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# Effect of pruning time and level on flowering and fruit set of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Lalit

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#### Abstract

Experiments were conducted on pruning time and level on flowering and fruit set of guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) cv. Lalit at Experimental Fruit Orchard of BUAT, Banda during 2021-22 and 2022-23. The experiment was laid out with six pruning time (last week of December, second week of January, last week of April, second week of May, last week of August, second week of September) and three pruning levels (20% pruning, 40% pruning, 60% pruning) in Factorial Randomized Block Design replicated trice. Among the physical growth parameter of fruit, two years and pooled data showed significantly maximum time taken to bud burst (4.47), time taken to bud sprout (17.59), time taken to flower initiation (30.79), time taken to full bloom (42.67), time taken to end of bloom (47.04), time taken to colour break in fruits (128.30), time taken to fruit maturity (135.50), were recorded in the treatment M<sub>4</sub>P<sub>1</sub> (second week of May with 20% pruning). Maximum final fruit set (56.75) was recorded in M<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub> (last week of April with 40% pruning). Hence, the study clearly indicated the guava pruning in the last week of April with 40% pruning level found best to get maximum flowering and fruit set under the Bundelkhand condition.

Keywords: Psidium guajava, bud burst, bud sprout, flowering period

#### Introduction

The guava (Psidium guajava L.) the apple of tropics is one of the important fruit crops of India (Shukla et al., 2018)<sup>[19]</sup>. It belongs to family Myrtaceae and one of the most promising fruit crops of India (Gotur et al., 2017) [20] and is considered to be one of the most exquisite nutritionally valuable and remunerative crops (Singh et al., 2000). Guava being a current season bearing plant responds favorably to different pruning practices (Mehta et al., 2012)<sup>[12]</sup>. The fruits produced in the rainy season are poor in quality, insipid, watery, insect infested and have poor shelf life (Sarkar et al., 2005) [14]. Contrarily, fruits produced during the winter are superior in quality and are in high demand in the market (Shukla et al., 2009)<sup>[21]</sup>. Therefore, some attempts have been made to induce higher yield in the winter season. As a traditional practice, farmers in some parts of India often practice bending and pruning of guava shoots to increase shoot numbers and to increase yield in the winter (Bagchi et al., 2008)<sup>[2]</sup>. In bending practice, branches are bent down with pressure at the base of the branches to open up the central canopy. Pruning is usually practiced in the summer (April- May) before flower initiation. Studies have reported that the time and level of pruning influence growth, flowering, quality and yield of guava (Singh et al., 2000, Dhaliwal and Kaur 2003, Adhikari and Kandel 2015, Sarkar et al. 2005, Shaban and Haseeb 2009) [1, 14]. Adhikari and Kandel (2015) [1] recommended a light annual pruning after fruit harvest to encourage growth of new shoots in which flowers and fruits are borne. Similarly, Lal et al. (2000) [11] reported significant reduction of flowering and fruiting in the rainy season with pruning of shoots in summer.

#### **Materials and Methods**

The experiment was undertaken at the Instruction farm, Department of fruit science, college of Horticulture, Banda University of Agriculture & Technology, Banda, (Uttar Pradesh) India during 2021 to 2023. Fruit crop guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) *cv*. Lalit was selected for this study on pruning time and level of guava. The selected trees were uniform size and five years old. The climate of Bundelkhand region is chiefly characterized by semi- arid/ tropical region receiving an average rainfall of 800-900 mm of which more than 88-90% in rain occurs during only three months i.e. July, August and September However, June and October receive only 7-9% of total rainfall. The treatment combination  $M_1P_1$ =Pruning level at 20% from the tip on last week December,  $M_2P_1$ =Pruning level at 20% from the tip on second week January,

