

Response of Gerbera (*Gerbera Jamesonii* Bolus) CV. Red Gem to Mulching

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Abstract A field experiment was carried out during winter season of 2010-11 and 2011-12 at Experimental Farm, Department of Horticulture, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat to find out the influence of different mulching on growth and flowering of gerbera (*Gerbera jamesonii* Bolus) cv. Red Gem. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) with seven treatments (*viz.* black polyethylene, paddy straw, dried leaves, dried banana leaves, water hyacinth, rice husk and control) replicated thrice. The results of the experiment revealed that black polyethylene produced tallest plant (43.57cm) with maximum leaves (21.86) and leaf area (1152.58 cm²). Flowering parameters like flower diameter (9.98cm), length of flower stalk (43.97 cm), number of flower per clump (45.33), self life (17.17) and vase life (8.18) were recorded highest under black polyethylene mulch treatment in both the years. This study indicates that the vegetative and floral characteristics of gerbera can be improved with the use of black polyethylene mulch.