

Morphological Characterization of Tulip Cultivars at 1587m above Mean Sea Level under Kashmir Himalayas

Nasir Hamid Masoodi ^{a*} and M. Nayeem Sofi ^b

^a *Division of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir Jammu and Kashmir, India.*

^b *Division of Soil Science, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir, India.*

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/IJECC/2022/V12i830715

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/85399>

Received 24 January 2022

Accepted 01 April 2022

Published 06 April 2022

Original Research Article

ABSTRACT

Morphological characterization of tulip cultivars was carried out during 2018-19 at Division of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture SKUAST- K Shalimar with an objective to assess the genetic diversity on the basis of qualitative and quantitative traits of growth, flowering and propagation ratio. Results based on analysis of variance depict sufficient genetic diversity among the genotypes. The variability response for minimum to maximum values ranged (92.00 to 107.00) for days to bulb sprouting after planting (117.00 to 164.00) for days to flowering, (4.70 to 8.20 cm) for flower diameter, (9.00 to 18.00) days for duration of flowering, (23.13 to 72.22) cm for Plant Height (cm), 3.5 to 6.50 for number of leaves per plant, (1.13 to 1.72) for number of bulbs plant⁻¹ and 12.30 to 21.20g for bulb weight plant⁻¹. However minimum days to sprouting 92.00 were recorded after planting resulted with cultivar first Sprout and also maximum days (107.00) were recorded with Royal virgin. Maximum days taken to flowering (164.00) were noticed with La courtine and minimum (117.00) with Royal virgin. Highest values for flower diameter 8.20 cm were recorded with Antartica whereas lowest (4.70cm) with Royal virgin. Duration of flowering resulted maximum 18.00 days with cultivar La courtine and minimum 9.00 days with Royal virgin. Plant

*Corresponding author: E-mail: masoodi_nasir@yahoo.com;

height (72.22cm), number of leaves (6.50) were observed maximum with cultivar La courtine where as minimum (23.13 cm) and (3.5 cm) respectively with Royal virgin. Maximum number of bulbs plant⁻¹ 1.72 & Bulb weight plant⁻¹ (21.20gm) were recorded with cultivar Happy generation where as minimum values (1.13 & 12.30gm) respectively with cultivar Royal virgin. It was concluded that highly significant varietal differences indicated the presence of high amount of variability. This morphological variability delaminated cultivars First proud, Happy generation Purple prince, Royal virgin, Triple A in early group, Antartica, Avenue, Darwiorange, Niigata (mid cultivars) and La courtine as late flowering cultivar.

Keywords: Cultivar; morphology; sprouting tulip cultivars; flowering; variability.

1. INTRODUCTION

Floriculture is an age old farming activity in India having immense potential for generating gainful self employment among small and marginal farmers. In the recent years it has emerged as profitable agriculture business in India and worldwide. Potential of floriculture as a viable agricultural business has been acknowledged recently. It is an emerging business venture having transformed from a domestic activity to a global industry as there has been a tremendous increase in demand and consumption of floriculture industry including cut flower production, live plant propagation, followed by propagation material production (seed and bulb production). Numerous factors like increase in population, growing habits of flower use, upliftment of economic condition and an inherent love for flowers have contributed to the growth of floriculture industry. Consequently, the demand of ornamentals for landscaping of houses, educational institutes, roads, farm-complexes and industrial units has alarmingly increased the basic input for production of these ornamental bulb or propagule. India's share in this global floricultural trade is around \$0.75 billion. The area under floriculture in India has almost crossed 2.5 lakh hectares. Domestic production has increased manifold and the export earnings have gone 2000 crore. Tulip (*Tulipa* sp.), belongs to family Liliaceae. In international market, Tulip ranks first amongst the bulbous crops and demanded temperate ornamental bulbous crop in international floriculture trade [1]. Around 3,000 tulip varieties belonging to 14 groups are available in trade including early, mid and late flowering. When assessing the situation of import, temperate bulbs particularly Tulip are imported annually worth crores of rupees. These are planted in plains as annuals and in Kashmir as perennials. In India, Kashmir is endowed with highly suitable agro-climate and offers immense

scope for bulb production. So in absence of any interstate competition, Kashmir can supply bulbs of tulip, not only in the state but to national markets. But which variety can perform best from vegetative to reproductive point of view is always questionable. Thus current study of evaluation engages a scope for delaminating varieties of tulip which can be explored from commercial point of view.

