

Original Research Article

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Effect of Spacing and Nitrogen on Vegetative Growth and Flower Yield of Asiatic Lily CV. Tressor under Shade Net Condition

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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A study was conducted to evaluate the effect of spacing and nitrogen on vegetative growth and flower yield of Asiatic lily cv. Tressor at College of Horticulture, Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh during the rabi season of 2016-17. Results showed that minimum number of days to bulb sprouting was observed with 30 cm x 15 cm and nitrogen at 200 kg ha⁻¹. The vegetative parameters like plant height, number of leaves, leaf area per plant and total chlorophyll content was recorded highest with a spacing of 30 cm x 15 cm and nitrogen at 200 kg ha⁻¹ both individually and in combination except to leaf area index. The spike yield per plot and spike yield per 1000 m² was maximum with spacing of 30 cm x 15 cm, nitrogen dose of 200 kg ha⁻¹ both individually and in combination.

Introduction

Lilium is one of the most fascinating ornamentals in appearance, beauty, different forms and hues of colours and it is a “low volume” high value crop. Lilium is one of the largest genera of flower bulbs produced world-wide. The genus lilium belongs to family Liliaceae and comprises of 100 species, including many beautiful ornamental species. Lilies are native to Northern - Hemisphere and are widely distributed over China, Japan, Siberia, South Canada and extending upto Florida in USA.

Lilium has excellent keeping quality, fragrance and longer stem which fetches premium price in flower market. It has wide applicability in floral industry, mainly as flower and potted plants. Hence, it ranks fourth among the top ten bulbous cut flower of the world in Aalsmeer Auction market after tulip, gladiolus and narcissus (Anonymous, 1996). They have been long admired for their aesthetic qualities and often depicted as the symbol of purity and regality. In India, lilium is being commercially cultivated in different parts such as, The Nilgiris (Cooner, Kothagiri and Ooty) in an area of around 40 acres (1,60,000 sq.m), Kodaikanal, Shevroy Hills

(Yercad), Kalvarayan Hills (Karumanthurai), Hosur, Himachal Pradesh *i.e.* under Shimla and Kullu condition, North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir *etc.*

Nutrients such as nitrogen play a major role in growth and development of plants (Scott, 2008). Nitrogen as an essential element that improves the chemical and biological properties of soil and thereby stimulates the production of higher yield in plants. Nitrogen is a constituent of protoplasm *i.e.* chlorophyll 'a' and 'b' and nucleic acids. Nitrogen plays an important role in the synthesis of protoplasm and primarily in the manufacture of amino acids to enhance the auxin activities which leads to increased meristematic activities have an important role in maximum vegetative growth and yield (Tisdale and Nelson, 1975). Optimum plant density is another important factor for high plant growth and yield. Spacing between plants is particularly important for the cultivation of Asiatic lily to maximize flower quality and quantity characteristics.

The cut flower trade of Asiatic lily is lagging behind in the local regions of AP, owing to the non-availability of quality planting material at larger scale. Therefore keeping in view the economic importance of the crop, the present study was undertaken with the objective *i.e.* study the effect of spacing and nitrogen levels on vegetative growth and flower yield of Asiatic lily cv. Tressor under shade net.

Materials and Methods

The present investigation was conducted at College of Horticulture, Dr.Y.S.R Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem during 2016-2017. Which is located at 16° 63' 120" N latitude and 81° 27' 568" E longitude and 34m above MSL. It experiences hot humid summer and mild winters. The experimental soil was red sandy loam with good drainage and moderate

water holding capacity with sand 70% of sand, silt 20% and clay 10%. The soil pH is 6.32 and E.C. is 0.18 dS m⁻¹. The experiment was conducted in a factorial randomized block design involving three levels of spacing *i.e.* S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm), S₂ (25 cm x 15 cm) and S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and three levels of nitrogen *viz.* N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹), N₂ (150 kg ha⁻¹) and N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹). Each of these factors was composed at three levels involving totally 9 treatment combinations.

