

STANDARDIZATION OF AGRO-TECHNIQUES OF *DENDROBIUM* ORCHIDS UNDER PROTECTED (SHADE NET) CONDITION

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ABSTRACT: An experiment was undertaken to study the effect of different growing media and plant growth regulators on *Dendrobium* hybrid "Sonia-17" under Allahabad conditions of Eastern U.P. The plants were planted in mixture of different media namely (Coconut fibre + Cowdung+ Wheat Bhusa), (Tile bits+ Charcoal + Rice husk), (Rice husk+ Coconut fibre + Wheat Bhusa), (Brick pieces+ Groundnut Shell+ Rice husk), (Charcoal + Cowdung + Coconut fibre) and (Gravel + Groundnut shell + Cowdung). Plant growth regulators applied are Benzyladenine (BA) and Cycocel (CCC) each with three concentrations. Earlier flower bud initiation occurred in BA @ 500 ppm + Gravel +Groundnut shell+ Cowdung in 73.03 DAT followed by BA @ 250 ppm + Charcoal+Coconut fibre+Cowdung, 76.40 DAT. Maximum number of spikes/plant was also recorded (2.20) in BA @ 500 ppm + Gravel + Groundnut shell + Cowdung. The best growing media for *Dendrobium* were found (Gravel + Groundnut shell + Cowdung) and (Charcoal + Cowdung + Coconut fibre) for commercial cultivation of orchids.

Key Words: Orchids, plant growth regulators, media, polyhouse shade net.