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Vase Life Studies on *Dendrobium* Cut Flowers Grown under Different Environment Conditions

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out at orchidorium, Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Centre, University of Horticultural Sciences campus, GKVK, Bengaluru during May 2017. The results indicated a significant influence on Fresh weight of spikes, cumulative water uptake, cumulative water loss and vase life of Dendrobium cut flowers as influenced by growing conditions and varieties. Fresh weight of spikes was observed maximum in var. Mona Red and var. Big White throughout the study. Highest cumulative water uptake (57.40 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (47.07 g). Whereas, it was lowest (18.30 g) in var. Burana Jade (V_6) Maximum cumulative water loss (48.11 g) was obtained under polyhouse condition (G_1) than the shadehouse condition (G_2) (39.68). With respect to Dendrobium varieties, cumulative water loss had showed significant effect. Highest amount of water loss (80.89 g) was recorded in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (76.10 g). Whereas, lowest (22.89 g) was noticed in var. Charming White (V₃). Relatively longer vase life of flowers was observed from polyhouse condition (G_1 (31.38 days) than shadehouse condition (29.08 days). Varieties showed significant influence on vase life of spikes. Variety Mona Red (V_2) and var. Big White (V_7) had longest vase life (40.00 and 40.00 days each respectively) followed by var. Ear Sakul (V_1) (32.50 days). While shortest vase life of 20.83 days was recorded in var. Nopporn Pink (V_8) .

Key words: Vase, Cumulative, Dendrobium

INTRODUCTION

Orchids are one of the most distinctive plants of nature and highly priced in the international flower trade due to their incredible range of diversity in size, color, shape, forms, appearance and long lasting qualities of flowers. Orchids belong to the family orchidaceae, it is the largest family of flowering plants with 25,000 species belonging to 600-800 genera. *Dendrobium* is the second largest genera of orchids which consist of 1,400 species. *Dendrobium* orchids are commercially grown in green house condition, it requires shade with low temperature and high humidity. The performance of any crop or variety largely depends on genotypic and environmental interaction.

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As a result, varieties, which perform well in one region, may not perform same in other region of varying climatic conditions. Hence, it is necessary to collect and evaluate the available varieties under polyhouse and shade house condition to find out the suitable varieties for extending the flower life. Keeping this in view, the present investigation was undertaken to evaluate the performance of *Dendrobium* varieties for extending the vase life of cut flowers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out at orchidorium, Regional Horticultural Research and Extension Centre, , Bengaluru during October 2015 to June 2017 to study the comparative performance of eight varieties of Dendrobium orchid Viz. Ear Sakul (V1), Mono Red (V2), Charming White (V3), Bubble Gum (V4), Sonia-17 (V5), Burana Jade (V6), Big White (V7) and Nopporn Pink (V8) under naturally ventilated polyhouse (G1), and 50 per shade house condition (G2). Fresh weight of spikes, cumulative water uptake, cumulative water loss and vase life of Dendrobium cut flowers as influenced by growing conditions and varieties. The spikes were harvested, when all the florets were fully opened, soon after harvesting spikes were placed in bucket containing fresh water to remove the latent heat. Later the cut ends of spike were cut at uniform length. Such spikes were placed in 500 ml borsil conical flasks containing tap water. The weight of flask and without flower stalk were recorded observation on water uptake, transpiration loss and fresh weight of spikes were recorded at four days interval. Spikes were observed daily till they were found unfit for keeping in vase. Fading of florets was considered as end of vase life of flowers. Vase life was expressed in terms of days from the date of harvest till appearance of fading symptoms.

a. Cumulative water uptake

Difference between the initial weight (on the first day) and final weight (on the last day of vase life) of conical flask plus water gives the

cumulative water uptake of cut flowers and expressed in grams per cut flower.

b. Cumulative water loss

Difference between the initial weight (on the first day) and final weight (on the last day of vase life) of cut flower along with conical flask and water gives the cumulative transpiration loss of water of cut flower and expressed in grams per flower.