1.1 Need of the Study

The experiment was carried out at the Experimental Farm of Division of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture SKUAST- K Shalimar, Kashmir to study about the morphological characterization of tulip cultivars. There is not enough literature cited on this work and also this is the new scientific research on tulip cultivars at different altitudes of Kashmir Himalayas. Kashmir is endowed with highly suitable agro-climate and offers immense scope for bulb production and this current study shows best result for production of bulbs. Thus current study of evaluation engages a scope for delaminating varieties of tulip which can be explored from commercial point of view

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Geographical Features

Srinagar is situated between 34°05' to 34°07' north latitude and 74°08'to 74°09' east longitude at an altitude of about 1587 m above mean sea level.

2.2 Experimental Site

The experiment was carried out at the Experimental Farm of Division of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture SKUAST- K Shalimar, Kashmir.

2.3 Experimental Details

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Number of varieties | Ten (10) |
| Design | (RCBD (Randomized Complete Block Design)) |
| Replications | Three (03) |

2.4 Preparation of Beds for Experimental Trial

The field selected for the experiment was prepared by ploughing with tractor thoroughly and leveled properly. The stubbles of previous crop, weeds and grasses were removed and then field was finally leveled to make the soil pulverized.

2.5 Application of Manures and Fertilizers and Cultural Practices

Recommended dose of well decomposed farmyard manure (FYM) and inorganic fertilizers were applied and mixed thoroughly with the soil before the planting of bulbs. Uniform cultural practices were followed through the growth period. Irrigation, weeding-cum-hoeing and plant protection measures were carried out as and when required.

2.8 Observations Recorded

Observations were observed on days to bulb sprouting after planting, days to flowering, flower diameter, duration of flowering, Plant Height (cm), number of leaves per plant, number of bulbs plant⁻¹ and bulb weight plant⁻¹.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As evident from Table 1 the variability response for minimum to maximum values ranged (92.00 to 107.00) days to bulb sprouting after planting, (117.00 to 164.00) days to flowering, (4.70 to 8.20) days to measure flower diameter and (9.00 to 18.00) days for measuring duration of flowering. This depicts the flowering behavior and concluded that First sprout were found in variety Happy generation, after that Purple prince and then Royal virgin, followed by Triple A (early cultivars), then Antartica, after that Avenue, Darwiorange, and then Niigata (mid cultivars) and La courtine as late flowering cultivar. Data on phenotypic and propagation co-efficient of variation recorded 23.13 to 72.22cm as Plant Height (cm), 3.5 to 6.50 number of leaves per plant, 1.13 to 1.72 number of bulbs plant⁻¹ and 12.30 to 21.20g bulb weight plant⁻¹

