

## EFFECT OF *IN VITRO* SUBCULTURES ON VIGOUR OF GERBERA (*GERBERA JAMESONII* BOLUS EX.)

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**Abstract:** Gerbera is commercially multiplied through tissue culture using shoot tip explant and sub culturing frequently. This method allows for obtaining large amounts of healthy homogenous plants. However, frequent *in vitro* subculture leads to vitrification and reduced vigour in some populations. A study was therefore undertaken to investigate the effect of *in vitro* subcultures on vigour and confirmed that fifteen subcultures can be continuously performed from shoot tip without losing vigour with a span of 45 weeks. If this procedure is followed from 100 shoot tips, an approximately 47000 ready to plantlets can be obtained in a span of 45 weeks without losing vigour and quality. Quality planting material can be obtained at cheaper rate in the range of Rs.10-15 save the grower by 70% on planting material cost.

**Keywords:** Gerbera, Tissue culture, Shoot tip, Sub culture, Vigor

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