c. Fresh weight of spike (g)

The difference between the weight of conical flask + water + flower spike and weight of conical flask + water represents the fresh weight of the flowers and expressed in grams per flower.

d. Vase life (Days)

Vase life of cut flowers was expressed in terms of days from the date of harvest till appearance of fading symptoms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental results revealed a significant variation on cumulative water uptake and cumulative water loss as influence by growing environment and Dendrobium varieties on vase are presented in table 1. Influence of growing conditions in Dendrobium orchid had shown significant effect with respect to cumulative water uptake. Maximum cumulative water uptake of 34.14g was obtained from flowers grown under polyhouse condition (G_1) as compared to shadehouse condition (G_2) (29.29). This may be due to flowers grown under polyhouse had longer and thicker stems it leads to higher level of metabolic activity compared to shadehouse. Similar results were previously confirmed by Mohanty et al.³ in rose and Naik and Kumar⁴ in Dendrobium. Cumulative water uptake had showed significant effect on varieties of Dendrobium. Among the varieties, highest cumulative water uptake (57.40 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V₂) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (47.07 g). Whereas, it was lowest (18.30 g) in var. Burana Jade (V_6). The interaction between growing conditions and varieties was found significant effect on cumulative uptake of water. However. maximum cumulative water uptake (65.04 g)

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was recorded in $G_1 \times V_2$ (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) followed by $G_2 \times V_2$ (Shadehouse x var. Mona Red) and minimum (17.27 g) was noticed in $G_2 \times V_6$ (Shadehouse x var. Burana Jade). These variations might be attributed to genetic makeup and physiological difference among the genotypes as reported by the results of Ramachandradu⁵, Sugapriya *et al.*⁶ and Gopal *et al.*¹.

Influence of growing conditions in Dendrobium orchid had shown significant results with respect to cumulative water loss. Maximum cumulative water loss (48.11 g) was obtained under polyhouse condition (G_1) than the shadehouse condition (G_2) (39.68). With respect to Dendrobium varieties, cumulative water loss had showed significant effect. Highest amount of water loss (80.89 g) was recorded in var. Mona Red (V₂) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (76.10 g). Whereas, lowest (22.89 g) was noticed in var. Charming White (V_3) . The interaction between growing conditions and varieties were found significant with respect to cumulative water loss. However, maximum water loss (85.71 g) was recorded in G₁x V₂ (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) followed by $G_1x V_7$ (Polyhouse x var. Big White) (78.73 g) and minimum loss of water (20.83 g) was noticed in $G_2 \times V_3$ (Shadehouse x var. Charming White). This variation may be due to flowers grown under polyhouse had stronger stems it leads to higher level of metabolic activity as compared to shadehouse. These results were previously observed by Mohanty et al.3 in rose and Naik and Kumar⁴ in *Dendrobium*.

Fresh weight of spikes in vase of Dendrobium as influenced by growing conditions, varieties and their interactions are presented in Table 2 a, b, c and d. On first day of vase period, significantly higher fresh weight was recorded in cut flowers of Dendrobium (16.63 g) grown under polyhouse condition as compared to shadehouse condition (14.64 g). Among varieties, fresh weight was maximum (22.62 g) in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) Viz.18.51g. While, lowest (10.96 g) was recorded in var. Burana Jade (V₆). Interaction

between growing conditions and varieties indicated that, highest fresh weight of spikes was recorded in G_1V_2 (24.84 g) followed by G_2V_2 (20.39 g) and it was lowest in G_2V_6 (10.32 g). Fourth day of vase period significantly increases fresh weight of spike. Highest fresh weight of spikes (17.12 g) was noticed under polyhouse condition (G_1) and lowest (14.93 g) in shadehouse condition (G_2). Dendrobium varieties had significant effect on maintaining fresh weight of spike, maximum fresh weight (23.18 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V₇) Viz., 18.99 g and minimum (10.86 g) was noticed in var. Burana Jade (V_6) . Interaction between growing conditions and varieties showed highest fresh weight of spikes (25.47 g) in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) and lowest in G_2V_6 (Shadehouse x var. Burana Jade) (10.19 g).