¹(Table 2). Duration of flowering resulted maximum 18.00 days with cultivar La courtine and minimum 9.00 days with Royal virgin. Plant height (72.22cm), number of leaves (6.50) were observed maximum with cultivar La courtine where as minimum 23.13 cm and 3.5 respectively with Royal virgin. Maximum number of bulbs plant⁻¹ 1.72 & Bulb weight plant⁻¹ 21.20g were recorded with cultivar Happy generation where as minimum values 1.13 & 12.30 g respectively with cultivar Royal virgin (Figs. 1 & 2). Most of the differences in recorded parameters were statistically significant. Cultivars and Phenotypic co-efficient of variation was found to be higher than the genotypic co-efficient of variation for all the traits indicating that the genotypic expression is superimposed by the environmental influence. These findings are in agreement with the work of Monika et al. [2] and [1]. Similar results were observed for number of flowers per stem in China Aster by Ravikumar and Patil [3] and [4] in French marigold and number of florets per spike in gladiolus [5]. Grassotti et al. [6] and Balode [7] also reported higher phenotypic variability for plant height in Liliium. Higher genotypic co-efficient of variation for different plant characters can be effectively utilized in future breeding programme. Singh and Sen [8] suggested that if the phenotypic coefficient of variation is greater than the genotypic co-efficient of variation, the apparent variation is not only due to genotypes, but also due to influence of environment and hence selection may be misleading. The estimates of phenotypic and genotypic co-efficient of variance showed a low disparity for plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant and inflorescence diameter (cm) indicating the least effect of environment on different traits and phenotypic variability could be a reliable measure of genotypic variability. The progress in the selection is directly proportional to the amount of genetic gain, therefore the effect of selection is realized more quickly in the characters with high heritability and genetic advance estimating the relative amount of heritable portion of variation. Bhatia et al. [9] also observed similar results for spike length and plant height in tulip, Mishra et al. [10] in spray chrysanthemum for the time taken for bud initiation. High heritability with high genetic advance indicates that the trait is

governed by the additive gene action. Selection on the basis of these characters would be more effective for improvement the Liliaceae. Number of leaves, inflorescence diameter and number of days to bud appearance exhibited high heritability with moderate genetic advance indicating presence of dominant and epistatic genes and these traits can be improved through

hybridization [11]. The results are also in line with the findings of Singh and Kumar [12] in marigold for number of flowers per plant and plant height, Dhiman et al. [13] in Asiatic hybrid lily, Masoodi et al. [1] in Asiatic, Oriental and La hybrids, Bichoo et al. [14] in gladiolus, and in gladiolus for number of floret per spike [15] and number of flowers per plant in chrysanthemum [16].

Table 1. Estimation of sprouting and flowering behavior of 10 tulip cultivars

| Variety | Days to sprouting (DAP) | Days to flowering (DAP) | Flower diameter (cm) | Duration of flowering (Days) | Remarks |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Antartica | 107.00 | 144.00 | 8.20 | 17.00 | Mid |
| Avenue | 104.00 | 130.00 | 7.75 | 16.00 | Mid |
| Darwiorange | 103.00 | 147.00 | 8.50 | 18.00 | Mid |
| First proud | 92.00 | 145.00 | 7.90 | 17.50 | Early |
| Happy generation | 98.00 | 142.00 | 9.10 | 18.00 | Early Mid |
| La courtine | 110.00 | 164.00 | 9.65 | 18.00 | Late |
| Niigata | 96.00 | 128.00 | 7.13 | 14.50 | Mid |
| Purple prince | 84.00 | 120.00 | 6.50 | 12.00 | Early |
| Royal virgin | 107.00 | 117.00 | 4.70 | 9.00 | Early |
| Triple A | 100.00 | 130.00 | 7.52 | 16.00 | Early Mid |
| CD(p≤0.05) | 2.150 | 1.397 | 0.67 | 0.877 | |

