ( 44.65 g plant<sup>-1</sup>), number of flower heads plant<sup>-1</sup> (36.73), number of florets flower head<sup>-1</sup> (54.18), fresh weight of flower head (9.01 g) and flower yield (330.93 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) it was recorded maximum when pruning was done at 45 cm height above the ground level along with foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm. From the above studies, it is revealed that pruning at 45 cm along with foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm were found to be the best in increasing the plant growth, physiological and flower yield attributes in *Ixora coccinea* .

Keywords : Pruning, Growth regulator, *Ixora*

### INTRODUCTION

Floriculture also known as flower farming refers to the cultivation of flowering and foliage plants. Horticultural crops particularly growing of flower crops is preferred by the farmers due to quick and high return per unit area. Although, flowers have been an integral part of the Indian society and were cultivated for various purposes ranging from aesthetic to social and religious purposes, the commercial floriculture has been recent origin. In recent decades, there has been increasing interest in floriculture and its products. *Ixora* (Flame of woods) botanically named as *Ixora coccinea* belongs to the Rubiaceae family. Now, it is identified as

one of the commercial loose flower crop grown in India. *Ixora coccinea* is a dense, multi-branched evergreen shrub comprises more than 500 species of shrubs found worldwide. *Ixora coccinea* L. is a perennial hedging plant common in the most parts of tropical and subtropical regions. The plants are notable for its bright coloured flowers which are composed of small blooms massed together into dense, flat topped flower heads. It bears flowers which are numerous having bright scarlet colour in dense, sessile corymbiform cymes (Baliga and Kurian, 2012). They have tiny conspicuous and colorful shades of white, yellow, pink and scarlet orange. Though flowers are not fragrant and they are very popular due to its attractive color and good keeping quality. In Tamilnadu, among the growers community, traditional *Ixora* flowers are commercially grown as “loose flower” to multipurpose use especially garland makeovers for spiritual and religious offerings, decoration purpose and in landscape gardening which are mainly used for making hedges, foundation planting, potted plants, massed in flowering beds or grown as a specimen plant. It also has a good export potential and popularity on account of wide adaptability and increasing demand during the festival occasions. Pruning, it is an essential method since antique times for restarting growth of plants. Pruning is an invigorating process which promotes growth by releasing a plant’s internal chemical substances it allows new branches to grow. Moreover it drives energy towards to sprout multiple new shoots to get increased, as a resulted in maximized canopy spread and flower production by activation of physiological activity. Plant growths are regulated by phytohormones that presumably exert their influence on particular metabolic reactions in the target tissue via receptor molecules. Besides those natural phyto-hormones, the group of growth regulators that modify a plant in its growth and developmental behavior without inducing phyto-toxic or malformative effects includes synthetic substances such as the growth regulators. According to the PGR’s have quicker effect on flower plants to modify growth, foliage colour as well as flower yield (Mukesh kumar *et al.*, 2021). At the same time concluding the right level of pruning is very important in maximizing more number of branches hitherto production of flowers is enhanced due to pruning along with appropriate quantity of growth regulators as foliar application which modifies the flower yield. Regulation of flowering in *Ixora* has immense practical value. In these aspect pruning with appropriate height in addition to this utilization of plant growth regulators with right quantity for maximizing the growth and yield of *Ixora*. Keeping this in view, the present investigation was therefore taken to standardize the different levels of pruning and foliar application of growth regulators on growth and yield of *Ixora* (*Ixora coccinea* L.).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A study was conducted with three levels of pruning heights along with three growth regulators *viz.*, GA<sub>3</sub>, NAA and Ethrel were taken up for enhancing growth and yield of *Ixora* (*Ixora coccinea* L.) cv. Red. This experiment was carried out in the farmer’s field at Manickapuram village, Mannachanallur Taluk, Thiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu during the period of 2020-21. The experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design (FRBD) with 12 treatments and replicated thrice. Two years old *Ixora* plants with the spacing

