ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The time has come to look on the path traversed by me during the course of this endeavor and to remember the faces with spirit behind the action with a sense of gratitude.

Neither the space nor words are big enough to express my loyal and venerable thanks for giving me such a wonderful person as my Advisor during the course of the investigation. With an overwhelming sense of pride and genuine obligation, I take this rare opportunity and proud privilege to extend my heartfelt and deep sense of gratitude towards chairman of my advisory committee, Dr. K.V. JAYAPRASAD, Professor Of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore, for suggesting the problem, valuable advice, guidance, continuous encouragement, co-operation, kind help and keen interest evinced throughout the period of this study and preparation of this thesis.

I take this opportunity to record my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to my beloved advisory committee members, Dr. R. KRISHNAMANOHAR, Professor of Horticulture, Dr. D.P. KUMAR, Professor and Administrative officer, Mr. H.S. SURENDRA, Associate Professor of Statistics, Dr. K. SUDHIR, Dean, College of Agriculture, GKVK, Bangalore, for generous assistance constructive criticism during the studies and for the valuable comments and suggestion in preparation of this thesis.

I am highly thankful to Dr. K. KEMPEGOWDA, Professor & Head, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, BANGALORE, for his kind support and guidance.

I am thankful to the staff members of the Department of Horticulture, Dr. B.N. SATHYANARAYANA, Dr. R. JAYANTHI and Dr. G. MUKUND for their valuable guidance and moral support during my stay in this department.

I am thankful to PFDC unit, Division of Horticulture, UAS, Bangalore, for providing a field for conducting this experiment. Mere words cannot adequately express
my deep sense of gratitude and reverence towards, MAHADEVAPPA, JAYAMMA, KRISHNAPPA and other working staff, for their kind help provided during course of investigation.

But for the affection, words of encouragement, boundless love, unflagging inspiration, interest and selfless sacrifice of my parents I would not have been what I am today. I owe all my success to them. The special persons in my life my father Mr. Keshava Bhat, my mother Mrs. Varada, my sister Mrs. Vani and my brother in law Mr. Rajashekhar Patwardhan without their love and blessings this study would have scarilly accomplished.

I owe thanks from depth of my heart to my well wishers, Akshay, Pradeep, Ganga, Dhanya, Ajith, Hall, Shruthi, Swathi, Smitha, Shridhar Bhat, Govi, Ravi, Putta and Nayana for their love, affection and constant encouragement throughout the study.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to teaching and non – teaching staff members of the division of Horticulture for their valuable suggestions and inspiring encouragement.

I greatly acknowledge the DST, for providing Merit fellowship to carry out my research work.

Acknowledgement losses its meaning if, I fail to note the inspired encouragement of my nearest and dearest friends for their timely help during the investigation period. Harsha, Yathi, Waman, Pooja, Sharma, Elizabeth madam, Charan sir, Changa, Sudhakar, Santhosh rathod, Rajesh Gaval, Santhosh, SM sir, Venkatesh sir, Vinay sir, Prahlad, Lohith, Anand, Anil, Vijay, Suresh, JK, Kotre, Bidda, Guru and Sajjan.

I wish to thank all the others who had helped me in one way or the other in completing the study.

BANGALORE
August, 2012

(RAJESH.A.M.)