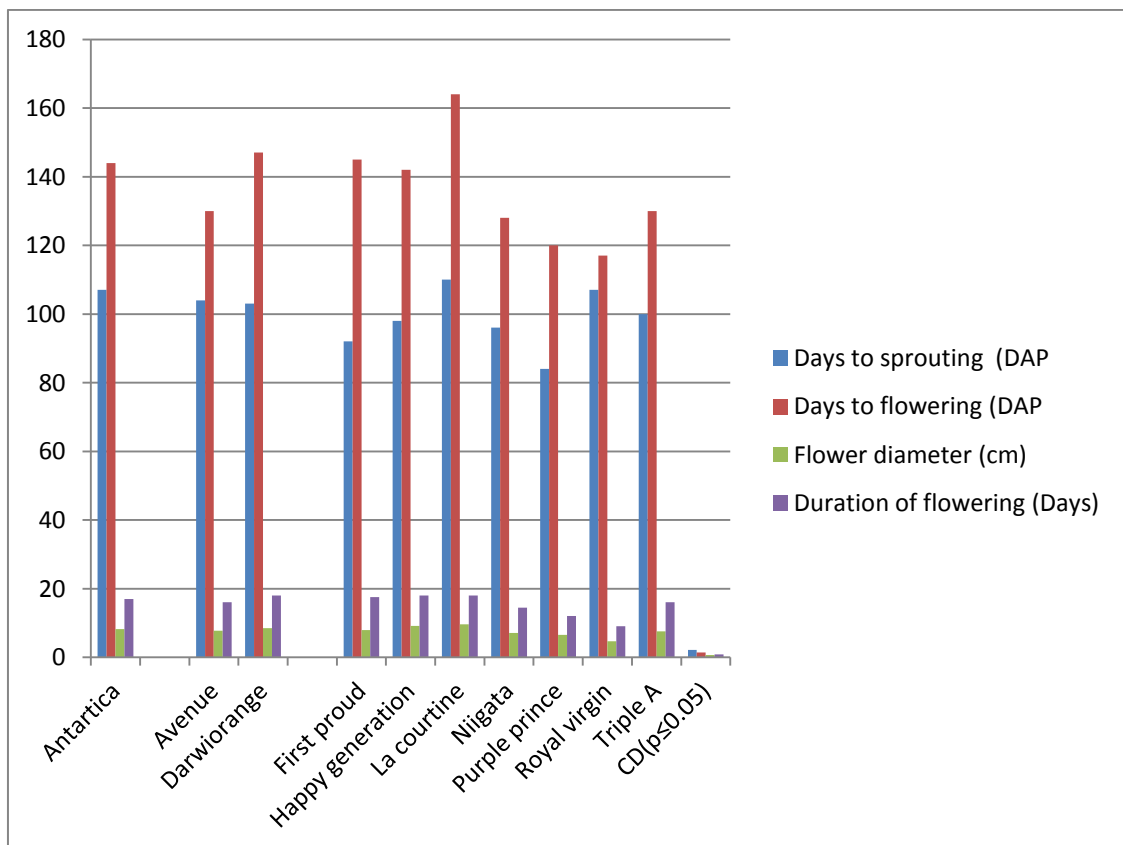


Fig. 1. Estimation of sprouting and flowering behavior of 10 tulip cultivars

Table 2. Response of tulip cultivars to vegetative and propagation traits

| Variety | Plant Height (Cm) | No of Leaves Per Plant | No. Of Bulbs Plant ⁻¹ | Bulb Weight Plant ⁻¹ (g) |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Antartica | 55.52 | 5.50 | 1.61 | 17.33 |
| Avenue | 42.11 | 4.00 | 1.25 | 15.30 |
| Darwiorange | 65.23 | 6.00 | 1.49 | 17.10 |
| First proud | 53.22 | 5.00 | 1.55 | 17.20 |
| Happy generation | 68.16 | 6.00 | 1.72 | 21.20 |
| La courtine | 72.22 | 6.50 | 1.68 | 18.10 |
| Niigata | 48.44 | 4.00 | 1.33 | 16.00 |
| Purple prince | 39.22 | 4.00 | 1.27 | 15.00 |
| Royal virgin | 23.13 | 3.5 | 1.13 | 12.30 |
| Triple A | 42.22 | 4.00 | 1.28 | 15.50 |
| CD(p≤0.05) | 1.806 | 0.147 | 0.003 | 0.012 |