of 2 m × 2 m were taken for this research. Conventional pruning at different heights *viz.*, 30 cm, 45 cm and 60 cm is carried out during second fortnight of April, 2020. After pruning, when the new shoots were developed with sufficient number of leaves, the freshly prepared Gibberlic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>), Naphthalene acetic acid (NAA), Ethrel each @ 150 ppm were sprayed and without application of growth regulator to pruned plants (Control) is followed as per the treatment schedule. The data on vegetative and physiological parameters were taken at periodic intervals. Observations are recorded on the selected tagged plants for each treatment in each replication and the mean data is statistically analyzed by adopting the standard procedure given by Panse and Sukhatme (1985). The treatment details are presented in Table 1.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the investigation undertaken with a view to study the effect of different levels of pruning height and foliar application of certain growth regulators on growth and physiological parameters of *Ixora (Ixora coccinea L.)* are presented in Table 2 and Table 3. The factor responsible for growth in a plant is depending upon climate, soil, cultural manipulations and their interactions. On that way optimum pruning height play a prime role in deciding the growth and yield of *Ixora*. Acquiring Knowledge on this aspect, it's very necessary to manipulate the plants physiology, which may eventually lead to the maximum production. In Table 2, among the different levels of pruning heights clearly shows that the maximum growth performed in P<sub>2</sub> in all vegetative parameters *viz.*, plant height ( 90.87 cm and 102.20 cm), number of branches ( 65.77 and 71.72 ), number of leaves ( 2242.94 and 2382.12 ) at 240 and 300 days after pruning and canopy spread N-S ( 124.12 cm ) , E-W ( 125.29 cm ) at 240 DAP respectively. In Table 3, physiological characters *viz.* Leaf length ( 7.38 cm), Leaf width ( 3.88 cm), Leaf area index ( 2.09 cm<sup>2</sup>), Chlorophyll content index (CCI) ( 11.34 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and Dry matter production ( 41.10 g plant<sup>-1</sup>). This increase in growth might be due to higher accumulation of polysaccharide content, reduced apical dominance, increased light intensity, good aeration thus results in improved plant growth parameters. It was reported by Raghuram Pawar *et al.*, (2019) in Jasmine and Zekavati (2013) in Rose. . In Table 4, yield parameters *viz.*, number of flower heads (34.50 plant<sup>-1</sup>), number of florets (44.06 flower head<sup>-1</sup>), fresh weight of single flower head (7.46 g) and flower yield (259.39 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded as superior when Pruning has been carried out at 45 cm height respectively. Pruning is an important horticulture techniques that determines growth, yield and quality performance of a crop when all other inputs are adequately supplied. The branches should be pinched to maintain short stature for easy plucking of flowers. At the same time concluding the right level of pruning is very important in maximizing more number of branches hitherto production of flowers is enhanced due to pruning along with right quantity and appropriate application of growth regulators which modifies the growth and development. Pruning height significantly increased the number of branches which may be due to accumulation of cytokinin which are the source to produce new shoots, which might in turn leads to more number of flowers. This might be due to the accelerated photosynthetic mobility from the source to the sink as influenced by growth hormones are diverting its energy for production of new shoots and that leads to produce more

nodes resulted from maximizing the number of flower heads. This increase in flower heads could be due to the fact that pruning helps to broaden the uptake of C:N ratio, thus stimulates the flowering and increasing the vigor of plant. These results are coinciding with Ghulam *et al.*, (2004) in Rose, Sushree Choudhury *et al.*, (2019) in Jasmine and Vijai ananth and Rameshkumar (2012) in Nerium.

