

## Performance of *Pleurotus florida* on different substrates in mid-hill Garhwal Himalaya of Uttarakhand

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BHAWANA TIWARI<sup>1</sup>, S. RAVI<sup>2\*</sup>, VIVEKANAND<sup>3</sup> AND SANJEEV K. VERMA<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2&3</sup>Department of Plant Pathology <sup>4</sup>Department of Food Technology, College of Horticulture, VCSG UJHF, Bharsar 246123, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

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Oyster mushroom is commonly known as "Dhingri". It is a lignocellulosic fungus and grows naturally in temperate and tropical forests. The growing and consumption interest of oyster mushroom is increasing largely due to its taste, medicinal and nutritional properties. *Pleurotus florida* was cultivated on five different substrates, viz. wheat straw, paddy straw, barnyard millet straw, finger millet straw and poplar leaves. The observations recorded that wheat straw gave the minimum spawn run period (19.00 days), appearance of pin head (25.75 days) and fruiting bodies formation (29.22 days) besides this maximum stipe length (3.37 cm), and cap diameter (8.37 cm) were also found on wheat straw. Similarly, flush wise yield (g) was maximum in wheat straw. The maximum average total yield in (g) was also found in wheat straw and the Biological efficiency (BE) was maximum (78.33%) on wheat straw. In other way on poplar leaves maximum spawn run period (28.40 days), appearance of pin head (35.40 days) and fruiting bodies formation (41.47 days) were observed and besides this minimum stipe length (2.35 cm), and cap diameter (4.82 cm) were found on poplar leaves. Among all these substrates flush wise yield (g) was minimum on poplar leaves, so the average total yield in (g) and the (BE) was minimum (38.05%) on poplar leaves.

**Key words:** *Pleurotus florida*, substrates, yield, biological efficiency ,Garhwal Himalaya

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