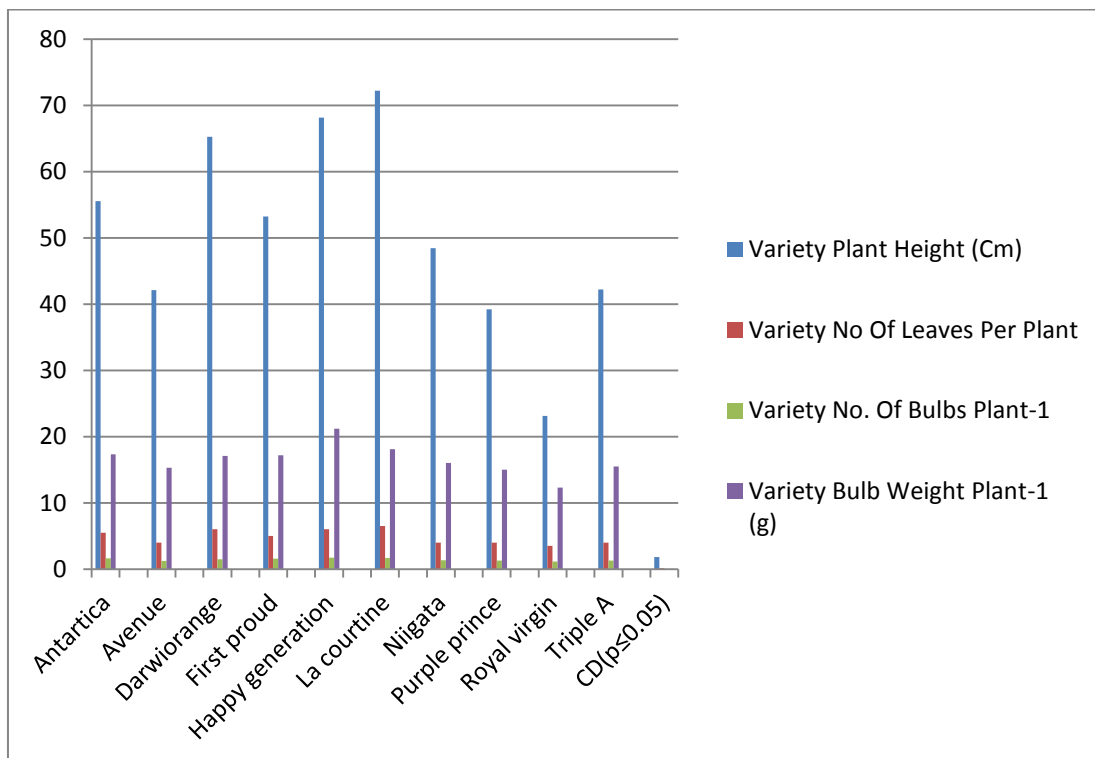


Fig. 2. Response of tulip cultivars to vegetative and propagation traits



Pic 1 & 2. Different Cultivars of Tulip

Pic 3. Morphological Evaluation of Tulip Cultivars

4. CONCLUSION

As evident from Table 1 the variability response for minimum to maximum values ranged 92.00 to 107.00 for days to bulb sprouting after planting, 117.00 to 164.00 for days to flowering, 4.70 to 8.20 for flower diameter and 9.00 to 18.00 days for duration of flowering. This depicts the flowering behavior and concluded that First proud, Happy generation Purple prince, Royal virgin, Triple A (early cultivars), Antartica, Avenue, Darwiorange, Niigata (mid cultivars) and La courtine as late flowering cultivar. Data on phenotypic and propagation co-efficient of variation recorded 23.13 to 72.22cm for Plant Height (cm), 3.5 to 6.50 for number of leaves per plant, 1.13 to 1.72 for number of bulbs plant⁻¹ and 12.30 to 21.20g bulb weight plant⁻¹ (Table 2). Duration of flowering resulted maximum 18.00 days with cultivar La courtine and minimum 9.00 days with Royal virgin. Plant height (72.22cm), number of leaves (6.50) were observed maximum with cultivar La courtine where as minimum (23.13 cm and 3.5 cm) respectively with Royal virgin. Maximum number of bulbs plant⁻¹ 1.72 & Bulb weight plant⁻¹ 21.20gm were recorded with cultivar happy generation where as minimum values 1.13 & 12.30gm respectively with cultivar Royal virgin (Figs. 1 & 2). Most of the differences in recorded parameters were statistically significant.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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