Bulbs of Asiatic lily cv. Tressor with uniform size were used for the experiment. The net size of plot was 3.0 m x 0.6 m, accommodating 40, 24 and 20 plants as per treatments. The field was brought to the fine tilth by ploughing and harrowing. Well decomposed farm yard manure at the rate of 100 kg ha⁻¹ was applied at the time of land preparation. The fertilizers *viz.*, Urea, Single Super Phosphate and Muriate of Potash were taken as the sources of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O respectively. Entire dose of phosphorus and potassium was given basally and half of the nitrogen at different graded levels is applied before planting and remaining dose of nitrogen applied as top dressing at 30 and 45 days after planting to the respective plots. Bulbs of Asiatic lily cv. Tressor were selected treatment wise and planted in the beds on 20th October, 2016. The various observations on vegetative growth, floral, vase life and bulb parameters were recorded on five plants randomly selected from net plot area and tagged. The data collected for all the characters studied were subjected to statistical analysis by adopting 'Analysis of Variance' (ANOVA) technique for factorial randomized block design as suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1967).

Results and Discussion

Data presented in Table 1 and 2 showed that the different levels of spacing and nitrogen significantly affected the vegetative growth

parameters during the course of investigation. The early sprouting of bulbs (12.53 days) was recorded by S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and the maximum number of days for sprouting (14.17 days) was noted in S₁ spacing (15 cm x 15 cm). The minimum number of days taken for bulb sprouting (12.51 days) was observed in N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹) whereas, the maximum delay in sprouting (14.68 days) was observed in N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹). Among interaction effects, the combination of S₃N₃ recorded early sprouting (11.66 days) and it was on par with the same spacing supplied with nitrogen at 150 kg ha⁻¹ (S₃N₂) (11.80 days) while the maximum number of days required for sprouting (15.33 days) was recorded by S₁N₁. These results are in accordance with the findings of Singh and Singh (2005) in tuberose cv. Double and Sheoran *et al.*, (2015) in tuberose cv. Prajwal.

The early sprouting under wider spacing can be ascribed to availability of sufficient space and better nutrient availability to the bulbs. The above results are in conformity with the results of Singh and Kumar (1999) in tuberose.

Shortening of days taken for initiation of sprouting with the application of higher nitrogen may be due to early absorption of nitrogen through the surface of bulbs or by primary roots (Sheoran *et al.*, 2015). These results are in accordance with the findings of Singh and Uma (1996) in tuberose cv. Shringar, Kumar and Singh (1998) in tuberose, Rajwal and Singh (2006) in tuberose and Gangwar *et al.*, (2012) in tuberose.

Regarding plant height (Table 1), maximum plant height (46.08 cm) recorded by S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and the minimum (41.89 cm) was observed in S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm). Maximum plant height (44.89 cm) was observed in N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹) whereas, the minimum plant height (42.84 cm) was recorded in N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹). Interaction effect was found to be

highest in the combination of S₃N₃ (47.07 cm), and it was on par with the combination of S₃N₂ (46.64 cm) whereas, minimum value for plant height (41.06 cm) was recorded by S₁N₁. Similar results were found by Vedavathi *et al.*, (2014) in Asiatic lily (*Lilium spp.*).

The increase in plant height with wider levels of spacing might be due to less competition for nutrients, optimum plant population per unit area and all the plants received proper amount of sun light, aeration and nutrition for maximum vegetative growth (Sudhakar and Kumar, 2012).

The maximum plant height obtained at higher doses of nitrogen on different days after planting revealed that nitrogen had an encouraging effect on plant height as it forms an important constituent of protein, which is essential for the formation of protoplasm thus affecting the cell division and cell enlargement and ultimately leads to better vegetative growth (Sheoran *et al.*, 2015). These results are in confirmation with the findings of Kishore and Singh (2006) in tuberose cv. Single and Das *et al.*, (2011) in tuberose.

