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## Correlation studies between transplanting Periods and infestation of aphid, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni* (Gillette) in chrysanthemum, *Chrysanthemum coronarium* Linnaeus

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### Abstract

In order to handle the aphid, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, in Chrysanthemum a field experiment was carried out. The yield was also affected by the low aphid population, which was seen in the crops transplanted during the first week of February (1.40 to 25.78 per 15 cm twig), followed by the third week of January (5.18 to 52.45) and the third week of October (5.84 to 48.48). The incidence of aphid remained between 29 and 36 per 15 cm twig throughout the remainder of the transplanting periods (from the first week of November to the first week of January). Temperature, relative humidity, vapour pressure, and vapour pressure deficit all had a major influence on the pest's variation when taking into account its prevalence and the significance of meteorological elements throughout various transplanting times.

**Keywords:** Chrysanthemum, aphid, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*, transplanting periods, weather factors

### Introduction

The chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum coronarium* Linnaeus) is one of the most important commercial flower crops growing in Gujarat. About 840 MT of chrysanthemum flowers are produced in the Anand, Vadodara, Navsari, Surat, and Valsad districts (Dhaduk, 2004) [2]. A significant pest that attacks chrysanthemums and causes significant losses owing to constant feeding is the aphid, *Macrosiphoniella sanborni*. Plant development is hampered as a result, and occasionally entire plants dry out (Bhattacharjee and De, 2003) [1]. Chrysanthemum virus B and Chrysanthemum vein mottle virus are further plant viruses that are spread by aphids (Chan *et al.*, 1991) [3]. The modification of planting time is a crucial element in today's pest control strategy for avoiding the pest population. The current investigations on various planting periods against the aphid, *M. sanborni*, which infests chrysanthemums were conducted with these viewpoints in mind.

### Materials and Methods

Eight alternative transplanting times were tested against *M. sanborni* on a local variety of chrysanthemum over the winter: the third week of October, the first week of November, the third week of November, the first week of December, the first week of January, the third week of January, and the first week of February. The crop was transplanted at 45 x 45 cm in plots 9 x 4.5 m in accordance with the appropriate transplanting times. Four equal sectors of the layout were separated apart, and each segment was treated as one repeat. On randomly chosen five plants from each sector, measuring the population of aphids on a 15 cm long terminal twig was done at weekly intervals. Chrysanthemum flowers were harvested when they were ripe for harvesting and weighed. After translating the three pickings to tons per hectare, the flower production was tallied for additional statistical study.

The data on environmental physical factors, such as bright sunshine (BSS), wind speed (WS), rainfall (RF), maximum (MaxT) and minimum (MinT) temperatures, morning (RH1) and evening (RH2) relative humidity, morning (VP1) and evening (VP2) vapour pressure, and morning (VPD1) and evening (VPD2) vapour pressure deficit, were correlated in order to study the instantaneous effect of weather parameters on population fluctuation of *M. sanborni*. To determine the link with the incidence of aphids, department of meteorology, week-by-week data on various factors were employed.

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**Results and Discussion**

Except for the crop transplanted during the first week of February, where two peaks were seen, only one peak (Table-1) was seen among the other transplanting times. Crops transplanted during the first week of November had an aphid activity range of 11.43 to 55.43 per 15 cm twig, whereas crops transplanted during the first week of February had an aphid activity range of 1.40 to 25.78 per 15 cm twig.

When crops were transplanted in the first week of November, the first week of December, the first week of January, and the third week of January, *M. sanborni* occurrence started at the third week after transplanting (WAT), but it first showed up two weeks later (5th WAT) in crops that were transplanted in the third week of October. The highest aphid population was found in crops that were transplanted in the third week of October, the first week of November, the first week of December, the first week of January, the first week of February, and the third week of December, respectively. These crops were transplanted in the third week of November, the first week of December, the first week of January, and the first week of February.

The average data on aphid population in various transplanting times (Table-2) showed a considerable influence on aphid activity. The transplanting times varied greatly from one another. Crops transplanted during the first week of February (13.56 per 15 cm twig) and the third week of January (16.28) had comparable populations but with noticeably lower densities. Aphid incidence was almost the same for crops transplanted in the third week of October (25.34), third week of November, and first week of January.