M<sub>3</sub>P<sub>1</sub>=Pruning level at 20% from the tip on last week April, M<sub>4</sub>P<sub>1</sub>=Pruning level at 20% from the tip on second week May, M<sub>5</sub>P<sub>1</sub>=Pruning level at 20% from the tip on last week August,  $M_6P_1$ =Pruning level at 20% from the tip on second week September, M<sub>1</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on last week December, M<sub>2</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on second week January, M<sub>3</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on last week April, M<sub>4</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on second week May, M<sub>5</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on last week August, M<sub>6</sub>P<sub>2</sub>=Pruning level at 40% from the tip on second week September, M<sub>1</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on last week December, M<sub>2</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on second week January, M<sub>3</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on last week April, M<sub>4</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on second week May, M<sub>5</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on last week August, M<sub>6</sub>P<sub>3</sub>=Pruning level at 60% from the tip on second week September were tested in Factorial Randomized Blocks Design with three replication.

#### Days to taken first bud burst

The period between the dates of pruning time to fruit bud burst was recorded for calculating the days taken to first bud burst.

#### Days taken to first bud sprout

Sprouting of bud sprout was recorded in days from the time of pruning to the emerging the first bud sprout on trees.

#### Days to first flower initiation

A day taken to first flower initiation was the recorded in days from the time of pruning to the flower initiation on the trees.

#### Days to full bloom

A day taken to full bloom was recorded in days from the time of pruning to the full bloom.

#### Days to end of bloom

The period between the date of pruning to time taken for end of bloom was recorded to calculate days taken for end of bloom.

#### Days to colour break in fruit

The period between the dates of pruning to time taken for colour break in fruit was recorded for calculating the days to colour break in fruit.

#### Days to fruit maturity

The period between the dates of pruning time to days taken for to fruit maturity was recorded for calculating the days to fruit maturity

#### Initial fruit set (%)

The initial fruit set counted for both the season and the year, with the mean value presented as the initial fruit set number.

Initial fruitset% = 
$$\frac{\text{Number of set fruit}}{\text{Total number of flower}} \times 100$$

#### Final fruit set (%)

The initial fruit set percentage was estimated using the formula below.

$$Fruitset\% = \frac{Number of set fruit}{Totalnumber of flowers} \times 100$$

#### Fruit drop (%)

By deducting the percent fruit set value from one hundred during two years, the percent flower/fruit drop was computed, and the mean value is shown.

Fruit drop% = 
$$\frac{\text{Total number of fruit drop}}{\text{Total number of fruit set}} \times 100$$

#### **Results and Discussion**

## Time taken to bud burst (days) and time taken to bud sprout (days)

The time significantly minimum time taken to bud burst (days) and time taken to bud sprout (days) of guava were recorded in second week of May (M<sub>4</sub>) followed by last week of April (M<sub>3</sub>). The clearly indicates the effect of pruning through delays the emergence of buds but hastens the post flowering phenophases due to increased source and reduced sink and efficient movement of photosynthesis in the pruned shoots (Salazar 2006) <sup>[13]</sup>. Effect of pruning level showed significant effect on time taken to bud burst (days) and time taken to bud sprout (days) of guava. The significantly minimum time taken to bud burst (days) and time taken to bud sprout (days) of guava were observed with P1 (20% pruning) during two years and pooled data. The earliest vegetative bud emergence in the guava trees which were pruned severely. It might be due to more reserve food materials available to individual vegetative bud (Lakpathi et al., 2019) and more light interception in trees will induce early sprouting of vegetative buds. However, the results are contrary to the finding of Lal Singh and Godara (1985) who observed that maximum number of vegetative bud sprouting was obtained under severe pruning in ber. The interaction among minimum time taken to bud burst (days) and time taken to bud sprout (days) of guava were observed in the treatment combination  $M_4 \times P_1$  (second week of May with 20% pruning) during both the years and pooled analysis. The shoot length increases with up to May pruning and later decrease with delay in pruning time. However, with the increase in severity of shoots length increase Bhagawati et al., (2015)<sup>[3]</sup> and Kumar *et al.*, (2021)<sup>[8]</sup>.