It is explicit from the data in (Table 2 and 3), clearly shows that increase in growth, physiological and yield of Ixora were obtained in the treatment G<sub>1</sub> with the foliar application of gibberellic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>) @ 150 ppm. The increase in growth and physiological characters viz. plant height ( 93.42 cm and 104.91 cm), number of branches ( 79.11 and 86.42 ), number of leaves ( 2860.73 and 3015.16 ) at 240 and 300 days after pruning and canopy spread N-S ( 131.04 cm ), E-W ( 132.85 cm) at 240 DAP, leaf length ( 7.86 cm), Leaf width ( 4.71 cm), Leaf area index ( 2.51 cm<sup>2</sup>), Chlorophyll content index (CCI) ( 11.73 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and Dry matter production ( 43.84 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) When compare to other growth harmones like NAA and Ethereal application of gibberellic acid significantly increased in terms of all the growth parameters. These increases in growth parameters are due to the early production of florigin in gibberellins. GA<sub>3</sub> is component of florigin which initiates the growth in various ways. This, results are in the conformity with the findings of Dhanasekaran (2019) in Jasmine and Anil K Singh *et al.*, (2019) in Rose. The maximum plant height, number of branches, number of leaves and leaf area might be attributed to the enhanced vegetative growth in early phase attributed by exogenous application of GA<sub>3</sub> which would have favored the increased photosynthesis and CO<sub>2</sub> fixation ultimately it increased the number of leaves and increased photosynthetic efficiency of the plant. These results are coinciding with Rakshana *et al.*, (2020) in Carnation and Kadam *et al.*, (2020) in Gaillardia. Increase in Physiological parameters was noticed with the increased dose of foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub> at 150 ppm. These findings are coincided with the results of Pragnya Paramita Mishra *et al.*, (2018) in China aster. The increase in flower yield parameters (Table 4) viz., number of flower heads (35.38 plant<sup>-1</sup>), number of florets (50.33 flower head<sup>-1</sup>), fresh weight of single flower head (8.47 g) and flower yield (300.15 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) were obtained with the foliar application of Gibberellic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>) @ 150 ppm. The maximum yield were obtained due to the production of more number of secondary shoots at early stage, with this foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm profusely increased all the yield parameters. These findings are coinciding with Shobana (2014) and Sridhar *et al.*, (2013) in Jasmine. The individual effect of different levels of pruning and growth regulators significantly influenced the growth and yield parameters of Ixora (Table 2 and 3). This influence was reflected in interaction also. In the present study revealed that the increasing in vegetative parameters was occurred in the treatment when pruning is carried out at 45 cm height along with foliar application of GA<sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm. Whereas minimum performance in growth was significantly ineffectiveness is observed in untreated of growth regulators in different levels of pruning.

The treatment T<sub>5</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>1</sub>) with the interaction effect of different levels of pruning at 45 cm along with foliar spray of gibberellic acid @ 150 ppm was revealed as the best treatment in terms of growth and flower yield characters over the rest of other treatment combinations. Table 2 and 3 shows the result of interaction effect of different levels of pruning and foliar application

of GA<sub>3</sub>, increases the plant height (93.62 cm and 105.23 cm), number of branches (82.96 and 90.66), number of leaves (3038.19 and 3197.04) at 240 and 300 days after pruning and canopy spread N-S (133.04 cm), E-W (135.01 cm) at 240 DAP, physiological characters *viz.*, leaf length (8.01 cm), leaf width (5.21 cm), leaf area index (2.64 cm<sup>2</sup>), chlorophyll content index (CCI) (11.85 mg g<sup>-1</sup>) and dry matter production (44.65 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) Among the different cultural operations pruning is one of the fruitful horticulture technique which is being followed in many flower crops. It is a useful method since antique times for restarting growth of plants (Kumaresan *et al.*, 2017). As a result of pruning, number of new shoots get increased which resulted in increased flower yield by activation of physiological activity. When the developing new shoots appears from the plants which are simultaneously sprayed with application of growth regulators especially. Pruning at 45 cm height enhanced maximum growth in *Ixora* which might be due to the accelerated mobility of photosynthetic from the source to the sink as influenced by growth hormone released or synthesized due to higher plant growth and its allocating energy for production of new shoots and due to increase in nodes resulted from cell elongation and cell division. Similarly these findings are coincided with Vijai ananth and Rameshkumar (2012) in *Nerium* and Maske *et al.*, (2018) in *Mogra*. These increased vegetative characters are significantly influenced due to the foliar application of plant growth regulators were absorbed by the leaves and these are immediately translocated into xylem and phloem tissues in which it is distributed to all parts of the plants. Among all the growth regulators *viz.*, GA<sub>3</sub>, NAA and Ethrel, the effect of GA<sub>3</sub> increased a significant role in all the characters, when compared to foliar application of NAA and Ethrel. GA<sub>3</sub>, it is a perfect plant growth regulator has been used to change the entire plant growth and its specific plant responses to growth and yield. These are evolved by the way of application of GA<sub>3</sub> at various right intervals. Gibberellic acid also play an important role in modifying the growth and flowering pattern in *Ixora* plants and its utilization of optimum quantity of GA<sub>3</sub> can promote, inhibits or quantitatively modifies growth and development in plants. Application of gibberellic acid induce active cell division and cell elongation increase the auxin level of tissues and enhances the conversion of tryptophan to IAA, which in turn cause active cell division and cell elongation. Growth might also be increased due to osmotic uptake of water and nutrients under the influence of gibberellins which maintain swelling force against the softening of cell wall and thereby increasing the maximum of growth in all vegetative characters. Similar findings are revealed by Nomita Laishram *et al.*, (2020) in *Marigold* and Sendhilnathan *et al.*, (2020) in *Carnation*.

