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# Eco-friendly management of Purple blotch (*Alternaria porri*) of onion (*Allium cepa* L.)

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## ABSTRACT

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the important commercial vegetable crops grown in India. Onion is attacked by many diseases, one of which is Purple blotch. This study aimed to evaluate the effect of organic manures and fungicides on Purple blotch disease of onion caused by *Alternaria porri*. The research work was undertaken at Central Research Farm (CRF) Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, SHUATS, Naini, Prayagraj during Rabi in 2023-24. A randomized block design with seven treatments was employed including Untreated check T<sub>0</sub> (Control), T<sub>1</sub> (Vermicompost @100g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup>), T<sub>2</sub> (Biomix @100g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup>), T<sub>3</sub> (Cocopeat @100g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup>), T<sub>4</sub> (Vermicompost @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + Biomix @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup>), T<sub>5</sub> (Vermicompost @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + Cocopeat @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup>) and Treated check T<sub>6</sub> (Carbendazim @0.2%). The results revealed that among the organic manure T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + Biomix @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup> minimum disease intensity (8.21%, 17.82% and 26.48%) at 30, 60 and 90 DAT, respectively while maximum disease intensity was recorded in untreated T<sub>0</sub>-Control (12.07%, 26.54% and 39.17%) at 30, 60 and 90 DAT, respectively. Maximum plant height (17.34 cm, 29.56 cm and 38.18 cm) at 30, 60 and 90 DAT, number of leaves (4.53 per plant, 4.76 per plant and 6.66 per plant) at 30, 60 and 90 DAT, fresh weight of bulb (44.96 gm/m<sup>2</sup>), bulb diameter (5.90 cm), yield (148.30 q/ha) and benefit-cost ratio (1:4.2) were found in T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + Biomix @50g/m<sup>2</sup> + *Lantana camara* @100g/m<sup>2</sup> when compared to treated T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim and untreated check T<sub>0</sub>-Control.

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Keywords: *Onion*, *Alternaria porri*, organic manure, fungicide, purple blotch

## INTRODUCTION

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28 “Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the important commercial vegetable crops grown in India. It  
29 is widely grown in different parts of the country mainly by small and marginal farmers. Onion  
30 is produced and consumed not only in India but also throughout the world. Onion is classified  
31 as a vegetable and has special qualities which add taste and flavour to food” (Palanisamy *et al.*, 2022).

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34 “Onion bulbs are low in calories but rich in vitamins and minerals and are a good source of  
35 dietary fibre. Onions are also a good source of antioxidants and sulphur-containing  
36 compounds that may have health benefits. They have been proven to assist in reducing  
37 inflammation, lowering blood sugar, and enhancing heart health. However, it is important to  
38 note that onions may cause digestive discomfort in some people, particularly when consumed  
39 in large amounts” (Singh *et al.*, 2023).

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41 “India is the second-largest onion-growing country in the world. Indian onions are famous for  
42 their pungency and are available around the year. Onion is a temperate crop but can be grown  
43 under a wider range of climatic conditions such as temperate, tropical and subtropical climates.  
44 The best performance can be obtained in mild weather without the extremes of cold and heat  
45 and excess winter rainfall. Maximum onion production takes place in Maharashtra (4905.0  
46 thousand tons) state followed by Karnataka (2592.2 thousand tons), Gujarat (1514.1 thousand  
47 tons.), Bihar (1082.0 thousand tons.), Madhya Pradesh (1021.5 thousand tons.) There is a lot  
48 of demand of Indian onion in the world, the country has exported 15,78,016.59 MT of fresh  
49 onion to the world for the worth of Rs. 2,826.50 crores/378.49 USD Million during the year  
50 2020-21 (APEDA, 2022). In India, the yield of onion is very low as compared to the world  
51 average yield of 19.1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>” (Bhoite and Backiyavathy, 2022). 52

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54 “The purple blotch of onion caused by *Alternaria porri* (Ellis) Cif. is one of the most serious  
55 fungal diseases that affect onions, causing heavy yield loss ranging from 2.5 to 87.8 percent.  
56 The pathogen *Alternaria porri* destroys the leaf tissue which hinders the stimulus for bulb  
57 initiation and delays in bulbing and malnutrition. In severe attack on flowering, onion can  
58 completely girdle flower stalks with necrotic tissue, causing their collapse and total loss of  
59 seed production capacity” (Agale *et al.*, 2014). “The disease usually affects the leaves and  
60 bulb of a plant, reducing their yield by up to 97%” (Dare *et al.*, 2020).