### Time taken to flower Initiation (days), full bloom (days) and end of bloom (days)

The time (significantly minimum time taken to flowers initiation (days), time taken to full bloom (days) and time taken to end of bloom (days) of guava were recorded with the second week of May (M<sub>4</sub>) followed by last week of April (M<sub>3</sub>) during first year, second year and pooled data. Our results agree with Dubey et al., (2004) [6] who reported that the time and duration of flowering are varietal characters influenced by climatic conditions of a particular region. Results indicated that significantly minimum time taken to flowers initiation (days), time taken to full bloom (days) and time taken to end of bloom (days) of guava were observed P<sub>1</sub> (20% pruning) during both the years and pooled analysis. Sawant et al., (2018) <sup>[15]</sup> recorded could be due to the reduction of leaf area which also reduced the net photosynthesis and at the same time reserve food was utilized by the tree for the recovery of pruned foliage to rebuild the balance between tree parts, in guava the flower and fruits are born on current season growth, a light annual pruning is necessary to encourage new shoots after harvesting. The minimum time taken to flowers initiation (days), time taken to full bloom (days) and time taken to end of bloom (days) of guava were recorded treatment combination  $M_4 \times P_1$  (second week of May with 20% pruning) during both the years and pooled data. Similar results were also reported by Singh *et al.*, (2001) <sup>[18]</sup> reported pruning time significantly increases number of shoots and flowering percentage, Sulemman Mohammed *et al.*, (2006) also reported maximum shoot length, number of flowers with 60 cm pruning in rainy season.

## Time taken to colour break in fruits (days) and time taken to fruit maturity (days)

The data indicated that significantly minimum time taken colour breaks in fruits (days) and time taken to fruit maturity (days) of guava were observed in second week of May (M<sub>4</sub>) followed by last week of April (M<sub>3</sub>) during two years and pooled data. Days required for fruit maturation is the most important character for a fruit crop. Bose et al., (2019)<sup>[4]</sup> the lowest number of days required for fruit maturation may be depending on the genetic characteristics of plant or availability of water and essential nutrients. Similar finding was reported by Singh *et al.*, (2014) and Bose *et al.*,  $(2019)^{[4]}$ . The pruning level had significant effect on time taken to colour breaks in fruits and time taken to fruit maturity of guava. The significantly minimum time taken to colour break in fruits and time taken to fruit maturity of guavas were recorded in P1 (20% pruning) during two years and pooled analysis. The time required for maturation of fruit was considered as the time between the withering of the entire stigma on the female spike up to the harvest of the fruit Bose et al., (2019)<sup>[4]</sup> in guava. The interaction among pruning time and pruning level on time taken to colour breaks in fruits and time taken to fruit maturity guava showed significant effect. The lowest time taken to colour breaks in fruit and time taken to fruit maturity of guava days were recorded treatment combination  $M_4 \times P_1$  (second week of May with 20% pruning) during two years and pooled data. Singh et al., (2014) days required for fruit maturation is the most important character for a fruit crop. Bose *et al.*, (2019)<sup>[4]</sup> the lowest number of days required for fruit maturation may be depending on the genetic characteristics of plant or availability of water and essential nutrients.

