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Evaluation of Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) genotypes for growth and yield in middle Gujarat condition

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Abstract

An experiment was conducted for evaluation of eight different guava genotypes for growth, yield and yield attributes for their suitability under Middle Gujarat conditions. The collected eight different guava cultivars *viz.*, AGRS 1, AGRS 2, AGRS 3, AGRS 4, AGRS 5, AGRS 6, AGRS 7, AGRS 8 and two checks Dholka and Lalit were showed wide range of variation with respect to plant growth, yield and yield attributes of fruit at sub tropics of middle Gujarat conditions. Results of three year study indicated that the red flesh genotype AGRS 8 (35.85 kg/plant) produced higher fruit yield followed by AGRS 4 (32.23 kg/tree). This genotype has lower incidence of fruit fly damage as compared to the checks Lalit and Dholka. The genotype AGRS 8 (Lal Bahadur) is out yielder and suitable for cultivation under middle Gujarat condition. The genotype respond well to mrig-bahar (Jun-July flowering time) to get maximum yeild.

Keywords: Evaluation, middle Gujarat, guava, selection, red flesh and sub tropics

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) belongs to the family Myrtaceae is one of the most important commercial fruit crops of tropics and subtropics of India and world too. It is the fourth most important fruit after mango, banana and citrus. Because of its superior adaptability, it is also known as "The apple of tropics" (Hayes, 1970, Singh and Ashutosh 2018)^[4, 16] Guava is native to Central America and is widely cultivated in South Africa, Hawaii, Indian continent and Mexico.

In India, guava occupies an area of 2.65 lakh hectares with annual production of 40.54 lakh MT (NHB 2017-18 database)^[5]. In India, it is cultivated throughout except higher hills. Allahabad area in U.P is noticeable for the production of higher quality of guava in India and the world. In Gujarat it occupies an area of 13487 hectares with annual production of 179165 MT during 2018-19 (DOH, Gandhinagar)^[6]. The major districts of Gujarat growing guava are Bhavnagar, Vadodara, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Kutch, Kheda, and Chhotaudepur which occupied more than 75% area and production of total guava crop. In Middle Gujarat, guava crop occupied about 32.00% area of Gujarat contributing 37.68% share in production during the year 2016-17. Guava is quite resilient, productive bearer and highly remunerative crop. It flourishes well under wide range of soil types having a pH range from 4.5 to 8.2 (Rushie, 1948; Ghosh et al. 2013)^[13, 3]. Guava fruit is rich in 'vitamin-C', minerals like calcium, iron and phosphorous with pleasant aroma and flavour (Bhalekar and Chalak 2017)^[2]. The western region of India which is bestowed with moderate downpour has its own tremendous potentialities for raising guava. There are three distinct phases of growth and fruiting *i.e.* Ambe bahar, Mrig bahar and Hast bahar in subtropical climate (Lodaya and Masu 2019)^[8]. The quality of the guava fruit is observed to be better in winter season (Singh et al., 2016)^[17]. In general, the tendency of the farmers is to go for raising high yielding varieties so as to earn rewarding net returns while the consumer's attraction is for delicious and least number of seeded fruits of optimal size (Babu et al., 2002)^[1]. Less seeded, a desirable trait of guava readily attracts the attention of farmers and consumers. Mainly guava has two types i.e. white and red flesh. Presently, majority area of guava is cultivated under local white fleshed varieties.

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At present, only two red flesh guava varieties i.e., Lalit (CISH-Lucknow) and Pant Red (Pantnagar) is commercially grown in India. In Gujarat, improved red fleshed variety is not available for commercial cultivation. Moreover, red flesh variety has distinct value for processing and there is urgent need to develop variety having high yield with better quality in red flesh segment. So, it is requisite to screen the vast varietal wealth of red flesh guava for higher yield and quality traits for its wider acceptance and better preference among the growers and consumers. Hence, attempt was made to screen available genotypes of red flesh guava suitable for Gujarat leads to develop suitable variety for the region.