The crop was transplanted between the first and third weeks of December, when the population was larger and the number of aphids per 15 cm twig was 31.41 and 30.68, respectively. They were also on an equal footing with one another. Significantly, the crop that was transplanted during the first week of November had the highest (36.05) aphid population ever observed. Aphid *M. sanborni* on crop transplanted during the third week of October showed a significant negative correlation with maximum temperature (MaxT), vapour pressure deficit morning (VPD1), and vapour pressure deficit evening (VPD2) with "r" values of 0.674\*\*, 0.639\*\*, and 0.692\*\*, respectively. In the crops transplanted during the third weeks of October and December, there was a

statistically significant positive correlation between the aphid population and morning relative humidity (RH1) ( $r = 0.589^*$  and  $0.552^*$ , respectively). On the other hand, a crop that was transplanted during the first week of February showed a strong positive correlation between the evening vapour pressure deficit (VPD2) and the aphid population. With "r" values of  $0.859^{**}$ ,  $0.891^{**}$ ,  $0.839^{**}$ , and  $0.660^{**}$ , respectively, MaxT, MinT, vapour pressure morning (VP1), and VPD2 had a very significant adverse effect on aphid activity in chrysanthemum transplanted during the first week of November. Vapour pressure evening (VP2) in the first week of November ( $r = 0.522$ ); VPD1 ( $r = 0.502$ ) and VPD2 ( $r = 0.601$ ) in the third week of December; and RH2 ( $r = 0.525$ ) and VP1 ( $r = 0.523$ ) in the third week of January all significantly reduced the frequency of pest.

The flower production shown in Table 4 demonstrated considerable variations in the crops transplanted at various times. The crop that was transplanted during the third week of October had the highest flower output of all of the different transplanting times (23.78 tones/ha). The flower output from the crop transplanted during the first week of February, third week of January, first week of December, and first week of January (19.89 to 17.96 t/ha) did not differ statistically from one another. The crop transplanted in the third week of December had the lowest flower output (14.96 t/ha), which was comparable to the crops transplanted in the first and third weeks of November (15.25 and 16.09, respectively).

Very little is known about how transplanting times affect aphid incidence in chrysanthemum crops. However, *M. sanborni*, an aphid, was active on chrysanthemums from October to May, according to Saikia and Dutta (1998) [4]. The second fortnight of December had the highest population. In the current experiment, the maximal aphid activity was seen on chrysanthemums transplanted in the third week of October during the last week of December. On the other hand, minimal aphid populations were found in early seeded crops by Parsana *et al.* (2000) [5] in mustard and Meena *et al.* (2002) [6] in coriander. In the current experiment, an early-sown crop was severely infected by this insect in the first week of November. These variations might result from variations in the microclimate, agricultural ecology, and environmental conditions in a certain area.

**Table 1:** Incidence *M. sanborni* on chrysanthemum in different transplanting dates

Sr. No.	No. of aphids/ 15 cm twig at indicated week and date of transplanting periods																							
	SMW	WAT	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Oct.	SMW	WAT	1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Nov.	SMW	WAT	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Nov.	SMW	WAT	1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Dec.	SMW	WAT	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Dec.	SMW	WAT	1 <sup>st</sup> week of Jan.	SMW	WAT	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Jan.	SMW	WAT	1 <sup>st</sup> week of Feb.
1	43	2	-	45	2	-	47	2	5.33	49	2	-	51	2	2.09	1	2	0.00	4	2	-	6	2	-
2	44	3	-	46	3	11.43	48	3	9.31	50	3	5.69	52	3	10.88	2	3	6.09	5	3	3.38	7	3	-
3	45	4	-	47	4	15.78	49	4	12.99	51	4	7.78	1	4	20.48	3	4	9.68	6	4	8.25	8	4	6.04
4	46	5	5.84	48	5	24.83	50	5	17.68	52	5	11.18	2	5	26.58	4	5	15.68	7	5	12.68	9	5	9.09
5	47	6	11.99	49	6	29.23	51	6	24.09	1	6	21.10	3	6	37.26	5	6	24.32	8	6	19.57	10	6	13.36
6	48	7	17.37	50	7	34.44	52	7	25.79	2	7	28.05	4	7	44.63	6	7	31.64	9	7	27.32	11	7	18.24
7	49	8	23.33	51	8	42.23	1	8	29.60	3	8	38.34	5	8	54.19	7	8	38.98	10	8	32.65	12	8	15.16
8	50	9	29.92	52	9	44.48	2	9	33.33	4	9	48.82	6	9	61.09	8	9	43.17	11	9	39.15	13	9	19.77
9	51	10	34.98	1	10	50.07	3	10	38.83	5	10	56.30	7	10	52.13	9	10	47.48	12	10	28.62	14	10	25.78
10	52	11	43.45	2	11	55.43	4	11	46.49	6	11	63.01	8	11	46.61	10	11	52.45	13	11	21.33	15	11	20.59
11	52	12	48.48	3	12	51.70	5	12	51.01	7	12	58.54	9	12	30.28	11	12	49.34	14	12	15.39	16	12	16.54
12	1	13	33.87	4	13	47.61	6	13	50.67	8	13	44.46	10	13	20.94	12	13	33.16	15	13	9.96	17	13	10.97
13	2	14	23.04	5	14	42.53	7	14	43.50	9	14	27.83	11	14	14.68	13	14	20.68	16	14	5.81	18	14	5.78
14	3	15	18.07	6	15	37.51	8	15	33.87	10	15	19.25	12	15	7.70	14	15	10.86	17	15	2.53	19	15	1.40
15	4	16	13.69	7	16	31.21	9	16	20.21	11	16	9.36	13	16	-	15	16	5.18	18	16	1.23	20	16	-
16	5	17	-	8	17	22.26	10	17	-	12	17	-	14	17	-	16	17	0.00	19	17	-	21	17	-
Mean	-	-	25.34	-	-	36.05	-	-	29.51	-	-	31.41	-	-	30.68	-	-	29.90	-	-	16.28	-	-	13.56