#### Final fruit set (%) and fruit drop (%)

The data indicated that time had a significantly maximum final fruit set and minimum fruit drop of guava were observed the last week of April (M<sub>3</sub>) followed by last week of December  $(M_1)$  during first year, second year and pooled data. Adhikari and Kandel (2015)<sup>[1]</sup> due to the delayed initiation of fresh vegetative growth in recently trimmed trees, delayed pruned plants commenced flowering later. The majority of the carbohydrates that would have normally formed flower buds may have been used in the trees' rapid new vegetative growth following pruning, which could have delayed the onset of flowering in trimmed trees Dhaliwal and Singh (2004). Effect of pruning level had significantly affected on final fruit set and fruit drop of guava. The significantly higher final fruit set and minimum fruits drop of guava were recorded in  $P_2$  (40%) pruning) during both the years and pooled data. However, in the following winter the number of flowers per shoot increased with the increasing severity of pruning resulting in maximum number of flowers per shoot at 30 cm pruning level Adhikari and Kandal (2015)<sup>[1]</sup>. The interaction between effect pruning time and pruning level on final fruit set and fruit drop of guava showed significant effect. The highest final fruit set and minimum fruit drop of guava were observed in treatment combination  $M_3 \times P_2$  (Last week of April with 40% pruning) during first year, second year and pooled analysis. The fruit set percentage decreased with increase in intensity of pruning. The number of fruits is more in early pruning as compared to late pruning. This might be due to the higher fruit setting in early pruning Singh *et al.*, (2020) <sup>[17]</sup>. Might be due to the fact the after pruning the apical shots of the plant get removed leading to early new growth and better availability of photosynthetic solar radiation in leaves Adhikari and Kandal  $(2015)^{[1]}$ .

Treatment	Bud burst	Bud sprout	<b>Flower Initiation</b>	Full	End of	colour break in	fruit	Initial fruit	Final	Fruit
Treatment	(days)	(days)	(days)	bloom	bloom	fruits	maturity	set	fruit	drop
<b>M</b> <sub>1</sub>	14.00	29.44	55.70	70.11	73.89	142.33	147.89	80.00	51.56	48.44
M <sub>2</sub>	12.44	25.78	53.90	67.67	72.44	137.89	145.55	78.11	49.33	50.67
M <sub>3</sub>	6.33	21.67	34.40	48.89	53.00	133.11	139.11	77.33	54.56	45.45
$M_4$	5.22	19.77	32.80	44.56	49.22	130.22	137.22	74.67	51.44	48.55
M5	12.00	26.11	56.70	72.78	78.44	147.78	154.00	76.00	50.11	49.89
M6	15.00	30.00	58.10	76.11	81.33	150.67	155.89	72.89	45.90	54.10
SEm	0.19	0.24	0.20	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.15	0.33
CD at%	0.54	0.69	0.58	0.45	0.35	0.34	0.27	0.63	0.43	0.96
<b>P</b> <sub>1</sub>	9.39	23.17	47.10	61.61	66.06	138.17	144.39	72.22	48.17	51.83
P2	10.83	25.61	48.70	63.50	68.33	140.12	147.05	76.72	52.96	47.04
P3	12.28	27.61	50.00	64.94	69.78	142.33	148.39	80.56	50.32	49.68
SEm	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.16	0.11	0.24
CD at%	0.38	0.49	0.41	0.32	0.25	0.24	0.19	0.45	0.30	0.68
$M_1P_1$	12.33	25.67	54.00	68.67	72.67	140.00	147.00	76.00	50.00	50.00
$M_1P_2$	14.00	30.00	56.00	70.67	74.00	142.33	148.00	80.67	54.33	45.67
$M_1P_3$	15.67	32.67	57.20	71.00	75.00	144.67	148.67	83.33	50.33	49.67
$M_2P_1$	11.33	23.00	52.70	66.00	70.00	137.00	143.00	73.33	47.00	53.00
$M_2P_2$	12.33	26.00	54.00	67.33	73.00	138.00	146.32	78.67	52.00	48.00
$M_2P_3$	13.67	28.33	55.00	69.67	74.33	138.67	147.33	82.33	49.00	51.00
$M_3P_1$	4.33	19.33	32.00	47.00	51.00	130.33	136.33	74.00	52.33	47.67
$M_3P_2$	6.00	21.67	35.00	49.00	53.00	133.00	140.00	77.00	56.33	43.67

Table 1: Effect of pruning time and level on flowering and fruit set attributes of guava (Psidium guajava L.) cv. Lalit (2021-22).

