



# Impact of Bio-fertilizers and Inorganic Manures on Flower Yield Attributes of China Aster (*Callistephus chinensis* L. Nees) cv. Kamini

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## ABSTRACT

The impact of bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on China aster was studied during 2019-2020 at Horticultural Research Farm, Department of floriculture and Landscape Architecture, College of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (C.G) in Rabi period. The China aster has become one of the most popular garden flowers. Among the colours present in all of the many

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variations are pure white, purple, dark blue, numerous shades of pink, pastel blue, and red. Treatments comprised of 50, 75 and 100% of the recommended dose in combination with bio-fertilizers Azotobacter, Vermicompost, PSB and FYM proved to be the most effective in increasing the weight of individual flower (g), flower yield per plant (g), flower yield per plot (kg) and flower yield per hectare (q). Flower yield per plant recorded significant variations among the different treatments, the maximum flower yield (39.36g) per plant was obtained in treatment T9 (75% RDF +25% Vermicompost +PSB + Azotobacter) which exhibited similar result with the treatment T8 (75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB +Azotobacter).

**Keywords:** FYM; azotobacter; vermicompost and China aster.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

“China aster [*Callistephus chinensis* (L.) Nees] belongs to one of the largest families of flowering plants, ‘Asteraceae’. It’s diploid (2n) chromosome number is 18” (Huziwara, 1954). “The genus *Callistephus* has only a single species *Callistephus chinensis*. Linnaeus named it *Aster chinensis* at first, but it was renamed to *Callistephus chinensis* by Nees. The single species *chinensis* belong to the genus *Callistephus*” (Munikrishnappa and Chandrasheker, 2014). “The name *Callistephus* is derivative from two Greek words: Kalistos, which means most attractive and Stephus, which means crown. It symbolizes purity, love, peace, beauty and passion” (Naikwad et al., 2018). “The colours are varied, including natural pink shades of white, pink, primrose, light blue, lavender, fuchsia, purple, dark blue and scarlet. Kamini variety was derived by crossing two pure lines (AST 6 x AST- 36) and was developed through pedigree method of breeding with the intent of obtaining pink coloured flowering variety for cut flower purpose, which is exceptional to the Local Pink variety” (Huziwara, 1954).

It is native to China has spread to Europe and other tropical countries during 1731 A.D. (Desai, 1967). “The China aster has become one of the most popular garden flowers. Among the colours present in all of the many variations are pure white, purple, dark blue, numerous shades of pink, pastel blue, and red. Aster does not have a pure golden color. Flower with more petals are ideal for use as loose flowers in garlands, buttonholes and veni for hair ornamentation. Aster flower plants are a popular bedding plant in landscape gardening and use as a pot plant, as well as in a mixed herbaceous border and are ideal for window boxes and edging” (Singh et al., 2023; David et al., 2023). The China aster is now widely regarded as one of the most beautiful

garden flowers (Kirar et al., 2009 and Kumar et al., 2018).

“India's overall floriculture area was 313 thousand hectares 2019-20, with a production of 2865 thousand metric tons of cut and loose flower. In Madhya Pradesh, total area under flower cultivation in 2019-20 was 30.80 thousand hectares, with a total production of 363.83 thousand metric tons of loose and cut flowers” (NHB 2<sup>nd</sup> advance estimate 2019-20).

“Biofertilizer maintains living cells or latent cells of effective microbial strains. When they are spread through nucleoli or dirt, they help crops absorb nutrients through cooperation in the rhizosphere. They promote the active development of microorganisms in the soil, thereby supplementing the range of nutrient availability in a form that plants can easily adapt. The farthest part of the spreading phosphorus stays still in the soil and quickly transforms into something that plant approval cannot reach. In order to accumulate soil nutrient reserves, we increase chemical fertilizers to satisfy the nutritious food of plants” (Marak et al., 2020). The present study investigated the impact of bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on flower yield attributes of China aster (*Callistephus chinensis* L. Nees) cv. Kamini.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was conducted in the Horticultural Research Farm, Department of Horticulture and landscape architecture, College of Agriculture, IGKV, Raipur, (C.G.) during Rabi season of the year 2019-20. The experiment was conducted on China aster with eleven treatment and three replications in Randomized Block Design. The total number of Plants per plot was 35 which were spaced at 30 cm x 30 cm. The seeds of China aster cv. Kamini were sown in pro-trays and kept in germination chamber for proper germination.

### List 1. Treatment combinations

S. No.	Treatments	Notations to be used
1.	100% RDF (Control)	T <sub>1</sub>
2.	75% RDF + PSB + Azotobacter	T <sub>2</sub>
3.	50% RDF + PSB + Azotobacter	T <sub>3</sub>
4.	75% RDF + 25% FYM	T <sub>4</sub>
5.	50% RDF + 50% FYM	T <sub>5</sub>
6.	75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost	T <sub>6</sub>
7.	50% RDF + 50% Vermicompost	T <sub>7</sub>
8.	75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB + Azotobacter	T <sub>8</sub>
9.	75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB+ Azotobacter	T <sub>9</sub>
10.	50% RDF + 50% Vermicompost + PSB+ Azotobacter	T <sub>10</sub>
11.	50% RDF + 50% FYM+ PSB + Azotobacter	T <sub>11</sub>

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Flower Weight (g) of Individual Flower

Effect of bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on the flower weight (g) varied from 1.01 to 1.63 g. The maximum average weight of flower (1.63 g) was found in Treatment T<sub>9</sub> (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB+ *Azotobacter*) which was found at par with treatment T<sub>10</sub> (50% RDF + 50% Vermicompost + PSB+ *Azotobacter*). However, it was significantly different from rest of other treatments. The minimum average weight of flower was (1.01 g) observed with Treatment T<sub>1</sub> control (100% RDF). *Azotobacter* and phosphorous solubilizing bacteria supplied available plant nutrients direct to the plant and similarly solubilizing outcome on stable usage of plant nutrition in the soil provided further nutrition to the plants along with enhanced plant growth furthermore flower yield. The result can be supported by the findings of Agrawal et al., (2002), Panchal et al., (2010) in annual chrysanthemum.