Table 4 shows the results of yield parameters, *viz.*, number of flower heads (36.73 plant<sup>-1</sup>), number of florets (54.18 flower head<sup>-1</sup>), fresh weight of single flower head (9.01 g) and flower yield (330.93 g plant<sup>-1</sup>) are recorded as superior than all other treatments with respect to optimum pruning height along with application of gibberellic acid which enhances the yield parameters. Growth regulators are valuable in floriculture for manipulating growth and flowering of many ornamental plants. Growth promoting chemicals at on optimum concentration improve the efficiency of the plants by modifying the various process such as photosynthesis, transpiration, photorespiration, water and nutrient uptake in a beneficial way. In recent years, notable plant growth regulators like GA<sub>3</sub>, NAA and Ethrel etc., have been found



to enhance more branches, stem elongation and profuse flowering in many ornamental plants. Their effect varies with plant species, variety, concentration used, frequency of application and various other factors which influence the uptake and translocation of the chemical. The increase in yield might be due to accumulation of initial higher polysaccharide content in plants. On the other hand gibberellic acid caused rapid cell elongation and improved source sink relation resulting in enhanced vigorous vegetation in *Ixora*. Maximum number of flower heads and number of florets increased might be due to the application of gibberellic acid stimulates the endogenous gibberellins level in the plants. The major changes in flower yield can be explained by the fact that gibberellic acid reducing the juvenile period of plants because of its higher capacity of cell division and cell elongation which caused early maturity in plants. Similar results were reported by Sendhilnathan *et al.*, (2019) in Rose and Harkulkar *et al.*, (2022) in Jasmine

## CONCLUSION

Based on the present investigation findings, it can be concluded that, Pruning at 45 cm height along with foliar application of gibberellic acid (GA<sub>3</sub>) @ 150 ppm concentration served as a best treatment with respect to performance of all growth, physiological and flower yield parameters in *Ixora* (*Ixora coccinea* L.) Cv. Red.

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### Treatment Details

**Table 1:** The Details of the treatments are furnished below.

F <sub>1</sub>	PRUNING HEIGHTS	F <sub>2</sub>	GROWTH REGULATORS
P <sub>1</sub>	Pruning at 30 cm height	G <sub>1</sub>	GA <sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm
P <sub>2</sub>	Pruning at 45 cm height	G <sub>2</sub>	NAA @ 150 ppm
P <sub>3</sub>	Pruning at 60 cm height	G <sub>3</sub>	Ethrel @ 150 ppm
		G <sub>4</sub>	Control

Treatments	Details
T <sub>1</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	Pruning at 30 cm height + GA <sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm
T <sub>2</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	Pruning at 30 cm height + NAA @ 150 ppm
T <sub>3</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	Pruning at 30 cm height + Ethrel @ 150 ppm
T <sub>4</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	Pruning at 30 cm height + Control
T <sub>5</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	Pruning at 45 cm height + GA <sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm
T <sub>6</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	Pruning at 45 cm height + NAA @ 150 ppm
T <sub>7</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	Pruning at 45 cm height + Ethrel @ 150 ppm
T <sub>8</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	Pruning at 45cm height + Control
T <sub>9</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	Pruning at 60 cm height + GA <sub>3</sub> @ 150 ppm
T <sub>10</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	Pruning at 60 cm height + NAA @ 150 ppm
T <sub>11</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	Pruning at 60 cm height + Ethrel @ 150 ppm
T <sub>12</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	Pruning at 60 cm height + Control

