3 Results and Analysis

3.1 Vegetative parameter

Various observations were made during the experiment on growth and yield attributes. The statistical analysis indicates that plant height was significantly affected by different dates of pinching at 45 days of observation. Control produced the plant with maximum height (138.41 cm) compared to other treatments at par with pinching at 30 DAT (124.72 cm). The minimum plant height was observed in pinching at 20 days (90.86 cm) being at par with pinching at 30 days. The mean plant height of cucumber observed at 60 DAT was statistically similar ranging from 132.125 cm to 196.675 cm (Table 1).

Similarly, the maximum number of lateral branches was observed to pinch at 20 days (5.09) followed by pinching at 25 days (3.75) (Table 1). The minimum number of lateral branches was observed at control (2.06) which was at par with pinching at 15 days (2.37) and pinching at 30 days (2.32).

Table 1 Effect of date of pinching on plant height (cm) and Number of lateral branches of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L. cv. Kamini) at Kawasoti, Nepal (2024)

Treatment	Plant height (cm)		Number of lateral branches
	45 DAT	60 DAT	
Pinching at 15 days	90.86^{d}	150.30	2.37^{c}
Pinching at 20 days	102.04^{cd}	132.13	5.09^{a}
Pinching at 25 days	109.72^{bc}	177.00	3.75^{b}
Pinching at 30 days	124.72^{ab}	180.00	2.32^{c}
Control	138.41^{a}	196.68	2.06^{c}
Grand mean	113.15	167.22	3.11
SEM (±)	6.37	17.25	0.30
LSD (0.05)	17.02	46.04	0.778
CV (%)	9.764	17.87	16.20
F- test	***	NS	***

Note: Means followed by common letter(s) within column are non-significantly different based on DMRT at p=0.05; LSD: Least Significant Difference; SEM: Standard Error of Mean; CV: Coefficient of Variation; DAT: Days After Transplanting; NS: Non-Significant, *** significant at 0.1% level of significance

Furthermore, the data achieved by pinching in total male flower, female flower, and sex ratio is shown in Table 2. The total number of male flowers was also found significant statistically. The highest number of male flowers was obtained on the control (114.75), which was statistically similar to pinching at 30 days. The lowest number of male flowers was obtained on pinching at 15 days (51.65), which was similar to pinching at 20 days and 25 days.

Table 2 Effect of date of pinching on male, female flower and sex ratio of Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L. cv. Kamini) at Kawasoti, Nepal (2024)

Treatment	Male flower	Female flower	Sex ratio
Pinching at 15 days	51.65^{b}	27.25^{ab}	2.01^{c}
Pinching at 20 days	54.00^{b}	33.92^{a}	1.64^{c}
Pinching at 25 days	58.35^{b}	29.32^{ab}	1.98^{c}
Pinching at 30 days	98.87^{a}	21.25^{bc}	4.67^{b}
Control	114.75^{a}	15.12^{c}	7.64^{a}
Grand mean	3.05	25.37	3.59
SEM (±)	12.10	3.14	0.75
LSD (0.05)	32.29	8.39	2.01
CV (%)	27.75	21.48	36.27
F- test	**	**	***

Note: Means followed by common letter(s) within column are non-significantly different based on DMRT at P=0.05; LSD: Least Significant Difference; SEM: Standard Error of Mean; CV: Coefficient of Variation; DAT: Days After Transplanting; ** significant at 1% level of significance, *** significant at 0.1% level of significance