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M <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	8.67	24.00	36.30	50.67	55.00	136.00	141.00	81.00	55.00	45.00
$M_4P_1$	4.00	17.00	31.00	42.33	46.67	128.00	135.00	70.00	49.67	50.33
$M_4P_2$	5.00	20.00	32.70	45.00	50.00	130.67	137.33	75.00	53.00	47.00
M <sub>4</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	6.67	22.30	34.70	46.33	51.00	132.00	139.33	79.00	51.67	48.33
$M_5P_1$	10.33	25.33	55.30	71.33	76.00	146.00	152.00	72.00	46.33	53.67
M <sub>5</sub> P <sub>2</sub>	12.33	26.00	56.70	73.00	79.00	148.00	154.00	76.00	53.33	46.67
M5P3	13.33	27.00	58.00	74.00	80.33	149.33	156.00	80.00	50.67	49.33
$M_6P_1$	14.00	28.67	57.70	74.33	80.00	147.67	153.00	68.00	43.67	56.33
$M_6P_2$	15.33	30.00	58.00	76.00	81.00	151.00	156.67	73.00	48.77	51.23
$M_6P_3$	15.67	31.33	58.70	78.00	83.00	153.33	158.00	77.67	45.27	54.73
SEm	0.32	0.41	0.35	0.27	0.21	0.21	0.16	0.38	0.26	0.58
CD at%	0.93	1.19	1.00	0.78	0.61	0.60	0.46	1.10	0.75	1.67
Where: $P_1 = 20\%$ Pruning, $P_2 = 40\%$ Pruning, $P_3 = 60\%$ Pruning, $M_1 = Last$ week of December, $M_2 =$ Second week of January, $M_3 = Last$ week of										
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April, M<sub>4</sub>= Second week of May, M<sub>5</sub>= Last week of August, M<sub>6</sub>= Second week of September

Table 2: Effect of pruning time and level on flowering and fruit set attributes of guava (Psidium guajava L.) cv. Lalit (2022-23).

