

Original Research Article

Impact of grafting techniques on success rate, survival and growth of different adenium (*Adenium obesum*) scions under Prayagraj agro-climatic conditions

ABSTRACT

An experiment was carried out during February, 2022 to June, 2022 in shadenet house, Department of Horticulture, SHUATS, Prayagraj, in Factorial Completely Randomized Design (FCRD), with five different adenium hybrids and three different types of grafting techniques, replicated thrice. Different hybrids used in the experiment were Masai, Cream of My Body, Tangerine, Super Moon, Golden Jublee and grafting techniques were wedge, cleft, flat. Hybrid Golden Jublee with flat grafting was found superior in terms of days taken to 1st sprout, sprouting percentage, number of sprouts and survival percentage while hybrid Cream of My Body with flat grafting was found superior in terms of number of leaves, shoot length and stem girth. Hence, hybrids Golden Jublee and Cream of My Body are suitable for propagation through flat grafting under Prayagraj agro-climatic conditions.

Keywords: adenium, wedge, cleft, flat, grafting

1. INTRODUCTION

Adenium genus belongs to family Apocynaceae. *Adenium* commonly known as desert rose, can be grouped in herbaceous, shrub and arboreal plants, with succulent stems and roots. *Adenium obesum* is a native of Africa but now a days it is cultivated in several parts of the world including India is a popular ornamental plant. This plant represents one of the richest sources of phytochemicals such as glycosides and possess great potential for pharmaceuticals and piscicultural applications. *Adenium obesum* is found in the sub-Saharan region of Africa, from Sudan to Kenya. In horticulture it was adopted to divide *adenium* genus into 11 species: *A. oleifolium*, *A. swazicum*, *A. boehmianum*, *A. multiflorum*, *A. obesum*, *A. somalense* 'A. somalense', *A. crispum*, *A. socotranum*, *A. arabicum* (Dimmitt et al., 2009).

Adenium store water in their soft, swollen roots and stems to allow them to survive through periods of drought. Young plants have an inflated trunk, sometimes called the caudex. From this fattened caudex arise several slender but soft and succulent stems which are sparsely branched in youth. Even young plants 2-3 years old and 6-8 inches tall can put on a beautiful floral display, with the pink to red flowers arising from the tips of the stems. True *Adenium obesum* normally blooms in spring and summer continuously for many weeks. Improved cultivars bloom almost continuously if given proper care. In nature, *adenium* is quite variable but can form a small, thick-trunked tree or large shrub.

As a result of its wide range of flower color among cultivars, roots and drought tolerance, desert rose has been increasingly produced as flowering potted plants and as landscape plant in tropical and subtropical regions. As their size can be restricted and because of the its unusual shapes, they are becoming increasingly popular subjects for tropical and succulent bonsai (Dimmitt et al., 2009, Versiani et al., 2014). Compact growth habit, thick trunk like structure with showy caudex, good branching and flowering with high level of divergence for flower colour makes *adenium* a desirable pot plant to display in balconies, in verandas as well as is excellent plant for xeriscaping and roof top gardens (Chavan et al., 2016, Colombo et. al., 2016).

Propagation of desert rose can be done via seeds, cuttings and grafting. The first option is not reliable due to the low seed production, a result of pollination problems and possible sterile male and female flowers. The easiest method of propagation is cuttings, however the plants obtained through this method are not well accepted in the ornamental market, since they produce underground caudex and do not show the same exuberance of the plants propagated via seeds (Kanchanapoom et al., 2010).

Adenium propagation through grafting has been outstanding for hybrids, mainly, due to the consumer market demands for new varieties, such as folded flowers and new colors. Thus, grafting allows to producing seedlings of these highly segregated materials on rootstocks produced by seeds, which presents a swollen caudex, characteristic of the *Adenium* genus. Seedlings aged from one year can already be used as rootstocks, since they have the caudex developed enough for grafting. Grafting on *Adenium* may be performed by the graft method or a method similar to the graft approach ('cork'). The

grafting method may present a disadvantage, as uneven healing of the tissues in the graft region, while the 'cork' method presents uniform healing of this region, which becomes imperceptible after a few months of cultivation. The method consists of making a straight cut on the rootstock above the region where the caudex is most pronounced. The branch from the canopy variety to be grafted is cut into segments, similar to a small cork, with at least one vegetative bud. The union between the rootstock and the graft is by approaching grafts of the cut sides. To protect and better fix the graft, it is required to cover the area with plastic tape or other impermeable material. After the graft initiates the emission of shoots, the plastic shall be removed, in order not to harm the shoot growth (Colombo *et al.*, 2015).

