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Field evaluation of *Celosia cristata* and *Celosia plumosa* for growth and flowering parameters

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Abstract

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the two species of the cockscomb in North Karnataka conditions for growth and flowering parameters in *Rabi* and summer season. Twenty genotypes of celosia were used for the study. The experiment was conducted in Floriculture and Landscape Architecture department of Kittur Rani Chennamma College of Horticulture, Arabhavi. The experiment was laid out in Randomized complete block design (RCBD) and each treatment was replicated twice. Here maximum plant height (61.15 cm and 65.41 cm), number of leaves (142.30 and 145.75) was observed in *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Gold in both seasons. Maximum leaf length was found in *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Gold (145.75) recorded maximum results. Maximum leaf area was recorded in G₅ (2701.88 cm²) during Rabi and G₂ (2633.37 cm²) in summer. However, *Celosia plumosa* var. Kimono Rose took minimum days (5.60 and 5.85 days during *Rabi* and summer season) for first flowering, maximum days for fifty per cent flowering took by *Celosia plumosa* var. Kimono Red (13.70 days and 13.82 days) in *Rabi* and summer season. Whereas, *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Carmine (72.85 days and 73.84 days) and Chief Fire (74.40 days and 75.05 days) recorded maximum days taken for fifty percent senescence of flowers during Rabi and summer season.

Keywords: Celosia cristata, Celosia plumosa, treatment, randomized complete block design, genotypes

Introduction

The response of different parameters in any crop depends upon several factors like variety, environmental conditions, soil fertility, topography, water quality, cultural practices used and incidence of pest and diseases. Among various factors, selection of a suitable variety is most important to select the appropriate variety for the right environment as this decision is one of the first steps to maximizing yields. Each variety has specific strengths and weaknesses that make it more or less suited for a given environment. On the other hand, the performance of any crop species differs from one region to another under a given set of agro-climatic conditions. Even though, the cultivars are grown under identical conditions, genetic factor of the plants may express the morphological differences. By considering all these points in mind, the celosia cultivars were evaluated during the year 2020-2022 under open condition in two seasons, *i.e.*, in rabi and summer season.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted at Kittur rani Chennamma College of horticulture, Arabhavi in Karnataka state. Twenty genotypes of Celosia were evaluated during the study. Among the twenty genotypes, twelve genotypes belong to the species *Celosia cristata* and other eight belongs to the species *Celosia plumosa*. Twenty genotypes depicted in Table no. 1. The experiment was laid out in Randomized complete block design with two replications and 45*30 cm spacing.

Results and Discussion

Here, maximum plant height was observed in *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Gold (61.15 cm), which was showing on par result with other genotypes. *i.e.*, *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Carmine (61.02 cm) and *Celosia cristata* var. Chief Fire (58.24 cm). Among *Celosia plumosa*, highest plant height was observed in Century Salmon pink (35.88 cm) and Century yellow (34.75 cm). Whereas, the lowest plant height (10.90 cm) was observed in *Celosia plumosa* var. Kimono Cream during Rabi season.

At summer season, the plant height recorded maximum plant height in Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold (65.41 cm). Whereas, lowest in Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream (10.75 cm) respectively. Such a range of variability of plant height among the varieties might be due to inherent genetic factors and morphological adaptations of the varieties to the microclimate, growing environmental conditions, production technology and cultural practices. The increased plant height of the cristata genotypes due to rapid cell division and elongation during the tender growth stage (Sharova et al., 1977)^[17]. This variation in plant height due to the fact that, the plant height being genetically controlled factor. Similar results was made by earlier researcher Poornima et al. (2006) ^[13] in China aster, Ashwini et al. (2019) ^[2] in gomphrena, Dilta et al. (2005)^[4] in chrysanthemum, Kulkarni and Reddy (2004)^[6] in chrysanthemum.

With respect to number of leaves at 60 days after transplanting, Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold (142.30) recorded maximum number of leaves, which was statistically on par with the genotypes Chief Carmine and Chief Fire (137.22 and 134.77), lowest was recorded in G₁₉ (14.40). Among plumosa genotypes, it was found maximum in Century Pink (106.40) during rabi season, whereas at summers season, Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold (145.75) was found maximum and minimum was found in Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink (15.25). The variations recorded with respect to number of leaves are due to genetic and environmental factors. Leaves are the prime functional units of photosynthesis. Main function of the leaves is to produce food for the plants by photosynthesis. So this can greatly influence the growth, quality and yield of the crops. Similar results according to the number of leaves was recorded in marigold by Singh and Misra (2008) [19], Raghuvanshi and Sharma (2011)^[14], Pal and Kumar (2010)^[12] in marigold and Zosiamilana *et al.* (2013)^[22] in China aster.

