3.2 Floral and sex expression parameters

The total number of female flowers was also found significant statistically different. Plant pinched at 20 days produced the highest number of female flowers (33.92) which was statistically at par with pinching at 15 days (27.25) and 25 days (29.32) (Table 2). The lowest number of female flowers was produced in control (15.12) which was statistically at par with pinching at 30 days (21.25). The sex ratio was also found significant statistically. The highest sex ratio was found in control (7.64) followed by pinching at 30 days (4.67). The lowest sex ratio was found in pinching at 20 days (1.64) which was statistically at par with pinching at 25 days (1.98) and pinching at 15 days (2.01).

Likewise, Table 3 displays the circumference and length of various fruits. Fruit circumference was found statistically significant. The highest fruit circumference was found in pinching at 25 days (26.43 cm) which was statistically at par with control (25.61 cm) and pinching at 30 days (23.26 cm). The lowest fruit circumference was found at pinching at 20 days (19.23 cm) which was statistically at par with pinching at 15 days (20.72 cm). The mean fruit length of cucumber was statistically similar ranging from 18.55 cm to 23.22 cm.

It also displays the number of fruits and fruit weight (Table 3). The number of fruits per plant was found statistically significant. The maximum number of fruits was found in pinching at 20 days (13.69) followed by pinching at 15 days (9.44) which was statistically at par with pinching at 25 days (9.50) and pinching at 30 days (9.13).

Table 3 Effect of date of pinching on fruit circumference (cm), fruit length (cm), number of fruits, fruit weight (gm) of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L. cv. Kamini) at Kawasoti, Nepal (2024)

Treatment	Fruit circumference (cm)	Fruit length (cm)	Number of fruits	Fruit weight (gm)
Pinching at 15 days	20.73^{bc}	22.33	9.44^{b}	570.75^{ab}
Pinching at 20 days	19.23^{c}	21.48	13.69^{a}	633.23^{a}
Pinching at 25 days	26.44^{a}	18.56	9.50^{b}	502.14^{bc}
Pinching at 30 days	23.26^{abc}	23.22	9.13^{b}	466.98^{cd}
Control	25.61^{ab}	23.00	6.12^{c}	415.50^{d}
Grand mean	23.052	21.716	9.575	517.78
SEM (±)	1.917	1.416	0.7067	29.12
LSD (0.05)	5.11	5.445	1.885	77.72
CV (%)	14.40	11.29	12.78	9.743
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 5% level of significance, *** significant at 0.1% level of significance

Fruit weight was also found to be statistically significant. Maximum fruit weight was obtained in pinching at 20 days which was statistically at par with pinching at 15 days (570.75 gm). Minimum fruit weight was obtained in pinching at control (415.50 gm) which was statistically at par with pinching at 30 days (466.9 gm).

3.3 Yield and yield attributing parameters

Yield per plant and yield per hectare is shown in Table 4. Yield per plant was found to be statistically significant. Maximum yield was obtained in pinching at 20 days (5.7650) which was significantly at par with pinching at 15 days (5.1975). Minimum yield per plant was obtained in control (3.79), which was statistically at par with pinching at 30 days (4.25). Yields per hectare was also found to be statistically significant. Maximum yield was obtained in pinching at 20 days (46.14) which was statistically at par with pinching at 15 days. Minimum yield was obtained in control (30.54) which was statistically at par with pinching at 30 days (34.76) and pinching at 25 days (36.58).