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Scheduling of Planting Dates for Maximum Profitability in Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.) under Mid Hills of Solan, Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract**:** An experiment was conducted to evaluate the economics and profitability of carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.) production as influenced by planting dates and cultivars. Three commercial carnation cultivars, viz. 'Dumas', 'Kiro' and 'Master' and seven planting dates starting from 15th October to 15th April at monthly intervals were undertaken in split-plot design for investigation at the Department of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan. Highest gross returns were obtained from cultivar 'Dumas' when planted in the months of April 2015 (Rs. 210856.70 $500m^{-2}$) and March 2015 (Rs. 206801.50 $500m^{-2}$) planting of the same cultivar. It also resulted in the maximum benefit cost ratio of 4.05:1 and 4.16:1, respectively. The March 2015 planting was identified as the best planting time over other planting dates with highest cumulative returns to produce desired quantity and quality flowers to meet the growing domestic as well as international demand under mid hills of Solan, Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Profitability, Carnation, Scheduling, Planting dates