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Pushpa Manjunath Aminabhavi

PG Scholar, Department of
 Horticulture (Fruit Science),
 College of Agriculture,
 Vasantao Naik Marathwada
 Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani,
 Maharashtra, India

VN Shinde

Professor (CAS), Department of
 Horticulture, College of
 Agriculture, Vasantao Naik
 Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth,
 Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

VP Kamble

Assistant Professor,
 Department of Horticulture,
 College of Agriculture,
 Vasantao Naik Marathwada
 Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani,
 Maharashtra, India

AN Puri

Assistant Professor,
 Department of Soil Science and
 Agril. Chemistry, College of
 Agriculture, Vasantao Naik
 Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth,
 Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

Ovhal SS

PG Scholar, Department of
 Horticulture (Fruit Science),
 College of Agriculture,
 Vasantao Naik Marathwada
 Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani,
 Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author: Pushpa Manjunath Aminabhavi

PG Scholar, Department of
 Horticulture (Fruit
 Science), College of
 Agriculture, Vasantao
 Naik Marathwada Krishi
 Vidyapeeth, Parbhani,
 Maharashtra, India

Effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on inflorescence and yield of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) Cv. Kesar

Pushpa Manjunath Aminabhavi¹, VN Shinde², VP Kamble³, AN Puri⁴, Ovhal SS⁵

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ABSTRACT

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.; $2n = 40$) is an important fruit crop in which flowering, fruiting, yield and quality are major determinants of productivity. Judicious use of paclobutrazol along with appropriate fertilizer management can help regulate vegetative and reproductive growth. A field experiment entitled “Effect of Application of Paclobutrazol and Fertilizer Dose on Growth of Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Kesar” was conducted during 2025–26 at the Experimental-cum-Research Mango Orchard, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Latur, VNMKV, Parbhani. The experiment was laid out in a factorial randomized block design with three replications, comprising four paclobutrazol levels, viz., control (D_1), 1.5 ml a.i. (D_2), 2.0 ml a.i. (D_3) and 2.5 ml a.i. (D_4), and two fertilizer schedules (F_1 and F_2). Paclobutrazol application significantly advanced panicle emergence, with the earliest emergence (46.06 days), maximum number of panicles per tree (642.74), panicle length (32.05 cm), fruit weight (280.72 g) and yield per tree (98.89 kg) recorded under D_4 . Among fertilizer schedules, F_2 recorded the earliest panicle emergence (47.99 days), maximum number of panicles per tree (588.94), panicle length (31.30 cm), fruit weight (271.52 g) and yield per tree (83.94 kg). The interaction between paclobutrazol and fertilizer schedules was non-significant for the parameters studied. Overall, paclobutrazol at 2.5 ml a.i. and the F_2 fertilizer schedule showed superior performance in regulating vegetative growth and promoting reproductive growth, fruit weight and yield of mango cv. Kesar.

Keywords: Paclobutrazol, Fertilizer dose, *Mangifera indica* L., Cv. Kesar, Panicle emergence

Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L. $2n = 40$), belonging to the family Anacardiaceae, is an important tropical fruit crop and is popularly known as the “King of Fruits”. It is believed to have originated in the Indo-Burma region and has been cultivated in the Indian subcontinent for more than 4,000 years. Its pleasant aroma, attractive flavour, succulent pulp and high nutritional value make it one of the most valued fruit crops.

Kesar is a superior chance seedling selection from Junagadh, Gujarat, known for its attractive fruit colour, excellent eating quality, intense sweetness and characteristic aroma. It originated in the foothills of Girnar and received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2011 due to its distinctive quality and regional identity. Irregular, alternate and shy bearing are major constraints in mango production. Paclobutrazol (PBZ), a gibberellin biosynthesis inhibitor, is widely used to regulate vegetative growth and promote flowering in mango. It inhibits the conversion of kaurene to kaurenoic acid, thereby reducing vegetative growth and favouring reproductive development. Soil application of PBZ during July–August has been reported to induce flowering during October–November and advance fruit maturity (Voon *et al.*, 1989) [1].

Nutrient availability is another important factor influencing mango growth, yield and fruit quality. Adequate and balanced fertilization is essential for maintaining vegetative growth, flowering and fruit development. Nutrient requirement also varies with the stage of crop growth; therefore, proper fertilizer dose, timing and method of application are important for achieving optimum productivity.