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62 Conidia were formed in large quantities on clusters of conidiophores in older areas. Bull's-eye-  
63 shaped brown lesions with reddish-purple edges were also observed. Infected leaves and  
64 stems die after turning yellowish-white colour. Blight symptoms on the injected plant became  
65 apparent in 4 to 5 days (Agale *et al.*, 2014). *Alternaria porri* isolates recorded the  
66 morphological characters viz., conidial length, width, beak length and number of septa. The  
67 conidial dimensions were observed to be 141.28 ± 1.31 µm × 22.92 ± 0.14 µm and a beak  
68 length of 43.61 ± 0.91 µm with 3 to 12 transverse septa and 0 to 5 longitudinal septa (Shahnaz  
*et al.*, 2013).

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70 The organic manure (Biomix, vermicompost), is eco-friendly, economically viable and  
71 ecologically sound that also played a significant role in soil biology, chemistry and physics.  
72 Interestingly, each human, livestock and crops produce approximately 38 billion metric tons of  
73 organic waste worldwide, which may be an efficient source of organic matter supply in soils.  
74 According to a conservative estimation, around 600 to 700 million tonnes (mt) of agricultural  
75 waste (including 272 million tonnes of crop residues) are available in India every year, but  
76 most of it remains unutilized. This huge quantity of waste can be converted into an nutrient-rich  
77 bio-fertilizer (vermicompost) for sustainable land restoration practices. In general, a great  
78 proportion of the crop nutrient input during cultivation returned in the form of plant residues.

78 Estimations showed that 30-35% of applied N and P and 70-80 % of K remained in the crop  
 79 residues of food crops (Suthar *et al.*, 2009).

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81 For the management of Purple blotch Onion, nowadays increasing use of chemicals  
 82 tremendously in agriculture has resulted in growing concern about both public health and  
 83 environmental hazards. Thus emphasis is now on the use of indigenous sources for the  
 84 management of the plant disease which is less costly and doesn't affect public health and  
 85 environment. Many fungicides have been tested in onions against purple blotch disease and  
 86 out of these mancozeb, propiconazole, azoxystrobin and thiophanate methyl were found  
 87 effective in managing the disease (Singh *et al.*, 2018). 88

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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91 The experiment was carried out in the research field of the Department of Plant Pathology  
 92 located at Central Research Farm, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology  
 93 and Sciences, during the Rabi season of 2023-24. The field experiment was laid out in a  
 94 Randomized Block Design with seven treatments having three replications. 95

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### Field Preparation

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98 The field having good organic matter was well pulverized so that it would have a good drainage  
 99 facility. The field is levelled, and cleaned, stubbles are removed, and previous crop residues  
 100 and weeds are removed. Soil clods were broken down and plots were marked as per the  
 101 layout after which the field is divided into sub-plots according to treatments. 102

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### Application of soil amendment

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105 The application of soil amendment was done before the transplanting of the plants. The soil  
 106 amendments vermicompost, biomix, cocopeat and *Lantana camara* were applied in the field. 106

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### Transplanting of seedlings:

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110 The experimental plot was laid out as per randomized block design and necessary marking  
 111 of the hills was done for transplanting these seedlings. The healthy seedlings of about 25-30 days  
 112 old having uniform size were used for transplanting. Proper care should be taken while  
 113 transplanting these seedlings. Transplanting was done in a row manually. The spacing adopted  
 114 was 50 cm x 15 cm i.e., row to row spacing was 50 cm and plant to plant was 15 cm. 114

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### Isolation and identification of pathogen:

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117 The leaves were collected from infected onion plants bearing characteristic symptoms of  
 118 purple blotch. The leaves were thoroughly washed under running tap water. The symptoms  
 119 on leaves after mounting on the slide were examined under a microscope to confirm the  
 120 presence of *Alternaria* sp. The infected leaf parts along with the healthy portion were cut into  
 121 small pieces under aseptic conditions and surface sterilized with 0.1% mercury chloride  
 122 ( $HgCl_2$ ) solution for 30 seconds and washed three times with sterile distilled water to remove  
 123 any traces of mercury chloride ( $HgCl_2$ ) adhered with leaf bits. Then they were placed on filter  
 124 papers so that extra water could be absorbed. After that, 2-3 leaf bits were transferred on PDA  
 125 media (Tuite, 1969) contained in sterilized petriplates with the help of forceps. To avoid  
 126 bacterial contamination streptomycin @ 100 ppm was added in the medium at a lukewarm  
 127 stage before pouring PDA into Petriplates. Then Petriplates were wrapped and incubated at  
 128  $27 \pm 2^\circ C$  in BOD, after 3 days mycelial growth was observed around leaf bits. With the help of  
 129 cork borer from this colony growth a portion from the periphery having a single hyphal tip was