Materials and Methods

Eight genetically diverse red flesh guava genotypes viz., AGRS 1, AGRS 2, AGRS 3, AGRS 4, AGRS 5, AGRS 6, AGRS 7, AGRS 8, along with two checks Dholka (LC) and Lalit (NC) were evaluated with respect to growth, yield and yield contributing traits of fruit at Horticultural Research Farm, AAU, Anand during 2017-2019. The guava genotypes were planted at spacing of 5 m x 5 m in randomized block design. Crop was regulated by imparting Mrig bahar i.e. flowering in June-July and fruiting from November till February. Three plants per replication of each genotype were selected from established orchard and data were recorded from selected plants with respect to growth, yield and quality morpho-physiological traits. Growth, yield and characteristic's study was made in terms of plant height (m), plant spread (N-S; E-W) (m), number of fruit per plant, average fruit weight (g), fruit volume (cc), fruit yield (kg/tree), number of seeds/fruit, seed weight/fruit (g), pulp weight/fruit (g) and pulp to seed ratio. The data was statistically analysed by method of analysis of variance using RBD as described by Panse and Sukhatme (1985)^[10].

Results and Discussion

There were wide variations observed among different guava cultivars with respect to growth characters, fruit characters and yield potential. Data (Table 1) revealed that genotypes differed significantly with respect to their growth and yield attributes.

Growth characters

Plant growth was recorded in terms of plant height (m) and plant spread (m) *i.e.*, East West (EW) and North South (NS)

spread. Significant differences were recorded for all these characters. Maximum plant height was noticed in Exotica (3.48 m) followed by AGRS 4 (3.47 m) and AGRS 8 (3.15 m) though they were statistically at par. Similarly, canopy spread was recorded maximum by Exotica East-west (4.59 m) and North-south (4.53 m) direction, while Dholka recorded the minimum plant spread in East-west (2.98 m) and North-south (3.08 m) direction. Similar work also reported earlier by Patel *et al.* (2011)^[11]; Talang *et al.*, (2017)^[18], Kumar *et al.* (2017)^[7]

Yield and yield attributes

The data presented in Table 2 in respect of fruit characters revealed that the significant differences were recorded for different yield and yield attributes viz., number of seeds per fruit, seed weight per fruit (g), pulp weight per fruit (g), pulp: seed ratio and fruit volume (cc), number of fruits per plant, average fruit weight (g) and fruit yield per tree (kg/tree). The AGRS 3 (318.22) recorded minimum number of seeds per fruit whereas maximum number of seeds per fruit was observed in Dholka (421.44) followed by Exotica (410.33) and Lalit (409.00). The seed weight per fruit was recorded minimum in AGRS 3 was (5.59 g) followed by AGRS 4 (6.10 g) and maximum seed weight per fruit was observed in Dholka (8.92 g). Similar findings was also reported by Singh (2003) ^[14] in guava cv. Lucknow-49 under Tripura condition. The maximum pulp weight per fruit was obtained in Dholka (143.10 g) which was closely followed by AGRS 8 (140.04 g) and AGRS 4 (138.12 g) whereas, the minimum pulp weight per fruit was registered in AGRS 7 (108.04 g). The highest pulp: seed ratio was recorded in AGRS 4 (22.70) followed by AGRS 3 (19.57) and AGRS 8 (18.09) whereas, lowest pulse: seed ratio was found in Lalit (13.91). The maximum fruit volume was recorded in Dholka (180.11 cc) whereas, minimum in AGRS 3 (110.89 cc). This study was in close conformity with the findings of Patel et al. (2007)^[12], Singh et al., (2016)^[17], Singh and Ashutosh (2018)^[16].

The highest fruit yield was recorded by AGRS 8 (35.85 kg/tree), which was 57.80% higher then the white flesh check variety Dholka (22.72 kg/tree) and 91.10% higher then the red flesh check variety Lalit (18.76 kg/tree). The guava genotype AGRS 4 ranked second with fruit yields of 32.23 kg/tree. AGRS 8 recorded maximum number of fruits per plant (402.11) which was followed by AGRS 4 (346.22).