Thus, the combined use of paclobutrazol and appropriate fertilizer management may help regulate vegetative growth, improve flowering and fruiting, and enhance yield and fruit quality. Hence, the present investigation was undertaken to study the effect of paclobutrazol and fertilizer application on growth, yield and quality of mango cv. Kesar.

Materials and Methods

The present study entitled “Effect of Application of Paclobutrazol and Fertilizer Dose on Growth of Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cv. Kesar” was conducted during 2025–26 at the Experimental-cum-Research Mango Orchard, Department of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Latur, VNMKV, Parbhani. The experiment was laid out in a factorial randomized block design (FRBD) comprising two factors, viz., paclobutrazol dose (D) and fertilizer dose (F), with eight treatment combinations and three replications. Paclobutrazol (PBZ, 23% active ingredient) was applied as a single soil application. The required quantity was diluted in 5 L of water

and uniformly applied in a ring at 1 m distance from the tree trunk. Fertilizers were applied by the ring method through a 3–5 inch deep trench around the tree canopy at the respective growth stages. Observations were recorded on flowering and yield parameters, including days to panicle emergence, panicle length, number of panicles per tree, fruit weight, yield per tree and yield per hectare. The observations were recorded through manual measurements and counting and subjected to statistical analysis.

Factor A: Paclobutrazol dose (D)

Table 1. Treatment details

D	ml/m ²
D ₁	control
D ₂	1.5
D ₃	2.0
D ₄	2.5

Factor B: Fertilizer Dose (F)

F ₁	50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week August.
F ₂	50% of NK and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in month of August.

Results and Discussion

Flowering parameters

Days of panicle emergence

Effect of Paclobutrazol Dose (D): The application of paclobutrazol significantly reduced the days required for panicle emergence, with the effect being more pronounced at higher doses. The minimum days for panicle emergence (46.06 days) was recorded with dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄), which was statistically at par D₃(47.19) with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.0 ml a.i. followed by (50.85 days) was recorded @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The maximum days to panicle emergence (52.06 days) were recorded in the control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol).

The earlier panicle emergence under higher PBZ doses may be attributed to the suppression of gibberellin biosynthesis, which reduces vegetative growth and favours reproductive development. Increased carbohydrate accumulation and a favourable C ratio may further support floral initiation by providing the metabolites and energy required for flower bud differentiation. This finding is similar to that of Sarker *et al.* (2012) [2], where paclobutrazol induced flowering 85 days after treatment application.

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different dose of fertilizer application on days of panicle emergence was found to be significant. The minimum days of panicle emergence (47.99) were recorded with the dose F₂ (50% of N, 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the maximum days of panicle emergence (50.09) were recorded with the dose F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). Patel *et al.* (2018) [3] reported that NPK application in post-monsoon months significantly reduced days to flowering in cv. Kesar attributed to better nutrient assimilation and physiological readiness of the trees.

Interaction Effect (DxF): The interaction effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on days of panicle emergence was

found to be non-significant.

Number of panicles per tree

Effect of Paclobutrazol (D): The effect of different dose of paclobutrazol on number of panicles per tree was found to be significant. The maximum number of panicles per tree (642.74) was recorded with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) which was statistically at par with D₃ (609.03) with the dose @ 2.0 ml a.i. followed by (535.95) with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The minimum number of panicles per tree (500.03) was recorded in the control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol). Yeshitela *et al.* (2004) [4] reported that the higher number of panicles observed in paclobutrazol-treated plants was attributed to reduced allocation of tree reserves toward vegetative growth. As a result, assimilate availability was not limited, unlike in untreated control trees, where excessive vegetative growth competed for assimilates.

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different fertilizer dose on number of panicles per tree was found to be significant. The maximum number of panicles per tree (588.94) was recorded under F₂ (50% of N, 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the minimum number of panicles per tree (554.94) was recorded under F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). Fouad *et al.* (2003) [5] reported that increasing potassium levels in combination with balanced nitrogen and phosphorus significantly increased the number of panicles per tree in mango.

Interaction Effect (DxF): The interaction effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer Dose on number of panicles per tree was found to be non-significant.