130 separated and transferred to other petri plates having medium to get pure culture and  
 131 identification of the pathogen was recorded by observing the morphological features of the  
 132 colony, spore characteristics and referring the relevant literature (**Barnett *et al.*, 1972**).  
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#### 134 **Symptomology:**

135 The initial symptoms caused by *Alternaria porri* appeared as whitish chlorotic patches on the  
 136 leaf surface and these patches immediately turned brown. The disease progressed in the form  
 137 of large zonate lesions of purple colour. The margins of the lesions became purplish red and  
 138 were surrounded by a yellowish-brown border (Figure 1). Under the conditions of high  
 139 humidity, these spots assumed black colour followed by sporulation of the causal pathogen. In  
 140 advanced stages, yellowing and wilting of the leaves took place. The leaves gradually died  
 141 from the tip downwards. The above symptoms and progress of the disease have also been  
 142 reported by different workers (**Neergaard, 1938**).  
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(a)



(b)

Figure: 1(a) and (b) Symptoms of a purple blotch of onion

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#### 149 **Morphology:**

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151 *Alternaria porri* is the largest section of the *Alternaria* species which are important  
 152 plant pathogens (**Woudenberger *et al.*, 2014**).

153 The characteristic feature of the genus is the production of ovoid, obclavate or beaked,  
 154 ellipsoid pigmented conidia (light to deep brown colour) with relatively thin transverse and  
 155 longitudinal septa (muriform). The body of the conidium is oblong with its formal end  
 156 protruding out and the terminal part tapered into a beak and is produced from buds formed  
 157 by conidiophores. The pathogen *Alternaria* has septate, dark-coloured mycelium and  
 158 produces short, simple, erect conidiophores that bear single and branched chains of  
 159 conidia in acropetal chains. The conidiophores are solitary or founding groups and are  
 160 purple when young and brown when old. The colonies of *A. porri* look velvety or cottony  
 161 in appearance with regular to irregular margins, and the colony colour appears light to  
 162 dark olivaceous with a greenish or brownish tinge (**Saharan *et al.*, 2003**).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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### 165 Effect of Treatments on Disease Intensity (%) of Purple Blotch on Onion

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### 181 Effect of Treatments on Plant Height (cm)

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The data presented in the table 1 revealed that the disease intensity (%) of purple blotch of onions significantly decreased in T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (26.48%) followed by T<sub>5</sub>- Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (27.22%), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantana camara* (28.74%), T<sub>2</sub>- Biomix+ *Lantanacamara* (32.39%), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantana camara* (34.16%) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (21.45%) and (Untreated check) T<sub>0</sub>-control (39.17%). Similarly, findings have been reported by **Suthar et al. (2009)**, **Akter et al. (2022)**, **Zacharia et al. (2023)** and **Prajapati et al. (2019)**. The probable reason for this result may be due to the availability of higher nutrients and having the humus-like compounds, active micro-organisms, growth hormones and enzymes. Biomix contains nutrients and components like cow dung, rice husk ash, vegetable waste and neem cake. They showed that organic manure has suppression disease-promoting activity may be because of some biocontrol properties in the manure. *Lantanacamara* produces various allelochemicals like carbohydrates, flavonoids and tannins.

The data presented in the table 2 revealed that the plant height (cm) of onions significantly increased in treatment T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (38.18 cm) followed by T<sub>5</sub>-Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (35.95 cm), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantana camara* (35.00 cm), T<sub>2</sub>-Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (29.77 cm), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (27.64 cm) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (43.78 cm) and (Untreated check) T<sub>0</sub>-Control (23.83 cm). Therefore, the availability of a higher quantity of nutrients might be responsible for improvement in the physical properties of soil and increased activity of microbes with higher levels of organics might have helped in increasing plant height. Similar findings have been reported by **Rai et al. (2015)**.