	Plant height (m)						Plant Spread (m)								
	Treatments		Plant n	ieight (n	1)	N-S (m)				E-W (m)					
		2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled		
1	AGRS-1	2.53	2.63	2.73	2.63	3.85	3.28	3.98	3.70	3.43	3.80	3.62	3.62		
2	AGRS-2	2.82	2.73	2.82	2.79	3.90	4.25	3.97	4.04	4.07	3.77	4.52	4.12		
3	AGRS-3	2.55	2.58	2.67	2.60	3.62	3.60	3.80	3.67	3.58	3.73	3.80	3.71		
4	AGRS-4	3.32	3.45	3.63	3.47	4.57	4.27	4.75	4.53	4.27	4.62	4.52	4.47		
5	AGRS-5	2.83	2.90	2.90	2.88	3.70	3.47	3.82	3.66	3.42	3.67	3.68	3.59		
6	AGRS-6	2.95	3.03	3.07	3.02	4.02	4.47	4.20	4.23	4.47	4.08	4.60	4.38		
7	AGRS-7	2.67	2.77	2.88	2.77	3.53	3.40	3.92	3.62	3.42	3.65	3.52	3.53		
8	AGRS-8	2.93	3.20	3.32	3.15	4.32	4.55	4.60	4.49	4.53	4.28	4.75	4.52		
9	LALIT (C)	3.07	2.92	3.10	3.03	3.63	3.95	3.83	3.81	3.88	3.65	4.13	3.89		
10	DHOLKA (C)	1.98	2.90	3.08	2.66	2.78	3.13	3.03	2.98	3.08	2.82	3.35	3.08		
11	EXOTICA (C)	3.47	3.47	3.52	3.48	4.57	4.45	4.75	4.59	4.40	4.67	4.52	4.53		
	S. Em. ±	0.18	0.14	0.10	0.14	0.19	0.24	0.08	0.19	0.19	0.24	0.08	0.19		
	CD at 5%	0.52	0.41	0.29	NS	0.57	0.72	0.24	NS	0.57	0.72	0.24	NS		
	CV %	10.92	8.32	5.75	8.46	8.76	11.02	3.50	8.28	8.76	11.02	3.50	8.28		
	Y x T	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS		

Table 1: Effect of different genotypes of red flesh guava on plant height and plant spread

Table 2: Effect of different genotypes of red flesh guava on yield and yield attributing characteristics

Treatments			No. of Fr	uits/plant		Average Fruit weight (g)					
	Treatments	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled		
1	AGRS-1	146.67	154.33	195.00	165.33	118.53	123.33	122.00	121.29		
2	AGRS-2	162.67	165.00	217.67	181.78	119.00	130.43	125.67	125.03		
3	AGRS-3	180.67	179.67	247.00	202.44	108.20	116.67	119.00	114.62		
4	AGRS-4	381.00	330.33	327.33	346.22	139.00	150.67	143.00	144.22		
5	AGRS-5	177.33	179.00	254.00	203.44	121.33	128.33	130.33	126.67		
6	AGRS-6	194.67	143.67	263.33	200.56	105.97	123.33	119.00	116.10		
7	AGRS-7	193.67	194.00	274.67	220.78	110.77	118.67	116.67	115.37		
8	AGRS-8	476.67	369.33	360.33	402.11	144.67	153.33	145.33	147.78		
9	LALIT (C)	177.67	181.33	273.00	210.67	117.47	122.33	127.33	122.38		
10	DHOLKA (C)	172.67	253.00	235.67	220.44	150.07	152.33	153.67	152.02		
11	EXOTICA (C)	167.67	139.00	147.00	151.22	141.67	145.33	138.33	141.78		
	S. Em. ±	10.21	10.99	18.97	13.97	4.87	5.28	3.64	4.65		
	CD at 5%	29.96	32.26	55.65	39.46	14.30	15.48	10.67	NS		
	CV %	8.00	9.15	12.93	10.62	6.75	6.87	4.82	6.21		
	Y x T	-	-	-	Sig.	-	-	-	NS		

Table 2: Contd...