On 8th day, significantly maximum fresh weight of spikes (16.81 g) was observed in flowers harvested from polyhouse condition (G_1) and minimum (14.89 g) under shadehouse condition (G₂). Among varieties, highest fresh weight (23.72 g) in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (19.72 g) and lowest (10.58 g) was in var. Burana Jade (V_6). Interaction effect between growing conditions and varieties had showed significant results, maximum fresh weight of spikes in G₁V₂ (25.87 g) and lowest in G_2V_6 (10.12 g). On 12th day of vase, higher fresh weight of spikes was recorded (15.90 g) in flowers harvested from polyhouse condition (G1) and lowest (14.12 g) in shadehouse condition (G_2) . Varieties had shown significant effect, maximum spike weight (22.71 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V₂) and minimum (9.77 g) was noticed in var. Burana Jade (V_6). Interaction between growing conditions and varieties shown significant effect, highest fresh weight of spikes (25.07 g) in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) and it was lowest (9.40) in G_2V_8 (Shadehouse x var. Nopporn Pink).

Sixteenth day on vase period, significantly maximum fresh weight of spikes was recorded (14.51 g) in flowers harvested from polyhouse condition (G_1) than the

shadehouse condition (G_2) (13.01 g). Among varieties, highest fresh weight (21.21 g) in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (17.57 g) and lowest (8.12 g) was in var. Nopporn Pink (V_8). Interaction effect between growing conditions and varieties had showed significant effect, highest fresh weight of spike in G₁V₂ (23.74 g) and lowest was observed in G_2V_8 (7.74 g) treatment combination. On 20th day of vase period, fresh weight of spikes was higher (13.24 g) under polyhouse condition (G_1) and lowest (11.37 g) in shadehouse condition (G_2) . Varieties had shown significant effect on fresh weight of flowers, maximum (18.71 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V_2) and lowest (4.04 g) in var. Nopporn Pink (V_8) . Interaction between growing conditions and varieties shown significant effect, highest weight of spikes (20.74 g) was in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) treatment combination followed by G_1V_6 (Polyhouse x var. Big White)and treatment combination G_2V_8 cut flowers start wilting at 20th day.

On twenty fourth day of vase period, growing condition had significant effect on fresh weight of spikes. Flowers harvested from polyhouse condition (G_1) produce maximum fresh weight of spikes (10.63 g) and minimum in (8.76 g) in shadehouse condition (G_2) . Among varieties, higher fresh weight of spikes (16.04 g) in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (14.07 g) and var. Nopporn Pink (V₈) flowers were wilted. Interaction effect between growing conditions and varieties had showed significant effect, highest spike weight was registered in G_1V_2 (17.40 g), whereas, G_1V_8 (Polyhouse x var. Nopporn Pink) treatment combination flowers were wilted in 24th day. On 28th day of vase period, fresh weight of spikes was highest (5.70 g) under polyhouse than the shadehouse condition. Varieties had shown significant effect on fresh weight, maximum fresh weight of spikes (12.96 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V_2) , var. Charming White (V_3) , var. Burana Jade (V_6) and var. Sonia-17 (V_5) flowers were wilted at 28th day. Interaction between growing conditions and varieties shown significant effect, highest fresh weight

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of spikes (14.04 g) was in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red). The treatment combination G_1V_3 , G_1V_5 G_1V_6 , G_2V_3 , G_2V_5 and G_2V_6 flowers were wilted in vase.

