ANEMONE CULTIVAR EVALUATION

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ABSTRACT: Five anemone cultivars were planted January 30, 2003 in field beds under a cold frame to evaluate the early spring flower stem production of this cool season crop. Overall growth and production of the 5 cultivars planted in this trial was poor. There were no differences in the number of stems produced by the cultivars. "Mona Lisa White" and "Mona Lisa Deep Red" produced longer stems compared to the other cultivars.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS: Seeds of 5 anemone cultivars were planted in 1204 cells containing Metro Mix 366 media on October 15, 2002 (Table 1). The seedlings were fertilized with 100 ppm ($mg \cdot L^{-1}$) N using Peter's Peat Lite Special 20-10-20 water soluble fertilizer until the first leaves emerged after which they were fertilized with 250 ppm ($mg \cdot L^{-1}$) N from Peter's 20-10-20. The seedlings were drenched with Banrot (etridiazole + thiophanate methyl) at a rate of 2 oz/gal prior to transplanting to the plant beds. The plants were transplanted to raised beds on January 30, 2003. The beds were sheltered by a plastic covered, unheated cold frame The beds were fertilized monthly at the rate of 1 lb 8-8-8/100ft^2 of bed.

The experimental design was a randomized complete block with four replications of each treatment. There were 2 plants in each replication. The experimental unit consisted of two plants of each cultivar that were planted in pairs, one plant on each of two parallel rows that were spaced 12 in apart; the plants in each row were spaced 12 in apart. The data collected during the trial were analyzed by SAS PROC GLM (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC). Mean separation was conducted with Fisher's Protected LSD at the 0.05 significance level.

The data recorded in this experiment were bloom diameter, stem length, stem diameter, and number of stems per plant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: The anemone plants did not grow well in this trial. The number of stems produced by cultivars in this trial did not differ statistically (Table 2). The stem length of the "Mona Lisa White" and "Mona Lisa Deep Red" was longer compared to "Mona Lisa Deep Blue" and "Mona Lisa Scarlet" (Table 2).

Table 1. Anemone cultivar, source, and transplant date

Cultivar	Source	Transplant to field beds
Mona Lisa Deep Blue	Pan American Seed	1/30/03
Mona Lisa Deep Red	Pan American Seed	1/30/03
Mona Lisa Purple	Pan American Seed	1/30/03
Mona Lisa Scarlet	Pan American Seed	1/30/03
Mona Lisa White	Pan American Seed	1/30/03

Table 2. Total number of stems, stem length, stem diameter and bloom diameter 2003

Cultivar	Total stems (2 plants)	Stem length (in)	Stem diameter (in)	Bloom diameter (in)
Mona Lisa Deep Red	9.7 a	9.6 a	0.30 a	3.4 a
Mona Lisa Deep Blue	8.5 a	8.0 b	0.28 a	3.3 a
Mona Lisa White	5.7 a	10.6 a	0.24 a	3.3 a
Mona Lisa Scarlet	4.0 a	6.7 c	0.20 a	3.0 a

[1] Mean comparison within columns by Fisher's Protected LSD at P=0.05. Means with the same letter do not differ at the 5% significance level.