RESEARCH ARTICLE

INFLUENCED BY EFFECTIVE MICROBIAL CONSORTIA ON GROWTH AND FLOWERING OF MARIGOLD (*TAGETES ERECTA* L.) WITH GRADED LEVELS OF NPK

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Abstract: A field experiment was conducted to know the field response of Marigold (*Tagetes erecta* L.) cv. Double Orange to liquid formulations of effective microbial consortia with graded levels of NPK on growth and flowering at Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Shivamogga, Karnataka during 2014-15. The experiment was laid out in randomized complete block design with 3 replications and 15 treatment combinations, among 15 treatment combinations, 100 % RDF + *Azotobacter* (T_3) recorded significantly maximum plant height, stem girth, internodal length, number of leaves, leaf area, LAI and chlorophyll content. However, the maximum number of primary and secondary branches per plant was observed in the treatment which received 75 % RD'N' + *Azotobacter* + 100 % RD'P' and 'K' (T_2) and 75 % RDF + *Azotobacter* + *Bacillus megaterium* + *Frateuria aurantia* (T_{14}), respectively. Significantly maximum plant spread was recorded in T_{11} which received 100 % RDF + *Azotobacter* + *Frateuria aurantia*. The plants treated with 75 % RD'N' + *Azotobacter* + 100 % RD'P' and 'K' (T_2) reported significantly maximum flowering duration of 71.17 days over (T_1) 100 % RDF.

Keywords: Marigold, EM consortia, Growth, Flowering

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