**Table 2:** Effect of different levels of pruning height and growth regulators on growth parameters in *Ixora* (*Ixora coccinea* L.). Cv. Red

Treatments	Plant height (cm)		Number of branches plant <sup>-1</sup>		Number of leaves plant <sup>-1</sup>		Canopy spread (cm)	
	240 (DAP)	300 (DAP)	240 (DAP)	300 (DAP)	240 (DAP)	300 (DAP)	N-S	E-W
<b>Pruning height (P)</b>								



<b>P<sub>1</sub></b>	76.5	87.8 8	56.59	61.65	1839.4 4	1966.7 2	117.38	118. 7
<b>P<sub>2</sub></b>	90.87	102. 2	65.77	71.72	2242.9 4	2382.1 2	124.12	125. 3
<b>P<sub>3</sub></b>	106.12	117. 9	61.94	67.51	2066.0 9	2200.8 6	122.13	123. 1
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>20.82</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.12</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>39.21</b>	<b>41.64</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>2.26</b>
<b>Growth regulators (G)</b>								
<b>G<sub>1</sub></b>	93.42	104. 9	79.11	86.42	2860.7 3	3015.1 6	131.04	132. 9
<b>G<sub>2</sub></b>	91.82	103. 3	56.07	61.04	1796.0 3	1923.9 4	119.16	119. 9
<b>G<sub>3</sub></b>	90.64	102. 2	67.82	73.98	2336.3 4	2477.9 9	125.11	126. 4
<b>G<sub>4</sub></b>	88.78	100. 3	42.74	46.4	1204.8 6	1315.8 6	109.52	110. 4
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>22.64</b>	<b>24.04</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>1.45</b>	<b>45.28</b>	<b>48.08</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>2.61</b>
<b>Interaction (P×G)</b>								
<b>T<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	79.29	90.5	75.28	82.2	2683.2 9	2833.3	129.06	130. 7
<b>T<sub>2</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	77.48	88.8 2	52.23	56.81	1618.5 8	1742.0 7	117.2	117. 7
<b>T<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	75.1	86.5 2	63.76	69.51	2150.9 4	2287.6 9	123.14	124. 2
<b>T<sub>4</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	74.14	85.7	35.12	38.08	904.97	1003.8 4	100.12	102. 3
<b>T<sub>5</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	93.62	105. 2	82.96	90.66	3038.1 9	3197.0 4	133.04	135
<b>T<sub>6</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	91.77	103	59.9	65.26	1973.4 7	2105.8	121.14	122. 1
<b>T<sub>7</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	90	101. 4	71.67	78.21	2514.1 8	2660.2 5	127.1	128. 5
<b>T<sub>8</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	88.07	99.1 8	48.56	52.76	1445.9 4	1565.4 1	115.21	115. 6
<b>T<sub>9</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	107.34	119	79.1	86.41	2860.7 2	3015.1 5	131.04	132. 9
<b>T<sub>10</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	106.22	117. 9	56.08	61.05	1796.0 4	1923.9 5	119.16	119. 9
<b>T<sub>11</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	106.81	118. 6	68.05	74.23	2343.9 1	2486.0 2	125.11	126. 4

T <sub>12</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	104.13	116	44.56	48.36	1263.6 9	1378.3 4	113.24	113. 4
S.Ed	1.65	1.85	1.15	1.25	39.21	41.64	2.25	2.25
C.D (p=0.05)	3.3	3.7	2.3	2.51	78.43	83.28	4.48	4.52

**Table 3: Effect of different levels of pruning height and growth regulators on Physiological parameters in *Ixora (Ixora coccinea L.)*. Cv. Red**