Transf	Bud burst	Bud sprout	<b>Flower Initiation</b>	Full	End of	Colour break in	fruit	Initial fruit	Final	Fruit
Treatment	(days)	(days)	(days)	bloom	bloom	fruits	maturity	set	fruit	drop
M1	14.29	29.50	55.86	70.28	75.33	142.78	152.11	83.44	52.21	47.79
M <sub>2</sub>	12.93	27.44	54.45	69.09	74.12	138.54	146.88	80.11	50.11	49.89
M3	7.86	21.43	35.16	49.77	54.20	134.24	139.38	79.11	55.18	44.81
<b>M</b> 4	6.13	20.69	33.11	44.98	51.67	130.09	138.21	75.78	52.00	48.00
M5	12.36	26.49	56.74	73.12	79.12	148.33	155.33	76.67	50.38	49.62
M <sub>6</sub>	15.40	30.44	58.89	77.27	82.97	151.52	158.74	75.50	46.49	53.51
SEm	0.21	0.27	0.20	0.19	0.35	0.15	0.17	0.16	0.08	0.37
CD at%	0.62	0.77	0.57	0.54	1.02	0.44	0.49	0.45	0.23	1.08
<b>P</b> 1	9.94	24.02	47.42	62.34	67.24	139.25	146.33	73.75	48.60	51.40
P <sub>2</sub>	11.71	26.29	49.37	64.17	69.83	141.01	148.55	79.44	53.39	46.61
<b>P</b> <sub>3</sub>	12.83	27.68	50.32	65.75	71.64	142.49	150.46	82.11	51.19	48.81
SEm	0.15	0.19	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.06	0.26
CD at%	0.44	0.55	0.40	0.38	0.72	0.31	0.35	0.32	0.16	0.76
$M_1P_1$	12.52	26.33	54.59	69.20	73.20	140.67	149.67	78.33	50.33	49.67
$M_1P_2$	14.03	30.10	56.00	70.00	75.70	143.00	152.00	85.00	54.33	45.67
$M_1P_3$	16.33	32.07	57.00	71.63	77.10	144.67	154.67	87.00	51.97	48.03
$M_2P_1$	11.80	25.77	52.82	67.00	72.87	137.76	144.33	75.33	46.50	53.50
$M_2P_2$	12.77	27.48	55.00	69.91	74.67	138.75	147.65	81.67	53.60	46.40
$M_2P_3$	14.22	29.08	55.53	70.37	74.83	139.12	148.67	83.33	50.22	49.78
$M_3P_1$	5.17	19.05	32.74	48.00	52.33	132.17	137.66	75.33	52.72	47.28
M <sub>3</sub> P <sub>2</sub>	8.97	21.81	35.85	50.09	54.00	133.57	139.33	79.00	57.17	42.83
M <sub>3</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	9.46	23.43	36.90	51.23	56.27	137.00	141.13	83.00	55.67	44.33
$M_4P_1$	4.93	18.17	30.57	43.00	47.40	128.59	136.00	73.00	50.07	49.93
$M_4P_2$	6.26	21.52	33.37	45.00	51.90	130.43	138.30	76.00	53.77	46.23
M <sub>4</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	7.20	22.37	35.40	46.93	55.72	131.26	140.33	78.33	52.17	47.83
M <sub>5</sub> P <sub>1</sub>	10.83	25.85	55.83	71.83	77.00	146.67	153.00	72.00	48.00	52.00
M <sub>5</sub> P <sub>2</sub>	12.67	26.23	57.00	73.00	79.53	148.33	155.00	77.00	52.47	47.53
M <sub>5</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	13.57	27.40	57.40	74.53	80.83	150.00	158.00	81.00	50.67	49.33
$M_6P_1$	14.40	28.96	58.00	75.00	80.67	149.67	157.30	68.50	44.00	56.00
M <sub>6</sub> P <sub>2</sub>	15.58	30.61	59.01	77.00	83.17	152.01	159.00	78.00	49.01	50.99
M <sub>6</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	16.22	31.75	59.67	79.81	85.07	152.87	159.33	80.00	46.47	53.33
SEm	0.37	0.46	0.34	0.32	0.61	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.14	0.65
CD at%	1.07	1.34	0.98	0.94	1.76	0.77	0.85	0.78	0.40	NS

**Where:**  $P_1 = 20\%$  Pruning,  $P_2 = 40\%$  Pruning,  $P_3 = 60\%$  Pruning,  $M_1 = Last$  week of December,  $M_2 =$  Second week of January,  $M_3 = Last$  week of April,  $M_4 =$  Second week of May,  $M_5 = Last$  week of August,  $M_6 =$  Second week of September