In case of leaf length, during Rabi season, at 60 DAT, maximum leaf length was found in Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple (15.73 cm) which was on par with G_6 (14.50 cm) and G₇ (14.40 cm) followed by G₃ (12.28 cm) and lowest value was found in G₁₇ (2.80 cm), whereas, in summer season at 60 DAT, G₂ (16.90 cm) was recorded maximum leaf length followed by G₇ (13.69 cm) and G₃ (13.43 cm), lowest leaf length was recorded in G₁₇ (2.93 cm). In Rabi planting, leaf breadth was recorded maximum in G₂ (5.21 cm), this was followed by Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire (4.38 cm) and Chief Carmine (4.23 cm). However minimum leaf breadth was recorded in Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink (2.58 cm). While during summer season at 60 DAT, it was noticed that, maximum leaf breadth was seen in G₂ (5.37 cm) and this was followed by G_6 (4.46 cm), G_5 (4.39 cm) and G_7 (4.14 cm), while least leaf breadth was recorded in G_{10} (2.64 cm). The differences in leaf characters could be attributed to the genetic makeup of the cultivars by (Rajivkumar and Yadav, 2013 and Anand et al., 2013)^[16, 1], (Kumar et al., 2014)^[7] in gerbera.

In case of leaf area, at 60 DAT, maximum leaf area was recorded in G_5 (2701.88 cm²), this was on par with G_6 (2682.94 cm²) and G_2 (2600.06 cm²). This was followed by G_7 (2321.89 cm²) and G_8 (2023.73 cm²). Whereas, leaf area was recorded minimum in G_{20} (259.29 cm²) in *Rabi* season. At 60 DAT, maximum leaf area was recorded in G_2 (2633.37 cm²) followed by G_5 (2509.47 cm²), G_6 (2441.74 cm²) and G_7 (2350.98 cm²). While, minimum was recorded in G_{20} (246.04 cm²) during summer season. Similar results due to season

have been reported by Zosiamilana *et al.* (2013) ^[22] in China aster and this variation might be due to tendency of genotype to produce number of branches and leaves per plant that indirectly increase the leaf area of the plant. Vikas *et al.* (2011) ^[21] and Dhane and Nimbalkar (2002) ^[3] reported similar result in dahlia.

However, it was shown that, the maximum leaf area index was recorded in Chief Carmine variety (1.60) of *cristata* series and it was on par with other varieties also *i.e.*, Chief Fire (1.59) and Armor Purple (1.54) followed by Chief Gold (1.37). The minimum value of leaf area index was examined in Glorious Yellow (0.15) variety of *plumosa* series in Rabi season. Whereas, during summer season maximum leaf area index was observed in Armor Purple (1.56). This was followed by Chief Carmine (1.48) and Chief Fire (1.44). Lowest value was recorded in *Celosia plumosa* var. Glorious Yellow (0.15).

The variety Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose took minimum days (5.60 and 5.85 days during Rabi and summer season) for first flowering and this was on par with the variety Kimono Red, Glorious Pink, Kimono Cream, Glorious Yellow., while, the maximum days for first flowering (23.90 and 24.50 days) were taken by Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon. The difference among the cultivars with respect to days to first flowering might be due to varietal differences and their interactions with the prevailing environmental conditions as reported by Rajivkumar and Bidyut (2012)^[15], Shruthi and Gajbhiye (2012)^[18], Rajivkumar and Yadav (2013)^[16], Kankana and Madhumita (2014)^[5] and Lagamanna et al. (2015)^[8] in gerbera. The appearance of first flower helps to determine the earliness or late flowering habit of different genotypes, which in turn serves in determining the availability of flowers at a speculated time. And among the two seasons summer planting resulted in early flowering. These findings are similar with the findings reported earlier in marigold by Mohanty *et al.* (2002) ^[11], Singh and Misra (2008) ^[19], Maheshwar (1977) ^[10] in China aster and Singh and Misra (2008)^[19] in China aster.

The varieties Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose (14.10 days and 14.74 days), Kimono Red (13.70 days and 13.82 days), Kimono Cream (16.20 days and 16.56 days), Kimono Orange (17.30 days and 17.91 days), Glorious Pink (16.00 days and 17.43 days) and Glorious Yellow (16.00 days and 16.76 days) took minimum days for fifty percent flowering during Rabi and summer seasons. Whereas, maximum days taken for fifty percent flowering were recorded by genotypes Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine (43.80 days and 44.16 days) and Chief Fire (42.60 days and 43.09 days). The difference in days taken for fifty percent flowering was due to genetic trait. Similar findings with respect to this parameter were earlier reported by Suvija *et al.* (2016) ^[23] in chrysanthemum, Raghuvanshi and Sharma (2011)^[14] in French marigold and Ashwini et al. (2019)^[2] in gomphrena. The findings also related with the findings of in chrysanthemum, Singh and Misra (2008)^[19] in marigold.

Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine (72.85 days and 73.84 days) and Chief Fire (74.40 days and 75.05 days) recorded maximum days taken for fifty percent senescence of flowers during Rabi and summer season. The increased number of days to fifty percent flower senescence on the plant could be attributed to genetic change of the plant and also due to presence of highest number of leaves per plant, which supply photo assimilates to the flower petals there by delayed the

flower senescence. The results are in conformity with the findings of Shruthi and Gajbhiye (2012)^[18] and Kankana and Madhumita (2014)^[5] in gerbera. And the variations in number of flowers per plant might be due to heredity traits of the varieties. Differences in photosynthesis efficacy of

varieties may have influenced food accumulation leading to better plant growth and eventually higher number of flowers per plant (Sunitha *et al.*, 2007) ^[20]. This might also have increased due to increase in number of branches per plant (Laishram *et al.*, 2013) ^[9].

Table 1: Treatments	used i	in the	study
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G1	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple
G ₃	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red
G4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold
G ₈	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon
G9	Celosía plumosa var. Century Red
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose
G16	Celosía plumosa var. Kimono Red
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow

		N
T1	Ti	T1 N
T2	T ₂	T2
T3	T3	T3
T4	T4	T4
Τs	Ts	Τs
Tí	Tí	T ₆
T 7	T 7	T 7
Ts	Ts	Ts
T9	T9	T9
T10	T10	T10
T11	T11	T11
T12	T12	T12
T13	T13	T13
T14	T14	T14
T15	T 15	T15
T16	T16	T16
T17	T 17	T 17
T18	T18	T18
T19	T19	T19
30 cm T20	T20	T20
+		

Fig 1: Experimental Layout

		6 11	0		
a		Plant height (cm)		Number of leaves	
Genotype No.	Genotypes	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)	Rabi (2020-2021)	Summer (2021)
110.		60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT
G1	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange	16.28	17.19	34.70	35.15
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple	20.80	22.80	35.70	35.75
G ₃	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red	15.73	17.60	36.40	37.15
G4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow	14.41	13.43	26.70	27.35
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine	61.02	60.69	137.22	114.60
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire	58.24	57.38	134.77	116.70
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold	61.15	65.41	142.30	145.75
G8	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon	46.77	47.13	85.00	86.05
G9	Celosia plumosa var. Century Red	33.33	34.38	49.50	50.25
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink	30.54	31.51	106.40	100.45
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose	31.74	32.88	40.60	41.60
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink	35.88	36.95	42.60	43.30
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow	34.75	35.82	49.70	50.70
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy	33.00	33.60	52.30	52.85
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose	13.93	14.03	15.00	15.80
G16	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Red	17.07	17.28	20.70	21.15
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream	10.90	10.75	18.00	18.50
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange	18.95	19.19	22.30	23.20
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink	14.33	14.52	14.40	15.25
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow	11.17	11.75	15.70	15.95
	S.Em.±	1.09	1.04	3.54	3.55
	C.D. @ 5%	3.24	3.10	10.50	10.52

Table 2: Plant height and number of leaves of different genotypes of Celosia during different seasons (Rabi and Summer)

Table 3: Leaf length and leaf breadth of different genotypes of Celosia during different seasons (*Rabi* and Summer)

<i>a</i>		Leaf length (cm)		Leaf brea	dth (cm)
Genotype No.	Genotypes	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)	Rabi (2020-2021)	Summer (2021)
190.		60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT
Gı	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange	7.75	8.66	3.10	3.16
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple	15.73	16.90	5.21	5.37
G ₃	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red	12.28	13.43	3.61	3.56
G4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow	8.76	10.00	3.01	3.40
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine	9.77	10.33	4.23	4.39
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire	14.50	11.79	4.38	4.46
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold	14.40	13.69	4.16	4.14
G ₈	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon	9.95	10.12	3.66	3.95
G9	Celosia plumosa var. Century Red	11.79	11.91	2.75	3.19
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink	11.00	10.38	2.58	2.64
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose	10.64	10.90	2.53	2.86
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink	10.53	10.97	2.69	2.80
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow	9.19	9.39	3.60	3.27
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy	10.06	10.54	2.97	3.14
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose	4.34	4.72	3.24	3.24
G16	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Red	4.19	3.69	3.10	3.13
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream	2.80	2.93	3.15	3.27
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange	5.11	5.43	3.27	3.49
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink	4.89	5.55	2.77	2.68
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow	4.51	5.78	2.32	2.85
	S.Em.±	0.46	0.52	0.21	0.14
	C.D. @ 5%	1.37	1.54	0.64	0.41