Treatments			Fruit vo	lume (cc)	Fruit yield (kg/tree)					
	Treatments	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	
1	AGRS-1	134.00	135.33	135.00	134.78	14.33	14.50	19.20	16.01	
2	AGRS-2	137.67	135.67	136.00	136.44	14.82	14.08	20.07	16.32	
3	AGRS-3	107.67	111.33	113.67	110.89	15.07	15.12	22.10	17.43	
4	AGRS-4	161.33	162.67	157.33	160.44	36.25	28.25	32.20	32.23	
5	AGRS-5	143.67	144.67	145.67	144.67	16.12	15.18	22.60	17.97	
6	AGRS-6	108.67	112.00	123.33	114.67	16.33	13.63	23.13	17.70	
7	AGRS-7	136.00	137.67	136.33	136.67	17.40	16.08	24.03	19.17	
8	AGRS-8	171.67	173.00	167.33	170.67	41.85	32.14	33.57	35.85	
9	LALIT (C)	142.67	142.33	143.33	142.78	16.07	16.38	23.83	18.76	
10	DHOLKA (C)	177.67	180.33	182.33	180.11	17.62	25.72	24.83	22.72	
11	EXOTICA (C)	164.33	161.33	160.00	161.89	16.82	12.08	13.93	14.28	
	S. Em. ±	2.34	2.70	3.44	2.83	1.18	1.17	1.56	1.32	
	CD at 5%	6.88	7.53	10.10	NS	3.47	3.44	4.59	3.72	
	CV %	2.82	3.07	4.10	3.38	10.12	10.99	11.49	11.01	
	Y x T	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	Sig.	

Table 2: Contd...

	T		No. of se	eeds/fruit		Seed weight/fruit (g)					
	Treatments	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled		
1	AGRS-1	333.00	326.67	321.67	327.11	6.49	6.41	6.37	6.42		
2	AGRS-2	388.33	383.33	385.00	385.56	8.19	8.04	7.95	8.06		
3	AGRS-3	320.33	321.00	313.33	318.22	5.66	5.53	5.58	5.59		
4	AGRS-4	324.67	318.33	316.67	319.89	6.41	5.98	5.91	6.10		
5	AGRS-5	370.67	367.33	371.67	369.89	7.48	7.31	7.33	7.37		
6	AGRS-6	337.33	330.00	323.33	330.22	7.24	7.14	7.15	7.17		
7	AGRS-7	338.67	331.67	333.33	334.56	7.50	7.24	7.25	7.33		
8	AGRS-8	398.33	395.00	398.33	397.22	8.07	7.58	7.57	7.74		
9	LALIT (C)	407.00	408.33	411.67	409.00	8.27	8.17	8.18	8.21		
10	DHOLKA (C)	427.67	421.67	415.00	421.44	9.12	8.85	8.80	8.92		
11	EXOTICA (C)	412.67	410.00	408.33	410.33	8.23	8.16	8.16	8.18		
	S. Em. ±	12.46	11.81	10.69	11.68	0.14	0.11	0.10	0.12		
	CD at 5%	36.54	34.66	31.37	NS	0.42	0.32	0.31	NS		
	CV %	5.85	5.61	5.10	5.53	3.36	2.65	2.53	2.88		
	Y x T	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS		

AGRS 8 recorded maximum number of fruits per plant (402.11), which was followed by AGRS 4 (346.22). Data revealed that the highest average fruit weight was recorded in cultivar Dholka (152.02 g) which was closely followed bt AGRS 8 (147.78 g) and AGRS 4 (144.22 g) though tey were statistically at par. The lowest average fruit weight was found

in AGRS 7 (115.37 g). The highest number of fruits per plant was recorded in AGRS 8 (402.11) followed by AGRS 4 (346.22) while, lowest number of fruits per plant was observed in Exotica (151.22). These results are in concurrence with the findings of Patel *et al.* (2011) ^[11], Singh *et al.* (2013) ^[15], Singh *et al.*, 2016 ^[17]; Singh and Ashutosh 2018 ^[16].

