Advancing early flowering in tuberose (Polianthes tuberosa L.) under low plastic tunnel

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Abstract: The studies were conducted on advancing early flowering in two single petalled tuberose cultivars namely; Shringar and Mexican Single due to the bulbs planted under three different growing conditions viz., under low plastic tunnel (planted on 2nd December, 2005), under open field conditions (planted on 2nd December, 2005) and under open field conditions on recommended planting time (planted on 2nd March, 2006). The results obtained showed that the tuberose bulbs planted under low plastic tunnel started flowering during last week of May (26th), which was 44 day earlier to the bulbs planted without tunnel and 38 day earlier to the normal recommended planting time (March) under Delhi conditions in cv. Shringar. The flower quality in terms of spike length (66.88 to 68.67 cm) and number of florets per spike (43.13 to 44.63) was not affected significantly under low plastic tunnel grown crop. The early plantings with plastic tunnels had a non significant effect on plant height and spike length in cv. SHRINGAR and a significant effect in cv. Mexican Single except for other growth and flowering parameters studied. However, the advanced off-season flowering in tuberose will offer higher returns to the farmers owing to an overall increase in total flowering period of the crop.

Key words: Early flowering, Plastic low tunnel, Spike, Tuberose

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