Length of panicle (cm)

Effect of Paclobutrazol (D): The length of panicle of mango was significantly increased by the application of paclobutrazol. The maximum length of panicle (32.05 cm) was recorded with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) followed by (29.64 cm) was recorded @ 2.0 ml a.i. (D₃) and (28.77 cm) was recorded @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The minimum length of panicle (27.64 cm) was recorded in the control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol). Application of paclobutrazol influenced panicle length by suppressing excessive vegetative growth through inhibition of gibberellin biosynthesis. The reduced vegetative growth favoured reproductive development and resulted in changes in panicle elongation. This observation is in agreement with the earlier findings of paclobutrazol influence on the length of panicle by Desai, 1994) [6], Zora *et al.* (2000) [7], Golla *et al.* (2017) [8], Subbaiah *et al.* (2017) [9] and Sarkar and Rahim (2018) in Sarvade *et al.* (2024) [10]

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different dose of fertilizer on length of panicle was found to be significant. The maximum length of panicle (31.30 cm) was recorded with fertilizer dose F₂ (50% of N, 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the minimum length of panicle (27.75 cm) was recorded with the dose of fertilizer F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). The higher nutrient levels enhanced the development of longer and more robust panicles, which are critical for increasing the number of flowers and potential fruit set. This observation is in agreement with the earlier findings of dose of fertilizer influence on the length of panicle by Sharma *et al.* (2000) [11], Vala *et al.* (2020) [12] and Azam *et al.* (2022) [13]

Interaction Effect (DxF): The interaction effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on length of panicle was found to be non-significant.

Table 1. Effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on days of panicles emergence, number of panicles per tree and length of panicle.

Treatments	Days of panicle emergence	Number of panicles per tree	Length of panicle
Paclobutrazol Dose			
D ₁	52.06	500.03	27.64
D ₂	50.85	535.95	28.77
D ₃	47.19	609.03	29.64
D ₄	46.06	642.74	32.05
S.E ±	0.95	14.04	0.765
C. D. at 5%	2.909	42.59	2.322
Fertilizer Dose			
F ₁	50.09	554.94	27.75
F ₂	47.99	588.94	31.30
S.E ±	0.678	9.93	0.541
C. D. at 5%	2.057	30.11	1.642
Interaction (D×F)			
D ₁ F ₁	53.29	484.02	26.49
D ₁ F ₂	50.83	516.05	28.79
D ₂ F ₁	52.00	536.92	27.41
D ₂ F ₂	49.71	534.98	30.13
D ₃ F ₁	48.08	586.56	27.48
D ₃ F ₂	46.29	631.49	31.80
D ₄ F ₁	47.00	612.26	29.63
D ₄ F ₂	45.13	673.23	34.48
S.E ±	1.36	19.86	1.08
C. D. at 5%	NS	NS	NS
General Mean	49.04	571.94	29.53

Yield parameters

Weight of fruit (g)

Effect of Paclobutrazol (D): The effect of different doses of paclobutrazol on weight of fruit differed significantly. The maximum weight of fruit (280.72 g) was recorded with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) which was statistically at par with D₃ (262.58 g) with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.0 ml a.i. followed by (240.14 g) was recorded @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The minimum weight of fruit (225.10 g) was recorded in the control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol). Paclobutrazol treatment often results in thicker leaves with increased chlorophyll content, which enhances photosynthetic efficiency. The improved photosynthetic capacity leads to greater production of sugars and other carbohydrates, providing additional assimilates for fruit development and thereby contributing to increased fruit weight. This observation is in agreement with the earlier findings of paclobutrazol influence on of fruit weight Hasan *et al.* (2013) [14] and Reddy *et al.* (2013) [15].

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different dose of fertilizer on weight of fruit differed significantly. The maximum weight of fruit (271.52 g) was recorded with fertilizer dose F₂ (50% of N and 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the minimum weight of fruit (232.74 g) was recorded with the dose of fertilizer F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). The combined application of N, P, and K ensures balanced nutrition, leading to improved photosynthetic efficiency, enhanced assimilate production and translocation, better nutrient uptake, increased cell division and enlargement, and greater accumulation of carbohydrates in the fruits (Singh *et al.*, 1977) [16].

Interaction Effect (D×F): The interaction effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on weight of fruit was found to be non-significant.

Yield per tree (kg)

Effect of Paclobutrazol (D)

The effect of different dose of paclobutrazol on fruit yield per tree differed significantly. The maximum fruit yield per tree (98.89 kg) was recorded with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) followed by (84.70 kg) was recorded @ 2.0 ml a.i. (D₃) and (61.02 kg) was recorded @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The minimum fruit yield per tree (55.07 kg) was recorded in the control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol). As the Paclobutrazol significantly increases the fruit set % in mango by suppressing excessive vegetative growth and promoting reproductive development. This ultimately leads to increase in yield per tree. This observation is in agreement with the earlier findings of paclobutrazol influence on yield per tree Srilatha *et al.* (2015) [17], Subbaiah *et al.* (2017) [9] and Ravindra *et al.* (2020) [18].