C		Leaf area (cm ²)		Leaf area index	
Genotype No.	Genotypes	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)	Rabi (2020-2021)	Summer (2021)
110.		60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT	60 DAT
G1	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange	1064.43	1130.52	0.63	0.67
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple	2600.06	2633.37	1.54	1.56
G ₃	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red	1519.34	1766.21	0.90	1.05
G_4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow	459.95	462.08	0.27	0.27
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine	2701.88	2509.47	1.60	1.48
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire	2682.94	2441.74	1.59	1.44
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold	2321.89	2350.98	1.37	1.39
G8	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon	2023.73	2008.21	1.20	1.19
G9	Celosia plumosa var. Century Red	1508.28	1498.77	0.89	0.89
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink	1297.11	1258.68	0.77	0.74
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose	1171.14	1306.85	0.69	0.77
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink	1478.04	1486.73	0.87	0.88
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow	1555.15	1565.83	0.92	0.93
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy	1706.04	1682.34	1.01	1.00
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose	424.54	475.72	0.25	0.28
G16	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Red	434.24	519.58	0.26	0.31
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream	293.58	279.36	0.17	0.17
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange	339.24	459.58	0.20	0.27
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink	307.84	264.96	0.18	0.16
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow	259.29	246.04	0.15	0.15
	S.Em.±	94.32	32.38	0.05	0.01
	C.D. @ 5%	279.21	95.86	0.16	0.05

Table 4: Leaf area and leaf area index of different genotypes of Celosia during different seasons (Rabi and Summer)

 Table 5: Number of days taken for first flowering and fifty percent flowering of different genotypes of Celosia during different seasons (Rabi and Summer)

Construe N-	Comotomore	Number of days taken for first flowering		Days taken for 50% flowering	
Genotype No.	Genotypes	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)
G 1	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange	16.40	16.75	25.60	26.39
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple	14.30	14.45	30.40	31.01
G3	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red	17.10	17.65	23.50	23.86
G4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow	14.70	17.40	23.00	24.05
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine	19.90	20.95	43.80	44.16
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire	20.30	21.00	42.60	43.09
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold	21.10	21.70	42.20	42.61
G8	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon	23.90	24.50	43.10	43.51
G9	Celosia plumosa var. Century Red	16.90	18.10	31.10	31.73
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink	18.00	18.75	29.90	30.03
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose	20.80	21.75	31.50	31.72
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink	19.20	20.20	32.00	32.32
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow	20.60	21.05	32.60	32.73
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy	11.20	11.20	19.80	20.14
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose	5.60	5.85	14.10	14.74
G16	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Red	6.80	6.95	13.70	13.82
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream	8.10	8.70	16.20	16.56
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange	9.70	10.00	17.30	17.91
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink	6.80	7.10	16.00	17.43
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow	8.50	8.85	16.00	16.76
	S.Em±	1.31	1.30	1.32	1.39
	C.D. @ 5%	3.89	3.86	3.91	4.11

Table 6: Number of days taken for fifty percent senescence of flowers of different genotypes of Celosia during different seasons (*Rabi* and Summer)

		Days taken for 50% senescence of flowers		
Genotype No.	Genotypes	Rabi (2020-21)	Summer (2021)	
G1	Celosia cristata var. Armor Orange	54.00	54.00	
G ₂	Celosia cristata var. Armor Purple	69.00	69.70	
G ₃	Celosia cristata var. Armor Red	52.30	53.10	
G_4	Celosia cristata var. Armor Yellow	49.30	50.12	
G5	Celosia cristata var. Chief Carmine	72.85	73.84	
G ₆	Celosia cristata var. Chief Fire	74.40	75.05	
G7	Celosia cristata var. Chief Gold	69.90	71.35	
G ₈	Celosia cristata var. Chief Persimmon	68.00	68.53	
G9	Celosia plumosa var. Century Red	61.30	61.68	
G10	Celosia plumosa var. Century Pink	59.60	59.91	
G11	Celosia plumosa var. Century Rose	61.80	62.17	
G12	Celosia plumosa var. Century Salmon Pink	60.70	61.02	
G13	Celosia plumosa var. Century Yellow	60.00	60.56	
G14	Celosia plumosa var. Century Apricot Brandy	55.80	56.41	
G15	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Rose	31.90	32.02	
G16	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Red	31.40	31.64	
G17	Celosia plumosa var. Kimono Cream	30.20	30.61	
G18	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Orange	31.90	32.54	
G19	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Pink	31.50	32.16	
G20	Celosia plumosa var. Glorious Yellow	31.00	31.46	
	S.Em±	0.71	0.77	
	C.D. @ 5%	2.12	2.29	

Conclusion

Among eight genotypes of *Celosia cristata*- Chief Carmine, Chief Fire, Chief Gold and among twelve genotypes of *Celosia plumosa*- Century Red, Century Pink and Century Yellow was best suited for Northern Karnataka conditions based on the growth and flowering parameters.

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