



Interactive Effect of Biofertilizers and Organic Potting Media on Growth and Flowering of *Calendula* (*Calendula officinalis* Linn.)

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Abstract: Studies were carried out to evaluate the interactive effect of biofertilizers and organic potting media on growth and flowering of *Calendula* (*Calendula officinalis* Linn.). Different media compositions comprising Cocopeat + Paddy Straw Compost (PSC), Cocopeat + Spent Mushroom Compost (SMC), Cocopeat + Vermicompost (VC) and Soil + Farm Yard Manure (FYM) were used in definite ratios (1:1) and seedlings were inoculated with biofertilizers such as *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and PSB (Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria). Maximum plant height (33.70 cm), plant spread (41.96 cm), number of branches/plant (29.13) and duration of flowering in days (125.00) were observed in Cocopeat + VC + PSB. However, early bud appearance (27.60 days), more number of flowers per plant (55.6) and maximum presentable life of a pot plant (82.4 days) were observed in Cocopeat + VC + Control (no inoculation), Cocopeat + VC + *Azospirillum* and Cocopeat + VC + *Azotobacter*, respectively. Bacterial count/density of *Azotobacter* and *Azospirillum* was maximum in Cocopeat + VC media composition counting 11.5×10^4 and 17.6×10^3 cfu/g, respectively. The maximum PSB count (1.20×10^4 cfu/g) was in Cocopeat + PSC.

Key Words: *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and PSB, *Calendula*, Cocopeat + VC