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different dose of fertilizer on fruit yield per tree differed significantly. The maximum fruit yield per tree (83.94 kg) was recorded with fertilizer dose F₂ (50% of N, 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the minimum fruit yield per tree (65.90 kg) was recorded with the dose of fertilizer F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). Thus, the yield was also highest under this treatment, due to better absorption and accumulation of nutrients by crop at higher fertilizer rates (Rumpel *et al.*, 2003) [19].

Interaction Effect (D×F): The interaction effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on yield per tree was found to be non-significant.

Yield per hectare (t/ha)

Effect of Paclobutrazol (D): The effect of different doses of paclobutrazol on fruit yield per hectare differed significantly. The maximum fruit yield per hectare (9.89 t/ha) was recorded with the dose of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) followed by (8.47 t/ha) was recorded @ 2.0 ml a.i. (D₃) and (6.10 t/ha) was recorded @ 1.5 ml a.i. (D₂). The minimum fruit yield per hectare (5.51 t/ha) was recorded in the

control treatment (D₁: 0 ml a.i. of paclobutrazol). Paclobutrazol application influenced yield per tree by regulating vegetative growth and promoting reproductive development. The reduction in excessive vegetative growth favoured flowering, fruit set and fruit retention, which ultimately contributed to higher yield per tree. This observation is in agreement with the earlier findings of paclobutrazol influence on yield per tree Srilatha *et al.* (2015) [17], Subbaiah *et al.* (2017) [9] and Ravindra *et al.* (2020) [18].

Effect of Fertilizer Dose (F): The effect of different dose of fertilizer on fruit yield per hectare differed significantly. The fruit yield per

hectare of mango was significantly increased by fertilizer application. The maximum fruit yield per tree (8.39 t/ha) was recorded with fertilizer dose F₂ (50% of N, 50% of K and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in the month of August), whereas the minimum fruit yield per tree (6.59 t/ha) was recorded with the dose of fertilizer F₁ (50% of NPK in the last week of June and 50% of NPK in the last week of August). Thus, subsequently the yield was also highest under this treatment, due to better absorption and accumulation of nutrients by crop at higher fertilizer rates (Rumpel *et al.*, 2003) [19].

Table 2. Effect of application of paclobutrazol and fertilizer dose on weight of fruit, yield per tree and yield per hectare.

Treatments	Weight of fruit(g)	Yield per tree (kg)	Yield per hectare ((t/ha)
Paclobutrazol Dose			
D ₁	225.10	55.07	5.51
D ₂	240.14	61.02	6.10
D ₃	262.58	84.70	8.47
D ₄	280.72	98.89	9.89
S.E ±	7.53	3.02	0.30
C. D. at 5%	22.83	9.15	0.92
Fertilizer Dose			
F ₁	232.74	65.90	6.59
F ₂	271.52	83.94	8.39
S.E ±	5.32	2.13	0.21
C. D. at 5%	16.14	6.47	0.65
Interaction (D×F)			
D ₁ F ₁	212.65	48.50	4.85
D ₁ F ₂	237.54	61.64	6.16
D ₂ F ₁	231.55	58.59	5.86
D ₂ F ₂	248.73	63.45	6.35
D ₃ F ₁	233.50	70.69	7.07
D ₃ F ₂	291.65	98.71	9.87
D ₄ F ₁	253.26	85.82	8.58
D ₄ F ₂	308.17	111.96	11.20
S.E ±	10.65	4.27	0.43
C. D. at 5%	NS	12.94	NS
General Mean	252.13	74.92	7.49

Conclusion

The study revealed that paclobutrazol and fertilizer application significantly influenced flowering, panicle development, fruit weight and yield of mango cv. Kesar. Paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. (D₄) recorded superior performance, while fertilizer schedule F₂ (50% of NK and 100% of P in the last week of June and 50% of N and 50% of K in month of August) resulted in earlier flowering, better panicle development, higher fruit weight and yield. Overall, the application of paclobutrazol @ 2.5 ml a.i. along with F₂ fertilizer schedule was found effective for improving flowering and productivity of mango cv. Kesar under the conditions of the present study.

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