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Effect of different growing media on plant growth, yield and flowering quality of Gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii) cv.* Julia under naturally ventilated polyhouse

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ABSTRACT : The experiment was carried out in Experimental field, Department of Horticulture, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agricultural Technology and Sciences, Allahabad (U.P.) during Rabi season 2015-16. Nine treatments having one cultivar were laid out in Randomized Block Design with 3 replications. Results showed that the growing media containing Vermicompost + Cocopeat @ 4+4 kg, which is Treatment T_8, proved to be the best for maximum plant height (36.95cm), maximum no. of leaves per plant (31.73), maximum plant spread (53.22cm), maximum stalk length (52.77cm), maximum stalk diameter (9.93mm). The similar trend was also noted for flowering parameters like maximum flower diameter (13mm), maximum petal length (4.74cm), lowest no. of days to the appearance of first flower bud and days to first flower harvest (77.33 and 84.67 days, respectively), Vaselife of flower were also found better under the treatment T_8 having Vermicompost + Cocopeat @ 4+4 kg. In case of yield parameters, the same treatment was also found better for no. of flowers per plant (12.66), per m^2 (62.43), yield of flowers (6742.44 flowers per 200 m^2), while T_0 having normal soil as control found for poorest response in all parameters.

Key Words : Gerbera, growing media, naturally ventilated polyhouse, vermicompost, cocopeat.