On 32nd day, significantly maximum fresh weight of spike (4.57 g) was recorded under polyhouse condition (G_1) and minimum was observed in (2.47 g) shadehouse condition (G_2) . Among varieties, var. Mona Red (V_2) recorded highest fresh weight of spike (10.87 g) followed by var. Big White (V_7) (8.35 g) and lowest in var. Bubble Gum. Interaction effect between growing conditions and varieties had showed significant variation in fresh weight of spike. Higher fresh weight of spike was recorded in G_1V_2 (11.40 g) and treatment combination of G_2V_1 and G_2V_4 flowers were wilted in vase at 32nd day. Thirty sixth day of vase period, highest fresh weight of spike (2.37 g) was recorded under polyhouse condition (G_1) and it was lowest in shadehouse condition (G_2) . Varieties had shown significant effect with respect to spike weight, whereas fresh weight of spike was highest (8.87 g) in var. Mona Red (V_2) . Flowers of var. Ear Sakul (V₁) and var. Bubble Gum (V_4) flowers were wilted at 36th day in vase. Interaction between growing conditions and varieties shown significant effect on fresh weight of spike, highest fresh weight of spikes (10.47 g) was recorded in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red). On 36th day, treatment combinations with G_1V_1 and G_1V_4 flowers were wilted in vase. On 40th day of vase period, fresh weight of spike was highest (2.08 g) in flowers harvested from polyhouse condition (G_1) and lowest (1.81 g) in shadehouse condition (G₂). Maximum spike weight (7.88 g) was observed in var. Mona Red (V_2) followed by var. Big White (V_6) . Interaction between growing conditions and varieties shown significant effect with respect to fresh weight, highest fresh weight of spike (8.40 g) was observed in G_1V_2 (Polyhouse x var. Mona Red) followed by (8.22 g) in G_1V_7 (Polyhouse x var. Big White) and lowest in shadehouse. This variation might be due genetic characters of varieties and also get more studier and strong quality stems in polyhouse as compared

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to shadehouse condition, the longevity vase flowers might be due to higher levels of accumulated photosynthates. Constant maintenance of fresh weight and gradual decrease in fresh weight of cut flowers is an important prerequisite for extending vase life of any cut flower. Similar variation was previously observed by Mohanty et al.³ in rose and Naik and Kumar⁴ in *Dendrobium*.

Results of the vase life studies of Dendrobium cut flower as influenced by growing conditions and varieties is presented in Table 3. Data indicates that the vase life differed significantly. There was a statistical difference in the vase life of growing conditions. Relatively longer vase life of flowers was observed from polyhouse condition (G_1 (31.38 days) than shadehouse condition (29.08 days). Varieties showed significant influence on vase life of spikes. Variety Mona Red (V₂) and var. Big White (V_7) had longest vase life (40.00 and 40.00 days each respectively) followed by var. Ear

Sakul (V_1) (32.50 days). While shortest vase life of 20.83 days was recorded in var. Nopporn Pink (V_8). Higher vase life probably due to strong genetic makeup of the variety. These results are in accordance with earlier reports of Ramachandradu⁵, Sugapriya et al.⁶ and Gopal *et al.*¹ in *Dendrobium* orchid. Growing conditions and varieties had shown significant difference for vase life of cut flowers. Relatively longest vase life was observed in G_1x V_2 and G_1x V_7 (40.00 and 40.00 days each respectively) followed by G_1x V₄ (Polyhouse x var. Bubble Gum) (35.00 days) .While shortest vase life of 19.33 days was recorded in $G_2 \times V_8$ (Shadehouse x var. Nopporn Pink). This variation might be due genetic characters of varieties and also get more studier and strong quality stems under polyhouse as compare to shadehouse. Similar variation was previously observed by Mohanty et $al.^3$ in rose and Naik and Kumar⁴ in Dendrobium.