### 194<sup>3</sup> Effect of Treatments on Number of Leaves per plant

The data presented in the table 3 revealed that the number of leaves (per plant) of onion significantly increased in treatment T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (6.66 per plant) followed by T<sub>5</sub>-Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (6.26 per plant), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantanacamara* (5.73 per plant), T<sub>2</sub>-Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (5.33 per plant), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (5.13 per plant) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (7.93 per plant) and (Untreated check) T<sub>0</sub>-Control (4.06 per plant). This result may be due to the availability of vermicompost, boimix and *Lantanacamara*. The nutrients provide essential nutrients to plants resulting in promoted vegetative growth of the plant. Similar findings have been reported by **Solanki et al. (2020)**.

### 206 Effect of Treatments on Fresh Weight of Bulb (g/m<sup>2</sup>)

The data presented in the table 4 revealed that the fresh weight of bulb (g) of onions significantly increased in treatment T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (44.96 g) followed by T<sub>5</sub>-Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (40.60 g), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantana camara* (38.76 g), T<sub>2</sub>-Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (33.30 g), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (32.90 g) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (48.20 g) and (Untreated check) T<sub>0</sub>-Control (25.96 g). This result could be due to the application of vermicompost, biomix, *Lantanacamara*. Organic manure application in the soil enhances the biochemical potential

215 of soil and consequently affects plant production. Similar findings have been reported by  
 216 **Kumar et al. (2019).**

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 218 **Effect of Treatments on bulb diameter (cm)**

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 220 The data presented in table 5 revealed that the bulb diameter (cm) of onions significantly  
 221 increased in treatment T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (5.90 cm) followed by  
 222 T<sub>5</sub>-Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (5.13 cm), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantana*  
 223 *camara* (4.50 cm), T<sub>2</sub>-Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (4.30 cm), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantana camara*  
 224 (3.30 cm) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (6.76 cm) and (Untreated check)  
 225 T<sub>0</sub>-Control (2.70 cm). This result could be due to the application of vermicompost, biomix,  
 226 *Lantanacamara*. Organic manures which provide major micronutrients resulted in increased  
 227 photosynthetic activity, chlorophyll formation, nitrogen metabolism and auxin contents in the  
 228 plants ultimately improving the diameter of the bulb. Similar findings have been reported by  
 229 **Dhaker et al. (2017).**

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 231 **Effect of Treatments on Yield of Onion (q/ha)**

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 233 The data presented in the table 6 revealed that the yield of onion (q/ha) significantly increased  
 234 in treatment T<sub>4</sub>-Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (148.30 q/ha) followed by T<sub>5</sub>-  
 235 Vermicompost+Cocopeat+*Lantanacamara* (136.16 q/ha), T<sub>1</sub>-Vermicompost+*Lantana*  
 236 *camara* (101.20 q/ha), T<sub>2</sub>-Biomix+*Lantanacamara* (90.13 q/ha), T<sub>3</sub>-Cocopeat+*Lantana*  
 237 *camara* (89.76 q/ha) as compared to (Treated check) T<sub>6</sub>-Carbendazim (153.16 q/ha) and  
 238 (Untreated check) T<sub>0</sub>-Control (49.40 q/ha). This might be significantly increased by organic  
 239 manure (vermicompost, biomix etc) and *Lantanacamara*. The organic manure (vermicompost,  
 240 biomix etc) may stimulate soil biological activity due to the enrichment of soil organic matter.  
 241 Similarly, the addition of vermicompost could have improved the physical and biological  
 242 properties of amended soil. The application of vermicompost can also lead to a significant  
 243 increase in soil enzyme activities such as phosphatase, B-glucosidase, and dehydrogenase  
 244 **(Srivastava et al., 2012)**. The efficacy of the vermicompost is also linked to the earthworm's  
 245 activities because, during vermicomposting, greater mineralization of organic nutrients occurs  
 246 in the digestive tract of earthworms, which increases mineral content in the vermicompost. In  
 247 addition, earthworms secrete growth hormones and enzymes that promote plant growth  
 248 **(Coulibaly et al., 2020).**

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 250 **Table 1. Effect of treatments on disease intensity (%) of purple blotch of onion at 30, 60**  
 251 **and 90 DAT**