Treatment	Bud burst	<b>Bud</b> sprout	<b>Flower Initiation</b>	Full bloom	End of bloom	<b>Colour break</b>	Fruit maturity	Initial fruit	Final fruit	Fruit
reatment	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	(days)	in fruits	(days)	set (%)	(%)	drop (%)
$M_1$	14.15	29.47	55.80	70.20	74.61	142.56	150.00	81.72	51.88	48.12
$M_2$	12.69	26.61	54.18	68.38	73.28	138.22	146.22	79.11	49.72	50.28
M3	7.10	21.55	34.80	49.33	54.10	133.68	139.24	78.22	54.87	45.13
$M_4$	5.68	20.23	32.96	44.77	50.45	130.16	137.72	75.22	51.73	48.28
M5	12.18	26.30	56.71	72.95	78.78	148.06	154.67	76.33	50.27	49.73
M6	15.20	30.15	58.51	76.69	82.15	151.09	157.32	74.20	46.20	53.80
SEm	0.11	0.14	0.08	0.12	0.21	0.11	0.27	0.25	0.12	0.12
CD at%	0.31	0.39	0.23	0.33	0.60	0.31	0.77	0.71	0.35	0.34
P1	9.67	23.60	47.27	61.98	66.90	138.71	145.36	72.99	48.39	51.62
P <sub>2</sub>	11.27	25.91	49.05	63.83	69.08	140.76	147.80	78.08	53.19	46.81
<b>P</b> <sub>3</sub>	12.56	27.65	50.15	65.35	70.71	142.41	149.42	81.33	50.76	49.24
SEm	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.19	0.17	0.09	0.08
CD at%	0.22	0.28	0.16	0.24	0.43	0.22	0.54	0.50	0.25	0.24
$M_1P_1$	12.43	26.00	54.30	68.94	72.94	140.34	148.34	77.17	50.17	49.84
$M_1P_2$	14.02	30.05	56.00	70.34	74.85	142.67	150.00	82.84	54.33	45.67
$M_1P_3$	16.00	32.37	57.10	71.32	76.05	144.67	151.67	87.17	51.15	48.85
$M_2P_1$	11.57	24.39	52.76	66.50	71.44	137.38	143.67	74.33	46.75	53.25
$M_2P_2$	12.55	26.74	54.50	68.32	73.84	138.38	146.99	80.17	52.80	47.20
$M_2P_3$	13.95	28.71	55.27	70.02	74.58	138.90	148.00	82.83	49.61	50.39
$M_3P_1$	4.75	19.19	32.37	47.50	53.17	131.25	137.00	74.67	52.53	47.47
$M_3P_2$	7.49	21.74	35.43	49.55	53.50	133.29	139.67	78.00	56.75	43.25
$M_3P_3$	9.07	23.72	36.60	50.95	55.64	136.50	141.07	82.00	55.34	44.66
$M_4P_1$	4.47	17.59	30.79	42.67	47.04	128.30	135.50	71.50	49.87	50.13
$M_4P_2$	5.63	20.76	33.04	45.00	50.95	130.55	137.82	75.50	53.39	46.61
$M_4P_3$	6.94	22.34	35.05	46.63	53.36	131.63	139.83	78.67	51.92	48.08
$M_5P_1$	10.58	25.59	55.57	71.58	76.50	146.34	152.50	72.00	47.17	52.84
$M_5P_2$	12.50	26.12	56.85	73.00	79.27	148.17	154.50	76.50	53.00	47.00
M <sub>5</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	13.45	27.20	57.70	74.27	80.58	149.67	157.00	80.50	50.67	49.33
$M_6P_1$	14.20	28.82	57.85	74.67	80.34	148.67	155.15	68.25	43.84	56.17
$M_6P_2$	15.46	30.08	58.51	76.50	82.09	151.51	157.84	75.50	48.89	51.11
M <sub>6</sub> P <sub>3</sub>	15.95	31.54	59.19	78.91	84.04	153.10	158.97	78.84	45.87	54.13
SEm	0.19	0.24	0.14	0.20	036	0.19	0.46	0.43	0.21	0.21
CD at%	0.54	0.68	0.40	0.58	1.05	0.54	NS	1.23	0.61	0.59

Table 3: Effect of pruning time and level on flowering and fruit set attributes of guava ( <i>Psidium guajava</i> L.) cv. Lalit (pooled data for the year
2021-22 and 2022-23).

Where:  $P_1=20\%$  Pruning,  $P_2=40\%$  Pruning,  $P_3=60\%$  Pruning,  $M_1$  = Last week of December,  $M_2$ = Second week of January,  $M_3$  = Last week of April,  $M_4$ = Second week of May,  $M_5$ = Last week of August,  $M_6$ = Second week of September

#### Conclusion

The results obtained in the presented studies showed that among pruning time and level were observed with the treatment combination  $M_3P_2$  (last week of April with 40% pruning). Hence, the study clearly indicated the guava pruning in the last week of April with 40% pruning level found best to get maximum flowering and fruit set under the Bundelkhand condition.

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