Data showed that different levels of spacing and nitrogen significantly affected number of leaves (Table 1). The maximum number of leaves (73.27) recorded by S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and was on par with S₂ (25 cm x 15 cm) (72.28) and minimum number of leaves (63.60) observed in S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm). Maximum number of leaves (71.85) observed in N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹) and was on par with N₂ (150 kg ha⁻¹) (69.51) whereas, the minimum number of leaves (67.79) was recorded in N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹). With respect to interaction, combination of S₃N₃ was found to show the maximum number of leaves (75.00) and was on par with S₂N₃ (74.66) while the minimum number of leaves (61.92) was registered by S₁N₁. The present results are in conformity with the earlier findings of Singh and Singh (2005) in tuberose cv. Double and Vedavathi

et al., (2014) in Asiatic lily (*Lilium spp.*). From the above results, it is revealed that, number of leaves per plant was highest under wider spacing S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm). It could be due to availability of more space facilitating improved aeration and better penetration of light which in turn might have increased photosynthetic activity and translocation of assimilates to growing parts resulting in better availability of nutrients (Ram *et al.*, 2012). These results are in accordance with the findings of Mukopadhyay and Yadav (1984) in gladiolus.

An increase in number of leaves with the application of higher doses of nitrogen might be due to the fact that nitrogen is an essential part of nucleic acid which plays a vital role in promoting the plant growth and number of leaves (Patel *et al.*, 2006). Similar findings were reported by Banker (1990) and Mukopadhyay (1990) in tuberose and Jana *et al.*, (1974) in dahlia and tuberose.

Regarding leaf area per plant (Table 2), maximum leaf area (758.02 cm²) obtained with S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and it was on par with S₂ (750.75 cm²) while the minimum leaf area (670.18 cm²) was observed in S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm). Maximum leaf area (734.72 cm²) was observed in N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹) and it was on par with N₂ (150 kg ha⁻¹) (727.75 cm²) whereas, the minimum leaf area (716.49 cm²) was recorded in N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹). The interaction effect was also found to be significantly superior in the combination of S₃N₃ (767.55 cm²) which was on par with S₂N₃ (759.08 cm²) and S₃N₂ (758.71 cm²) while the minimum value for leaf area (661.44 cm²) was registered by S₁N₁.

More number of leaves and more leaf area were obtained at wider spacing because the plants grow vigorously without much competition for nutrients which might have favoured more photosynthesis for higher yield (Karthikeyan and Jawaharlal, 2013). Similar

results were also obtained by Shiraj and Maurya (2005) in gladiolus.

Increase in leaf area with higher doses of nitrogen application might be due to the fact that, increased photosynthetic ability had positive influence on growth parameters (Rathore and Singh, 2013).

Data shown in Table 2 reveals that different spacing and nitrogen doses significantly affected leaf area index. The highest leaf area index (2.97) was registered by S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm) and the lowest leaf area index (1.68) was observed in S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm). Application of nitrogen at N₃ level (200 kg ha⁻¹) was found to record the maximum leaf area index (2.24) whereas, the minimum leaf area index (2.18) was observed in N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹). Among interaction effects, the combination of S₁N₃ was found to show the highest leaf area index (3.01) followed by S₁N₂ (2.98) whereas, S₃N₁ recorded minimum leaf area index (1.66). Similar results were found by Khobragade *et al.*, (2012) in China aster cv. Poornima and Chandana and Dorajeerao (2014) in gladiolus cv. White Prosperity.

Leaf area index decreases with wider levels of spacing (Khobragade *et al.*, 2012) in China aster cv. Poornima under Indore conditions.

Leaf area index increases with application of higher doses of nitrogen (Chandana and Dorajeerao, 2014) in gladiolus cv. White Prosperity under Venkataramannagudem conditions.