Treatments			Pulp weig	ht/fruit (g)	Pulp: Seed ratio					
	Treatments	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	2017	2018	2019	Pooled	
1	AGRS-1	112.05	116.93	115.63	114.87	17.32	18.29	18.17	17.93	
2	AGRS-2	110.81	122.39	117.72	116.97	13.50	15.24	14.81	14.51	
3	AGRS-3	102.54	111.13	113.42	109.03	18.26	20.15	20.30	19.57	
4	AGRS-4	132.59	144.68	137.09	138.12	20.72	24.19	23.20	22.70	
5	AGRS-5	113.86	121.02	123.00	119.29	15.23	16.56	16.78	16.19	
6	AGRS-6	98.73	116.20	111.85	108.93	13.64	16.28	15.64	15.19	
7	AGRS-7	103.27	111.43	109.41	108.04	13.77	15.39	15.08	14.75	
8	AGRS-8	136.60	145.75	137.77	140.04	16.93	19.28	18.08	18.09	
9	LALIT (C)	109.19	114.16	119.15	114.17	13.19	13.97	14.56	13.91	
10	DHOLKA(C)	140.95	143.48	144.87	143.10	15.45	16.21	16.47	16.04	
11	EXOTICA(C)	133.44	137.18	130.18	133.60	16.22	16.82	15.96	16.34	
	S. Em. ±	4.83	5.30	3.63	4.65	0.74	0.88	0.51	0.73	
	CD at 5%	14.19	15.55	10.65	NS	2.17	2.60	1.49	NS	
	CV %	7.12	7.30	5.08	6.57	8.10	8.80	5.15	7.51	
	ҮхТ	-	-	-	NS	-	-	-	NS	

Table 2: Contd...

Correlation among the traits

The correlation coefficients were estimated among all the pairs of variables (Figure 1). The traits, East West spread had a positive and highly significant association with North South spread for Anand in all the three Mrig bahar seassons (June-July flowering time) during 2017, 2018 and 2019. Though, East West and North South spread also had a positive and significant correlation with fruit volume (Table 3).The number of fruits per plant had highly significant and positive correlation with fruit yield and significant pulp: seed ratio. The highly significant and positive correlation was exhibited by average fruit weight with pulp weight per fruit and fruit volume. The number of seeds per fruit showed positive and highly significant association with seed weight per fruit. So, it was significantly correlated in desired direction with fruit volume. Seed weight per fruit had significant positive correlation with fruit volume. Pulp weight per fruit depicted significant and positive correlation with fruit volume. It indicated that these characters may be used in selection for amelioration of guava for high yield. Similar findings were also reported by Meena *et al.* 2020)^[9] in guava.

Table 3: Pearson correlation between different yield and yield contributing traits

Variable	Environment	PH	E.W	N.S	NFP	AFW	FY	NSF	SWF	PWF	PSR	FV
PH	Anand	1	0.596**	0.616**	0.290	0.320	0.304	0.103	0.009	0.336	0.269	0.312
E.W	Anand		1	0.679***	0.339	0.140	0.289	-0.021	-0.116	0.161	0.236	0.025**
N.S	Anand			1	0.281	0.109	0.271	-0.053	-0.172	0.126	0.246	0.028**
NFP	Anand				1	0.409	0.968***	-0.018	-0.097	0.421	0.423*	0.412
AFW	Anand					1	0.480	0.399	0.351	0.946***	0.456	0.830***
FY	Anand						1	0.019	-0.057	0.485	0.439*	0.494
NSF	Anand							1	0.817***	0.361	-0.425	0.590*
SWF	Anand								1	0.313	-0.635	0.554*
PWF	Anand									1	0.526	0.783**
PSR	Anand										1	0.146
FV	Anand											1.000

Values in * and ** significant at 5% & 1% level of significant; PH = Plant height (m), Plant spread - E.W = East West (m), N.S = North South (m), NFP = Number of fruits per plant, AFW= Average Fruit Weight (g), FY = Fruit yield (kg/tree), NSF = Number of seed per fruit, SWF = Seed weight per fruit (g), PWF = Pulp weight per fruit (g), PSR = Pulp seed ratio (g), FV=Fruit volume (cc)

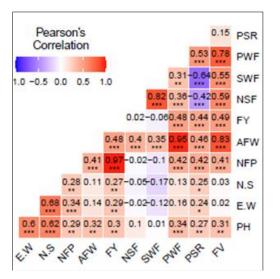


Fig 1: Pearson correlation between yield and yield contributing traits

Conclusion

On the basis of foregoing findings, it is concluded that AGRS 8 Lal Bahadu was superior in most of the characters studied and might be one of the promising cultivar of guava for cultivation in middle Gujarat condition.

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