



## Effect of weed control methods on total dry matter of weeds in china aster [*Callistephus chinensis* (L.) Nees] cv. KAMINI

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### ABSTRACT

Weeds bring about heavy damage to flower crops by competing with them for water, nutrients, light and space, besides acting as alternate host to a number of pest and diseases. Out of several factors affecting growth and production of flower crops, weeds are the most important ones. Reduction in crop yield has direct correlation with weed competition. Weed dry weight was less at initial stages but the weed dry weight was maximum at 90 DAT. This was due to dominance of some weeds, which accumulated the biomass suppressing the others. However, the results indicated that the weed control treatments were effective in checking the weed growth. The dry matter production of grass, broad leaved weeds and sedge and total weeds at different crop growth stages differed significantly due to weed control treatments. The dry matter production of weeds at harvest was the highest in unweeded control ( $T_1$ ) while all the herbicidal treatments resulted in significantly lower dry matter production of weeds as a result of lower weed density. In flower crops, an integrated approach involving cultural practices in combination with some herbicides appears to be economical and promising in controlling weeds. The dry matter production of weeds recorded at different stages is a better reflection of the efficiency of weed control treatments in China aster.

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