Regarding total chlorophyll content (Table 2), maximum chlorophyll content (50.47) was obtained by S₃ (30 cm x 15 cm) and the minimum value for chlorophyll content (44.43) was noted in S₁ (15 cm x 15 cm). N₃ (200 kg ha⁻¹) recorded the maximum chlorophyll content (49.10) whereas, minimum chlorophyll content (46.46) was registered by N₁ (100 kg ha⁻¹).

Table.1 Days to bulb sprouting, plant height and number of leaves as influenced by spacing, nitrogen levels and their interaction in Asiatic lily cv. Tressor under shade net condition

Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹)	Days to bulb sprouting (d)				Plant height (cm)				Number of leaves			
	Spacing (cm)			Mean	Spacing (cm)			Mean	Spacing (cm)			Mean
	S ₁	S ₂	S ₃		S ₃	S ₂	S ₃		S ₃	S ₂	S ₃	
N ₁	15.33	14.60	14.13	14.68	41.06	42.95	44.52	42.84	61.92	69.86	71.60	67.79
N ₂	13.73	13.53	11.80	13.02	41.92	43.14	46.64	43.90	63.00	72.33	73.20	69.51
N ₃	13.46	12.40	11.66	12.51	42.70	44.90	47.07	44.89	65.88	74.66	75.00	71.85
Mean	14.17	13.51	12.53	13.40	41.89	43.66	46.08	43.87	63.60	72.28	73.27	69.72
	S Em±		CD at 5%		S Em±		CD at 5%		S Em±		CD at 5%	
S	0.11		0.34		0.13		0.40		1.25		3.73	
N	0.11		0.34		0.13		0.40		1.25		3.73	
Interaction (S x N)	0.19		0.59		0.23		0.69		2.48		7.44	

N₁ = Nitrogen @ 100 kg ha⁻¹
 N₂ = Nitrogen @ 150 kg ha⁻¹
 N₃ = Nitrogen @ 200 kg ha⁻¹

S₁ = 15 cm x 15 cm
 S₂ = 25 cm x 15 cm
 S₃ = 30 cm x 15 cm

Table.2 Leaf area per plant, leaf area index and total chlorophyll content as influenced by spacing, nitrogen levels and their interaction in Asiatic lily cv. Tressor under shade net condition

Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹)	Leaf area per plant (cm ²)				Leaf area index				Total chlorophyll content			
	Spacing (cm)			Mean	Spacing (cm)			Mean	Spacing (cm)			Mean
	S ₁	S ₂	S ₃		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	
N₁	661.44	740.23	747.80	716.49	2.93	1.97	1.66	2.18	43.13	47.20	49.06	46.46
N₂	671.57	752.96	758.71	727.75	2.98	2.00	1.68	2.22	44.16	49.23	51.10	48.16
N₃	677.53	759.08	767.55	734.72	3.01	2.01	1.70	2.24	46.00	50.03	51.26	49.10
Mean	670.18	750.75	758.02	726.32	2.97	1.99	1.68	2.21	44.43	48.82	50.47	47.90
	S Em±		CD at 5%		S Em±		CD at 5%		S Em±		CD at 5%	
S	2.52		7.56		0.002		0.006		0.1004		0.301	
N	2.52		7.56		0.002		0.006		0.1004		0.301	
Interaction (S x N)	4.98		14.93		0.003		0.01		0.17		0.521	

N₁ = Nitrogen @ 100 kg ha⁻¹
 N₂ = Nitrogen @ 150 kg ha⁻¹
 N₃ = Nitrogen @ 200 kg ha⁻¹

S₁ = 15 cm x 15 cm
 S₂ = 25 cm x 15 cm
 S₃ = 30 cm x 15 cm

Table.3 Flowering shoots per plot and flowering shoots per 1000 m² as influenced by spacing, nitrogen levels and their interaction in Asiatic lily cv. Tressor under shade net condition