### 3.2 Flower Yield per Plant (g)

Flower yield per plant recorded significant variations among the different treatments, the maximum flower yield (39.36g) per plant was obtained in treatment T<sub>9</sub> (75%RDF +25% Vermicompost +PSB + *Azotobacter*) which exhibited similar result with the treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB +*Azotobacter*). The result showed significant differences with rest of the all other treatments. Similar results were also reported by Gupta et al., (1999) in marigold. Fixation of nitrogen and production of growth encouraging materials like indole acetic acid and gibberellins increased the branches number in each plant. The outcomes are added in with finding of Chaitra and Patil (2007) who

reported that maximum flower yield per plant with inoculation of *Azotobacter* and PSB in China Aster.

### 3.3 Flower Yield per Plot (kg)

Effect of bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on flower yield per plot after analysis the data presented refers that by the applying the different doses of NPK, organic manure and biofertilizer with or without combinations affect the flower yield per plot. The maximum flower yield per plot (1.37 kg) was obtained with treatment T<sub>9</sub> (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB + *Azotobacter*) which was showed at par with treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB +*Azotobacter*). However, it was exhibited significant difference with rest other treatments. "The minimum yield of flower per plot (0.83 kg) were found in T<sub>1</sub> (100% RDF control). Similar results were also reported by Gupta et al., (1999) in marigold.

### 3.4 Flower Yield per Hectare (q/h)

The flower yield was varied from 26.86 to 44.44 q per ha. The maximum flower yield per ha (44.44 q/ha) was found in treatment T<sub>9</sub> (75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB + *Azotobacter*) which was exhibited at par with treatment T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB + *Azotobacter*). However, it was showed significantly differ with rest of other treatments. The minimum flower yield per hawas (26.83 q/ha) observed with treatment T<sub>1</sub> (100% RDF control). Application of vermicompost along with RDF, provided accessible nutrients promptly to the plant and also had solubilizing consequence on immobile form of nutrients in the soil provided supplementary nutrients to the plants as well as amended the physical and biological properties of soil and increase yield. It may also be due to the production of plant hormone by the biofertilizers, which encouraged

**Table 1. Impact of bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on flower yield attributes of China aster (*Callistephus chinensis* L. Nees) cv.Kamini**

Treatments	Flower weight (g) of individual flower	Flower yield per plant (g)	Flower yield per plot (kg)	Flower yield per hectare (q/ha)
T <sub>1</sub> - 100% RDF (Control)	1.01	23.79	0.83	26.86
T <sub>2</sub> - 75% RDF + PSB + Azotobacter	1.02	26.82	0.94	30.28
T <sub>3</sub> - 50% RDF + PSB + Azotobacter	1.03	26.51	0.92	29.23
T <sub>4</sub> - 75% RDF + 25% FYM	1.05	27.15	0.95	30.65
T <sub>5</sub> - 50% RDF + 50% FYM	1.04	26.01	0.91	29.36
T <sub>6</sub> - 75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost	1.07	28.43	1.00	32.10
T <sub>7</sub> - 50% RDF + 50% Vermicompost	1.08	28.30	0.99	31.94
T <sub>8</sub> - 75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB + Azotobacter	1.16	33.46	1.17	37.44
T <sub>9</sub> - 75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB+ Azotobacter	1.63	39.36	1.37	44.44
T <sub>10</sub> - 50% RDF + 50% Vermicompost + PSB+ Azotobacter	1.31	32.09	1.12	36.23
T <sub>11</sub> - 50% RDF + 50% FYM+ PSB + Azotobacter	1.08	28.32	0.99	31.97
<b>SEm±</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>2.59</b>
<b>CD at 5% level</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>5.91</b>	<b>2.73</b>	<b>7.67</b>

root development and resulted variations in rhizosphere, which it turns stimulated the absorption of the nutritious. Increase in the yield of the flower per plant and per plot as well as per hectare might also be due to probable function of *Azotobacter* and PSB through atmospheric fixation, augmented accessibility of phosphorous and its enhanced absorption, improved root development and absorption of nutritious. These results are in accordance with the finding of Sunitha et al. (2005) and Kumar et al. (2009) in African marigold; Panchal et al. (2010) and Verma et al. (2011) in annual chrysanthemum.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The results of the present investigation revealed that the nutritional requirement of china aster could be fulfilled with the exclusive use of different bio-fertilizers and inorganic manures on flower yield of china aster. The majority of the flower yield attributes characteristics of weight of individual flower (g), flower yield per plant (g), flower yield per plot (kg) and flower yield per hectare (q) were found to respond best to treatment T<sub>9</sub> - 75% RDF + 25% Vermicompost + PSB+ *Azotobacter* followed by T<sub>8</sub> (75% RDF + 25% FYM + PSB + *Azotobacter*).

#### DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of this manuscript.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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