Table 1: Cumulative water uptake (g) and cumulative water loss of Dendrobium cut flow	ver in vase as
influenced by growing conditions and varieties	

	Cumula	ative wate	er uptake	Cumu	lative wa	ater loss	
Varieties (V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	37.85	30.25	34.05	54.61	30.09	42.35	
V ₂ -Mona Red	65.04	49.76	57.40	85.71	76.07	80.89	
V ₃ - Charming White	22.26	20.47	21.37	24.94	20.83	22.89	
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	33.82	30.34	32.08	49.69	36.18	42.93	
V ₅ -Sonia-17	27.78	26.15	26.97	35.47	36.47	35.97	
V ₆ -Burana Jade	19.32	17.27	18.30	25.32	22.43	23.88	
V ₇ -Big White	48.86	45.28	47.07	78.73	73.48	76.10	
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	18.21	14.78	16.50	30.41	21.92	26.17	
Mean	34.14	29.29	31.71	48.11	39.68	43.90	
	G	V	GXV	G	V	GXV	
S.Em ±	1.11	2.21	3.13	0.95	1.90	2.68	
C.D.@ 5%	3.19	6.37	9.19	2.73	5.46	7.73	
G ₁ : Polyhouse		G ₂ : Shad	dehouse V: Varieties				

G₂: Shadehouse

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Table 2a: Fresh weight (g) of *Dendrobium* cut flower in vase as influenced by growing conditions and varieties

Fresh weight (g)										
	1 st Day				4 th Day			8 th Day		
Varieties(V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	17.71	14.68	16.19	18.53	15.08	16.80	19.07	15.57	17.32	
V ₂ -Mona Red	24.84	20.39	22.62	25.47	20.89	23.18	25.87	21.57	23.72	
V ₃ - Charming White	14.20	12.89	13.54	14.83	13.30	14.06	13.96	12.57	13.26	
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	16.33	15.90	16.12	16.96	16.24	16.60	16.05	15.84	15.95	
V ₅ -Sonia-17	15.43	15.19	15.31	16.25	15.76	16.00	15.30	15.24	15.27	
V ₆ -Burana Jade	11.60	10.32	10.96	11.54	10.19	10.86	11.04	10.12	10.58	
V ₇ -Big White	20.13	16.88	18.51	20.62	17.35	18.99	21.15	18.28	19.72	
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	12.80	10.83	11.82	12.73	10.66	11.70	12.01	9.94	10.97	
Mean	16.63	14.64	15.63	17.12	14.93	16.02	16.81	14.89	15.85	
	G	V	G X V	G	V	G X V	G	V	G X V	
S.Em ±	0.24	0.48	0.68	0.24	0.47	0.67	0.22	0.43	0.61	
C.D.@ 5%	0.70	1.39	1.97	0.68	1.37	1.93	0.62	1.24	1.76	
G ₁ : Polyhouse G ₂ : Shadehouse V: Varieties										

G₁: Polyhouse

G₂: Shadehouse

Table 2b: Fresh weight (g) of *Dendrobium* cut flower in vase as influenced by growing conditions and varieties

Fresh weight (g)										
	12 th Day				16 th Day			20 th Day		
Varieties (V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	18.07	14.77	16.42	16.74	13.77	15.26	14.74	12.77	13.76	
V ₂ -Mona Red	25.07	20.34	22.71	23.74	18.67	21.21	20.74	16.67	18.71	
V ₃ - Charming White	12.92	11.84	12.38	12.12	11.18	11.65	11.45	10.84	11.15	
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	15.01	15.18	15.09	14.34	14.28	14.31	13.34	13.61	13.48	
V ₅ -Sonia-17	14.93	14.76	14.85	13.60	13.76	13.68	12.60	13.09	12.85	
V ₆ -Burana Jade	10.08	9.45	9.77	8.41	8.12	8.27	8.08	7.79	7.93	
V ₇ -Big White	20.25	17.22	18.74	18.59	16.55	17.57	16.92	16.22	16.57	
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	10.84	9.40	10.12	8.51	7.74	8.12	8.07	-	4.04	
Mean	15.90	14.12	15.01	14.51	13.01	13.76	13.24	11.37	12.31	
	G	V	G X V	G	V	G X V	G	V	GXV	
S.Em ±	0.24	0.48	0.68	0.25	0.50	0.71	0.29	0.58	0.82	
C.D.@ 5%	0.69	1.39	1.96	0.72	1.44	2.03	0.83	1.67	2.36	
G_1 : Polyhouse G_2 : Shadehouse V: Varieties										