The commercialization of adenium was carried out in different ways. Without being certain of the color and shape of the flowers due to the high genetic variability found in the species. Now-a-days, ornamental plants market has been organized and it is being possible to acquire plants in flower shops and supermarkets, such as traditional potted plants, with an affordable price. It is common to find flowering plants of two and three years, but it is also common to find older plants in some specialized florists, presenting the most developed and sculptural caudex. New hybrids are being evolved which need to be evaluated for their performance in different regions (Colombo *et al.*, 2015).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out to study the "Impact of grafting techniques on success rate, survival and growth of different adenium (*Adenium obesum*) scions under Prayagraj agro-climatic conditions". The experiment was carried out in shadenet, Department of Horticulture, Naini Agricultural Institute, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Sciences, Prayagraj (UP), India during 2022. Prayagraj is situated at an elevation of 78 meters above sea level at 25.87° North latitude and 81.15° East longitudes. This region has a sub-tropical climate prevailing in the South-East part of UP with both the extremes in temperature, i.e., the winter and the summer. In cold winters, the temperature sometimes is as low as 32°F from December – January and very hot summer with the temperature reaching up to 115°F in May and June (SHUATS, 2022). The experiment was conducted from February to June 2022.

The experimental material consisted of adenium rootstock of Nova Luna and five different hybrids of adenium viz., Masai (V₁), Cream of My Body (V₂), Tangerine (V₃), Super Moon (V₄), Golden Jubilee (V₅). Grafting techniques were wedge (G₁), cleft (G₂) and flat (G₃). A total of fifteen treatments were tried in FCRD design and replicated thrice. The treatment details consists of V₁G₁ (Masai x wedge), V₁G₂ (Masai x cleft), V₁G₃ (Masai x flat), V₂G₁ (Cream of My Body x wedge), V₂G₂ (Cream of My Body x cleft), V₂G₃ (Cream of My Body x flat), V₃G₁ (Tangerine x wedge), V₃G₂ (Tangerine x cleft), V₃G₃ (Tangerine x flat), V₄G₁ (Super Moon x wedge), V₄G₂ (Super Moon x cleft), V₄G₃ (Super Moon x flat), V₅G₁ (Golden Jubilee x wedge), V₅G₂ (Golden Jubilee x cleft), V₅G₃ (Golden Jubilee x flat). All plants were selected for recording observation on sprouting, survival and growth parameters.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Sprouting Parameters

3.1.1 Effect of grafting techniques on days taken to 1st sprout of different adenium hybrids

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly lesser number of days taken to 1st sprout (16.7) was observed in Golden Jublee and more number of days (19.7) was recorded Super Moon (Table 1). Among various grafting techniques, significantly lesser number of days taken to 1st sprout (17.5) was observed in cleft grafting and more number of days (19.2) was observed in wedge grafting (Table 2).

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques significantly lesser number of days taken to 1st sprout (14.6) was observed in Golden Jublee with cleft grafting and more number of days (22.6) was observed in Cream of My Body with wedge grafting (Table 3).

3.1.2 Effect of grafting techniques on sprouting percentage of different adenium hybrids

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly more sprouting percentage (59.3) was observed in Golden Jublee and lesser sprouting percentage (22.1) was recorded in Masai & Cream of My Body (Table 1). Among various grafting techniques, significantly more sprouting percentage (51) was observed in flat grafting and lesser sprouting percentage (35.4) was observed in cleft grafting (Table 2).

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques, significantly more sprouting percentage (89) was observed in Golden Jublee with flat grafting and lesser sprouting percentage (11) was observed in Masai with flat grafting & Cream of My Body with flat grafting (Table 3).

3.2 Survival parameters

3.2.1 Effect of grafting techniques on survival percentage of different adenium hybrids

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly more survival percentage (54.1) was observed in Golden Jublee and lesser survival percentage (14.6) was recorded in Cream of My Body. Among various grafting techniques, significantly more survival percentage (41.3) was observed in flat grafting and lesser survival percentage (31) was observed in cleft grafting (Table 2).

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques, significantly more survival percentage (73.3) was observed in Golden Jublee with flat grafting and lesser survival percentage (11) was observed in Masai with flat grafting, Cream of My Body with cleft grafting and Cream of My Body with flat grafting (Table 3).

3.2.2 Effect of grafting techniques on mortality percentage of different adenium hybrids

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly more mortality percentage (85.3) was observed in Cream of My Body and lesser mortality percentage (45.8) was recorded in Golden Jublee (Table 1). Among various grafting techniques, significantly more mortality percentage (68.9) was observed in cleft grafting and lesser mortality percentage (58.6) was observed in flat grafting (Table 2).

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques, significantly more mortality percentage (89) was observed in Masai with flat grafting, Cream of My Body with cleft grafting and lesser mortality percentage (26.6) was observed in Golden Jublee with flat grafting (Table 3).

