

Title Evaluation of carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.) varieties under greenhouse condition in mid hills of Uttarakhand

Author D.K. Singh, B. Singh, A.K. Singh and S. Punetha

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Abstract

Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.) is a very important cut flower which belongs to family caryophyllaceae. It is an herbaceous perennial plant growing up to 80 cm tall. The original natural flower colour is bright pinkish- purple, but cultivars of other colours, including red, white, yellow and green have been developed. Carnations are often used on special occasions, especially on Mother's Day and wedding. The flowers are known for their wide range of forms and colours and have excellent keeping quality. Considering the importance of that flower crop an investigation was conducted during the month of January-August, 2011 on evaluation of eight carnation varieties for their yield and quality attributes under naturally ventilated greenhouse condition at Research Station and KVK, Lohaghat, Champawat, Uttarakhand which is situated at an latitude of 29 60'. Longitude of 80 1' and altitude of 1700-1800 m from MSL in Northe West Himalaya. Among eight varieties *viz.* Diana, Aurturo, White Dona, Pink Dona, Soto, Red King, Turang and Dona. The variety Red King was found best with respect to number of branches(8), number of flowers/branch(7.66), fresh weight of flower (8.38 gm), dry weight of flower(2.66 gm) and flower diameter(7.83cm) . Shelf life, an important post harvest quality parameter was observed to be the superior in variety Red King (29.3 days) followed by cv. Turang (22 days) and Pink Dona (17.3 days). The present investigation concluded that cultivar Red King performed best in respect of yield as well as flower quality parameters and found suitable for commercial cultivation under naturally ventilated greenhouse in mid hills of Uttarakhand.