Nitrogen (kg ha ⁻¹)	Flowering shoots per plot				Flowering shoots per 1000 m ²			
	Spacing (cm)			Mean	Spacing (cm)			Mean
	S ₁	S ₂	S ₃		S ₁	S ₂	S ₃	
N₁	40.66	50.00	56.33	49.00	22.59	27.77	31.29	27.21
N₂	45.00	58.66	63.00	55.55	25.00	32.59	35.00	30.86
N₃	51.00	66.00	70.66	62.55	28.33	36.66	39.25	34.74
Mean	45.55	58.22	63.33	55.70	25.30	32.34	35.18	30.94
	S Em±		CD at 5%		S Em±		CD at 5%	
S	0.22		0.67		0.12		0.37	
N	0.22		0.67		0.12		0.37	
Interaction (S x N)	0.39		1.17		0.22		0.65	

N₁ = Nitrogen @ 100 kg ha⁻¹
 N₂ = Nitrogen @ 150 kg ha⁻¹
 N₃ = Nitrogen @ 200 kg ha⁻¹

S₁ = 15 cm x 15 cm
 S₂ = 25 cm x 15 cm
 S₃ = 30 cm x 15 cm

Among the interactions, combination of S_3N_3 was found to show the maximum chlorophyll content (51.26) and was on par with the S_3N_2 (51.10) while the minimum value for chlorophyll content (43.13) was recorded by S_1N_1 .

With the wider spacing and high level of nitrogen, the chlorophyll content was also increased (Ahirwar *et al.*, 2012) in African marigold cv. Pusa Narangi Gainda under Jabalpur conditions.

The data pertaining to the effect of different levels of spacing and nitrogen on flowering shoots per plot and per 1000 m^2 was presented in Table 3.

The graded levels of spacing, nitrogen and their interactions showed significant influence on the number of flowering shoots per plot (Table 3). The spacing level S_3 (30 cm x 15 cm) recorded the highest number of flowering shoots per plot (63.33) and minimum number of flowering shoots per plot (45.55) was recorded by S_1 (15 cm x 15 cm). N_3 (200 $kg\ ha^{-1}$) was best with 62.55 flowering shoots per plot whereas, N_1 (100 $kg\ ha^{-1}$) registered least number of flowering shoots per plot (49.00). With respect to interactions, the treatment combination of S_3N_3 recorded the highest number of flowering shoots per plot (70.66) followed by S_2N_3 (66.00) whereas, least number of flowering shoots per plot was recorded by S_1N_1 (40.66).

Based on the results obtained it can be concluded that, an increase in the number of flowering shoots per plot with wider spacing might be due to less competition among the plants for nutrients, air and light as such more translocation of assimilates to the storage organs leads to maximum flower production.

The maximum number of flowering shoots per plot with application of higher nitrogen

might be due to the reason that, increased flower bearing portion with respect to number of florets on the spike consequently leads to maximum flower yield (Sheoran *et al.*, 2015). The present findings are in accordance with the earlier findings of Singh and Sangama (2000), Kawarkhe and Jane (2002) and Alan *et al.*, (2007) in tuberose.

Regarding number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 (Table 3), S_3 (30 cm x 15 cm) recorded the highest number of flowers per 1000 m^2 (35.18) and lowest number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 was registered by S_1 (15 cm x 15 cm) (25.30) whereas, highest number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 (34.74) was recorded by highest dose of nitrogen i.e. 200 $kg\ ha^{-1}$ (N_3) and lowest number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 (27.21) was recorded by N_1 (100 $kg\ ha^{-1}$). Among interactions, the combination of S_3N_3 was best with highest number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 (39.25) followed by S_2N_3 (36.66) and least number of flowering shoots per 1000 m^2 (22.59) was registered by S_1N_1 .

Based on the results obtained it can be concluded that, an increase in the number of flowering shoots per plot with wider spacing might be due to less competition among the plants for nutrients, air and light as such more translocation of assimilates to the storage organs leads to maximum flower production.

Increase in the flowering shoots with application of higher nitrogen doses might be attributed to increased metabolite transport required for growth (Marschner, 1983). These results are in agreement with the findings of Rathore and Singh (2013) in tuberose.

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