

Cultivation of Gerbera in Polyhouse

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Abstract

Protected cultivation of high-value cut flower is catching up in India. Among different cut flowers grown under protected cultivation, gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii*) is important because of its flower colour, long vase-life and market demand. In tropical and sub-tropical climate, gerbera is grown in greenhouses to produce quality flower. To obtain satisfactory yield and superior quality of flowers, standard package of practices should be followed. In the chapter, suitable technologies of gerbera cultivation in greenhouse including post-harvest care have been described.

Keywords: Gerbera, protected cultivation, cultivation technology, harvest, post-harvest

1. Introduction

Gerbera, also known as African daisy, is a very attractive high-value cut-flower. The genus *Gerbera* L. belongs to the Asteraceae and Carl Linnaeus named it by showing honour to German scientist Traugott Gerber (1710-1743). The place of origin of gerbera is Africa, Asia and tropical regions of South America (Ajinkya *et al.* 2018). Gerbera was first described scientifically by J.D. Hooker and he described *Gerbera jamesonii*, which is a South African species. Gerbera is also known as Transvaal daisy or Barberton daisy. Gerbera is a stem-less perennial herb, dwarf 30-45 cm height and presence of hair throughout. Leaves are 12-20 cm long and 5-7 cm broad. Flower stalks are long, thin and leaf-less single or double type of single or multicolour. It flowers round the year in warm, humid conditions. It takes 2-3 months from planting to flowering. Propagation of gerbera by means of seeds, cuttings of clumps with