

**Review Form 3**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_124349
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>IMPACT OF PINCHING ON GROWTH, YIELD AND QUALITY ATTRIBUTES OF AFRICAN MARIGOLD (TAGETES ERECTA L.) CV. PUSA NARANGI GAINDA</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Research Article</b>

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it addresses a relevant and timely topic, contributing new insights to the field of horticulture. The methodology is sound, and the results are presented clearly with reliable data analysis. However, the discussion could benefit from a deeper comparison with existing literature. Overall, this study has potential to advance knowledge, but revisions are needed to strengthen its impact.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title "IMPACT OF PINCHING ON GROWTH, YIELD AND QUALITY ATTRIBUTES OF AFRICAN MARIGOLD (TAGETES ERECTA L.) CV. PUSA NARANGI GAINDA" is quite informative, but it can be made more concise and impactful. A revised title could be: "Effect of Pinching on Growth, Yield, and Quality of African Marigold (Tagetes erecta L.) cv. Pusa Narangi Gainda"</p>	
<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purpose Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current: "Hence, the present investigation was conducted..."</li> <li>o Suggestion: Begin with a clear statement about the significance of the study, such as: "This study aims to enhance marigold cultivation practices by standardizing pinching techniques for improved yield and quality."</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Methodology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current: "Three levels of pinching (no pinching, single at 20 days and double at 20 and 40 days after transplanting)..."</li> <li>o Suggestion: Provide clarity and context by specifying the design and scope more explicitly. For example: "The experiment employed a factorial randomized block design with three replications, focusing on the African marigold variety Pusa Narangi Gainda."</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current: "The results revealed that treatment P0 (No pinching) was discovered to be the finest in increment in height of plant..."</li> <li>o Suggestion: Use more concise language. For instance: "Results indicated that no pinching (P0) produced the highest plant height and early flower bud initiation, while double pinching (P2) significantly improved growth metrics and flowering characteristics."</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Specific Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current: "improved quality characteristics like chlorophyll and xanthophyll content in marigold."</li> <li>o Suggestion: Be more specific about the implications of these findings. You could say: "Double pinching also enhanced quality traits, including increased chlorophyll and xanthophyll content, which are vital for flower health and color vibrancy."</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Current: "Hence, it might be concluded that application of double pinching can be helpful and recommended..."</li> <li>o Suggestion: Strengthen the conclusion by reaffirming the broader implications. For example: "Therefore, implementing double pinching is recommended to optimize marigold yield and quality in commercial horticulture."</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<p>The document lacks clear headings and subheadings, which contributes to a degree of confusion for the reader. Additionally, the paragraphs are excessively lengthy, making it challenging to follow the content.</p>	
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4</b></p>	<p>While the manuscript exhibits scientific robustness, there are a few flaws that could be addressed to enhance its quality. Firstly, the lack of numbering in subsections may lead to confusion regarding the structure, making it harder for readers to follow the logical flow of the research. Additionally, although the results are presented clearly, the discussion section could benefit from a deeper analysis of the</p>	

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<p><b>sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>underlying physiological mechanisms behind the observed effects of pinching on growth and yield. Furthermore, more information about the environmental conditions and management practices during the study period could provide valuable context for the results, helping readers better understand the applicability of the findings to different cultivation settings. Addressing these points would improve the overall clarity and depth of the manuscript.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b> -</p>	<p>The references in the manuscript are not formatted according to standard scientific citation methods, as they appear to be typed manually in Word rather than adhering to a specific citation style. This lack of proper formatting can hinder the manuscript's credibility and make it difficult for readers to locate the cited sources. To enhance the manuscript's scientific rigor, I suggest incorporating more recent studies that align with the topic of marigold cultivation and pinching practices. This would not only provide a more comprehensive literature review but also ensure that the references are up-to-date and relevant. Properly formatted citations will improve the manuscript's overall presentation and adherence to scientific standards.</p>	
<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments  <b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>No, there are numerous grammatical errors that impede the clarity and comprehensibility of the documents.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>		

**PART 2:**

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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<p>Department, University &amp; Country</p>	<p><b>Agriculture and Forestry University, Nepal</b></p>