SMW – Standard Meteorological Week  
WAT – Week After Transplanting

**Table 2:** Impact of transplanting periods on population of *M. sanborni* on chrysanthemum

Transplanting periods	No. of aphids/ 15 cm twig
1	2
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	25.33
November 1 <sup>st</sup> week	36.04
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	29.50
December 1 <sup>st</sup> week	31.40
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	30.67
January 1 <sup>st</sup> week	29.89
January 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	16.27
February 1 <sup>st</sup> week	13.55
S. Em. $\pm$	1.01
C. D. at 5%	2.96
C. V. %	8.65

**Table 3:** Correlation studies between incidence of aphid and different abiotic factors

Meteorological Parameters	Incidence of aphid							
	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Oct.	1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Nov.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Nov.	1 <sup>st</sup> Week of Dec.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Dec.	1 <sup>st</sup> week of Jan.	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of Jan.	1 <sup>st</sup> week of Feb.
Maximum Temperature (MaxT)	-0.674**	-0.859**	-0.388	-0.174	-0.445	-0.010	-0.161	0.346
Minimum Temperature (MinT)	-0.509*	-0.891**	-0.427	-0.331	-0.480	-0.120	0.367	-0.142
Relative Humidity Morning (RH <sub>1</sub> )	0.589*	0.055	0.206	0.252	0.552*	-0.030	-0.338	-0.661**
Relative Humidity Evening (RH <sub>2</sub> )	0.483	-0.038	0.014	-0.136	0.322	-0.231	-0.525*	-0.874**
Vapour Pressure Morning (VP <sub>1</sub> )	-0.410	-0.839**	-0.317	-0.226	-0.189	-0.194	-0.523*	-0.361
Vapour Pressure Evening (VP <sub>2</sub> )	-0.086	-0.522*	-0.427	-0.317	-0.103	-0.355	-0.631**	-0.480
Vapour Pressure Deficit Morning (VPD <sub>1</sub> )	-0.639**	0.459	-0.297	-0.341	-0.601*	-0.098	0.023	0.351
Vapour Pressure Deficit Evening (VPD <sub>2</sub> )	-0.692**	-0.660**	-0.250	-0.100	-0.502*	-0.044	0.028	0.665**
Bright Sunshine Hours (BSS)	-0.425	-0.034	-0.026	-0.096	-0.413	0.201	0.169	0.004
Wind Speed (WS)	0.235	0.481	0.317	-0.069	-0.153	-0.168	-0.364	-0.446
Rainfall (RF)	-	0.063	0.382	0.439	0.446	0.048	-0.156	-0.281

Correlation is significant at the 5% level. \*\* Correlation is significant at the 1% level.

**Table 4:** Impact of different transplanting periods on flower yield of chrysanthemum

Transplanting periods	Flower yield (tones/ha)
1	2
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	23.77
November 1 <sup>st</sup> week	15.24
November 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	16.08
December 1 <sup>st</sup> week	18.40
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	14.95
January 1 <sup>st</sup> week	17.95
January 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	19.56
February 1 <sup>st</sup> week	19.88
S. Em. $\pm$ :	0.88
C. D. at 5%	2.61
C. V. %	9.74

## Conclusion

Very less information is available about the correlation of transplanting periods and incidence of aphids in chrysanthemum. However, looking to the results it can be concluded that early transplantation of chrysanthemum would definitely help to reduce the incidence. Here it may be possible that chrysanthemum could escape the attack by early transplanting

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