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Table 2c: Fresh weight (g) of *Dendrobium* cut flower in vase as influenced by growing conditions and varieties

Fresh weight (g)										
	24 th Day				28 th Day			32 th Day		
Varieties (V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	13.91	11.11	12.51	11.57	8.71	10.14	8.91	-	4.45	
V ₂ -Mona Red	17.40	14.67	16.04	14.40	11.51	12.96	11.40	10.34	10.87	
V ₃ - Charming White	10.12	10.14	10.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	11.34	10.49	10.92	8.68	8.39	8.53	7.34	-	3.67	
V ₅ -Sonia-17	10.60	9.79	10.19	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₆ -Burana Jade	7.41	-	3.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₇ -Big White	14.25	13.88	14.07	10.92	10.55	10.74	8.92	7.78	8.35	
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mean	10.63	8.76	9.69	5.70	5.16	5.43	4.57	2.47	3.52	
	G	V	GXV	G	V	GXV	G	V	G X V	
S.Em ±	0.22	0.44	0.62	0.16	0.32	0.45	0.15	0.30	0.42	
C.D.@ 5%	0.63	1.27	1.80	0.46	0.91	1.29	0.43	0.86	1.22	

G₁: Polyhouse G₂: Shadehouse V: Varieties

Table 2d: Fresh weight (g) of *Dendrobium* cut flower in vase as influenced by growing conditions and varieties

Fresh weight (g)							
		36 th Da	y	40 th Day			
Varieties (V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	G ₁	G ₂	Mean	
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₂ -Mona Red	10.07	7.67	8.87	8.40	7.35	7.88	
V ₃ - Charming White	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₅ -Sonia-17	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₆ -Burana Jade	-	-	-	-	-	-	
V ₇ -Big White	8.92	7.47	8.20	8.22	7.10	7.66	
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mean	2.37	1.89	2.13	2.08	1.81	1.94	
	G	V	G X V	G	V	G X V	
S.Em ±	0.06	0.13	0.18	0.04	0.08	0.12	
C.D.@ 5%	0.19	0.37	0.53	0.12	0.24	0.33	
G ₁ : Polyhouse G ₂ : Shadehouse V: Varieties							

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Table 3: Vase life (Days) of *Dendrobium* cut flower in vase as influenced by growing conditions and varieties

Vase life (Days)							
Varieties (V)	G ₁	G ₂	Mean				
V ₁ -Ear Sakul	34.00	31.00	32.50				
V ₂ -Mona Red	40.00	40.00	40.00				
V ₃ - Charming White	26.33	24.67	25.50				
V ₄ -Bubble Gum	35.00	29.67	32.33				
V ₅ -Sonia-17	27.67	26.00	26.83				
V ₆ -Burana Jade	25.67	22.00	23.83				
V ₇ -Big White	40.00	40.00	40.00				
V ₈ -Nopporn Pink	22.33	19.33	20.83				
Mean	31.38	29.08	30.23				
	G	V	GXV				
S.Em ±	0.16	0.31	0.44				
C.D.@ 5%	0.45	0.90	1.27				

G₁: Polyhouse G₂: Shadehouse V: Varieties

CONCLUSION

Varieties Mona Red and Big White grown under polyhouse has higher vase life might be due its genetic characters of varieties and also get more studier and strong quality stems. These two varieties have relatively longer vase life as compare to rest of varieties.

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