3.3 Growth Parameters

3.3.1 Effect of grafting techniques on shoot length (mm) of different adenium hybrids at 30 days after sprouting

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly more shoot length (7.3) was observed in Tangerine and lesser shoot length (2) was recorded in Masai (Table 1). Among various grafting techniques, significantly more shoot length (8.4) was observed in flat grafting and lesser shoot length (3.2) was observed in cleft grafting.

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques, significantly more shoot length (14.6) was observed in Cream of My Body with flat grafting and lesser shoot length (1) was observed in Masai with wedge grafting & Masai with cleft grafting (Table 3).

3.3.2 Effect of grafting techniques on stem girth (mm) of different adenium hybrids

Among various adenium hybrids, significantly more stem girth (7.6) was observed in Super Moon and lesser stem girth (4.1) was recorded in Masai (Table 1). Among various grafting techniques, significantly more stem girth (7.8) was observed in flat grafting and lesser stem girth (5.2) was observed in wedge grafting (Table 2).

Among the interaction effect of hybrids and grafting techniques, significantly more stem girth (9.3) was observed in Super Moon with wedge grafting and lesser stem girth (3) was observed in Masai with wedge grafting (Table 3).

Table1. Effects of different adenium varieties in terms of different parameters

S. No.	Variety details	Days taken to 1st sprout	Sprouting percentage	Survival percentage	Mortality percentage	Shoot length (mm)	Stem girth (mm)
1	Masai	18.3	22.1	18.3	81.6	2	4.1
2	Cream of My Body	18.6	22.1	14.6	85.3	5.8	5.2
3	Tangerine	18.1	51.7	44.4	55.5	7.3	7.4
4	Super Moon	19.7	55.5	48.2	51.7	7.1	7.6
5	Golden Jublee	16.7	59.3	54.1	45.8	3.2	6.5
Factor A	F test	S	S	S	S	S	S
	CD at 5%	1.666	15.31	10.525	9.115	2.628	1.413
	SE(d)±	0.783	7.461	5.129	4.442	1.28	0.689

S – Significant

Table 2. Effects of grafting techniques in terms of different parameters

S. No.	Grafting details	Days taken to 1st sprout	Sprouting percentage	Survival percentage	Mortality percentage	Shoot length (mm)	Stem girth (mm)
1	Wedge	19.2	40	35.4	64.5	3.7	5.2
2	Cleft	17.5	35.4	31	68.9	3.2	5.5
3	Flat	18.2	51	41.3	58.6	8.4	7.8
Factor B	F test	S	S	S	S	S	S
	CD at 5%	1.244	11.859	8.153	7.06	2.035	1.094
	SE(d)±	0.606	5.779	3.973	3.44	0.992	0.533

S – Significant

Table 3. Effect of grafting techniques on different adenium hybrids in terms of different parameters

S. No.	Treatment details	Days taken to 1st sprout	Sprouting percentage	Survival percentage	Mortality percentage	Shoot length (mm)	Stem girth (mm)
1	Masai x Wedge	17.3	33.3	22	78	1	3
2	Masai x Cleft	19.6	22	22	78	1	4
3	Masai x Flat	18	11	11	89	4	5.3
4	Cream of My Body x Wedge	22.6	33.3	22	78	1.3	3.3
5	Cream of My Body x Cleft	15.3	22	11	89	1.6	3.3
6	Cream of My Body x Flat	18	11	11	89	14.6	9
7	Tangerine x Wedge	17.6	22	22	78	6.3	6.3
8	Tangerine x Cleft	18.3	66.6	55.6	44.3	5.6	7.6
9	Tangerine x Flat	18.3	66.6	55.6	44.3	10	8.3
10	Super Moon x Wedge	22.3	55.6	55.6	44.3	8	9.3
11	Super Moon x Cleft	19.6	33.3	33.3	66.6	3.6	5
12	Super Moon x Flat	17.3	77.6	55.6	44.3	9.6	8.6
13	Golden Jublee x Wedge	16.3	55.6	55.6	44.3	2	4
14	Golden Jublee x Cleft	14.6	33.3	33.3	66.6	4	7.6
15	Golden Jublee x Flat	19.3	89	73.3	26.6	3.6	8
Factor A x B	F test	S	S	S	S	S	S
	CD at 5%	2.781	26.518	18.231	15.788	4.551	2.447
	SE(d)±	1.355	12.922	8.884	7.693	2.218	1.193

S – Significant

CONCLUSION

From the present investigation it was concluded that hybrid Golden Jublee (V_5) with flat grafting (G_3) was found superior in term of days taken to 1st sprout, sprouting percentage, number of sprouts and survival percentage and hybrid Cream of My Body (V_2) with flat grafting (G_3) was found superior in terms of number of leaves, shoot length and stem girth. Hence, hybrids Golden Jublee and Cream of My Body are suitable for propagation through flat grafting under Prayagraj agro-climatic conditions.

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