Treatments	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf width (cm)	Leaf area index (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Chlorophyll index (CCI) (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry matter production (g plant <sup>-1</sup> )
<b>Pruning height (P)</b>					
P <sub>1</sub>	6.85	3.33	1.81	10.89	38.59
P <sub>2</sub>	7.38	3.88	2.09	11.34	41.1
P <sub>3</sub>	7.24	3.78	1.97	11.23	40.31
S.Ed	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.1	0.37
C.D (p=0.05)	0.13	0.07	0.03	0.2	0.73
<b>Growth regulators (G)</b>					
G <sub>1</sub>	7.86	4.71	2.51	11.73	43.84
G <sub>2</sub>	7.02	3.33	1.79	11.07	39.04
G <sub>3</sub>	7.47	3.64	2.15	11.4	41.58
G <sub>4</sub>	6.29	2.96	1.38	10.42	35.55
S.Ed	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.12	0.43
C.D (p=0.05)	0.15	0.08	0.04	0.23	0.85
<b>Interaction (P×G)</b>					
T <sub>1</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	7.73	3.84	2.4	11.63	43.05
T <sub>2</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	6.88	3.23	1.67	10.96	38.24
T <sub>3</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	7.31	3.54	2.04	11.3	40.65
T <sub>4</sub> (P <sub>1</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	5.51	2.71	1.15	9.67	32.45
T <sub>5</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	8.01	5.21	2.64	11.85	44.65
T <sub>6</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	7.15	3.42	1.9	11.17	39.83
T <sub>7</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	7.6	3.74	2.27	11.51	42.38
T <sub>8</sub> (P <sub>2</sub> G <sub>4</sub> )	6.77	3.15	1.55	10.85	37.56
T <sub>9</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>1</sub> )	7.85	5.09	2.5	11.72	43.83
T <sub>10</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>2</sub> )	7.03	3.34	1.8	11.08	39.05
T <sub>11</sub> (P <sub>3</sub> G <sub>3</sub> )	7.49	3.66	2.15	11.4	41.71

<b>T<sub>12</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	6.61	3.04	1.44	10.75	36.65
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.74</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>1.47</b>

**Table 4: Effect of different levels of pruning height and growth regulators on yield parameters in Ixora (*Ixora coccinea* L.). Cv. Red**

Treatment	Number of flower heads (plant <sup>-1</sup> )	Number of florets (flower head <sup>-1</sup> )	Fresh weight of single flower head (g)	Flower yield plant <sup>-1</sup> (g)
<b>Pruning height (P)</b>				
<b>P<sub>1</sub></b>	33.64	39.68	6.66	225.00
<b>P<sub>2</sub></b>	34.50	44.06	7.46	259.39
<b>P<sub>3</sub></b>	33.87	41.54	7.07	240.56
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>2.22</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>4.45</b>
<b>Growth regulators (G)</b>				
<b>G<sub>1</sub></b>	35.38	50.33	8.47	300.15
<b>G<sub>2</sub></b>	33.54	38.83	6.63	222.65
<b>G<sub>3</sub></b>	34.17	44.22	7.54	258.83
<b>G<sub>4</sub></b>	32.92	33.66	5.61	184.97
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>2.57</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>5.14</b>
<b>Interaction (P×G)</b>				
<b>T<sub>1</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	34.59	47.53	8.10	280.17
<b>T<sub>2</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	33.32	37.02	6.33	210.91
<b>T<sub>3</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	33.95	42.33	7.22	245.11
<b>T<sub>4</sub> (P<sub>1</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	32.70	31.87	5.01	163.82
<b>T<sub>5</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	36.73	54.18	9.01	330.93
<b>T<sub>6</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	33.76	40.61	6.94	234.29
<b>T<sub>7</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	34.40	45.96	7.84	270.58
<b>T<sub>8</sub> (P<sub>2</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	33.13	35.49	6.07	201.76
<b>T<sub>9</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>1</sub>)</b>	34.82	49.29	8.31	289.35

<b>T<sub>10</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>2</sub>)</b>	33.55	38.87	6.64	222.77
<b>T<sub>11</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>3</sub>)</b>	34.18	44.37	7.58	260.80
<b>T<sub>12</sub> (P<sub>3</sub> G<sub>4</sub>)</b>	32.93	33.63	5.75	189.34
<b>S.Ed</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>4.45</b>
<b>C.D (p=0.05)</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>8.91</b>