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Sr.No.	Treatments	30DAT	60DAT	90DAT
253	T <sub>0</sub> Control	12.07	26.54	39.17
254	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost (VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	9.82	19.82	28.74
255	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix (B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	10.30	21.42	32.39
256	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat (C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	10.78	23.90	34.16
257	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	8.21	17.82	26.48
258	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C+LC	9.31	18.39	27.22
259	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	7.07	12.93	21.45
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.35	0.37	0.53
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	1.00	1.16	1.73

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264 **Table2.Effectoftreatmentsonplantheight(cm)ofonionat30,60and90DAT**

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Sr.No.	Treatments	30DAT	60DAT	90DAT
266	T <sub>0</sub> Control	8.60	14.98	23.83
267	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost(VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	15.51	25.22	35.00
268	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix(B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	12.60	21.34	29.77
269	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat(C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	10.93	20.06	27.64
270	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	17.34	29.56	38.18
271	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C+LC	16.53	28.33	35.95
272	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	22.46	34.73	43.78
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.31	0.47	0.51
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	1.02	1.45	0.98

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274 **Table3.Effectoftreatmentsonnumberofleavesperplantofonionat30,60and90**  
275 **DAT**

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Sr.No.	Treatments	30DAT	60DAT	90DAT
277	T <sub>0</sub> Control	2.13	2.86	4.06
278	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost(VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	3.40	3.93	5.73
279	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix(B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	3.20	3.80	5.33
280	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat(C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	2.93	3.46	5.13
281	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	4.53	4.86	6.66
282	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C+LC	4.00	4.53	6.26
283	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	5.00	6.06	7.93
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.07	0.06	0.07
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	0.23	0.20	0.22

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285 **Table4.Effectoftreatmentsonfreshweightofbulb(g)ofonion**

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Sr.No.	Treatments	Freshweightofbulb(g)
287	T <sub>0</sub> Control	25.96
288	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost(VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	38.76
289	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix(B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	33.30
290	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat(C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	32.90
291	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	44.96
292	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C +LC	40.60
293	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	48.20
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.18
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	0.56

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**Table5.Effectoftreatmentsonbulbdiameter(cm)ononion**

Sr.No.	Treatments	Bulbdiameter(cm)
309	T <sub>0</sub> Control	2.70
310	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost(VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	4.50
311	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix(B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	4.30
312	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat(C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	3.30
313	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	5.90
314	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C +LC	5.13
315	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	6.76
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.08
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	0.25

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**Table6.Effectoftreatmentsonyieldofonion (q/ha)**

Sr.No.	Treatments	Yield(q/ha)
319	T <sub>0</sub> Control	49.40
320	T <sub>1</sub> Vermicompost(VC)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	101.20
321	T <sub>2</sub> Biomix(B)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	90.13
322	T <sub>3</sub> Cocopeat(C)+ <i>Lantanacamara</i> (LC)	89.76
323	T <sub>4</sub> VC+B+LC	148.30
324	T <sub>5</sub> VC+C +LC	136.16
325	T <sub>6</sub> Carbendazim	153.16
	<b>S.Em.(+)</b>	0.41
	<b>C.D (5%)</b>	1.28

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#### 4. CONCLUSION

330 From the present study, it can be concluded that the treatment T<sub>4</sub>–Vermicompost @50g/m<sup>2</sup>  
331 +Biomix @50g/m<sup>2</sup>+*Lantanacamara*@100g/m<sup>2</sup> significantly reduced the disease intensity  
332 (%) of purple blotch of onion, and significantly increased plant height (cm) of onion, number of  
333 leaves per plant, fresh weight of bulb (g), bulb diameter (cm), yield (q/h) and benefit-costratio.  
334 Therefore, T<sub>4</sub>–Vermicompost+Biomix+*Lantanacamara* is most effective against purple  
335 blotch of onion when compared with other treatments and untreated checks. Using  
336 Vermicompost, Biomix and *Lantanacamara* may be economical, long-lasting, eco-friendly and  
337 free from residual side effects and can also be recommended to the farmers for the efficient  
338 management of disease. The present investigation was limited to one crop season (*Rabi*),  
339 under the climatic conditions of Prayagraj (U.P.) therefore, to substantiate the present result  
340 more such trials are required for further recommendation.

Disclaimer (Artificial intelligence)

Option 1:

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

Option 2:

Author(s) hereby declare that generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models, etc have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts. This explanation will include the name, version, model, and source of the generative AI technology and as well as all input prompts provided to the generative AI technology

Details of the AI usage are given below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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