ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my heartfelt and sincere thanks to my affectionate and honorable advisor Dr. A. V. Barad, Principal and Dean, College of Agriculture, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh for impeccable guidance, constant endeavor, incessant encouragement, unceasing interest, judicial supervision and constructive criticism throughout the course of investigation leading to surmount this task to a successful completion. His illuminating guidance, unfailing encouragement, scholarly suggestions, constructive criticism, judicious supervision, sympathetic attitudes, amiable behavior and keen interest throughout the course of this investigation and preparation of the manuscript cannot be express in words.

This memorable occasion provides to me unique privilege to thank to the members of my advisory committee, Dr. P. J. Marsonia, Professor, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, J.A.U., Junagadh, Dr. N. D. Polara, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, J.A.U., Junagadh and Dr. D. V. Patel, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Statistics, J.A.U, Junagadh for their constant attention, formulation of curriculum and offering valuable suggestions throughout the period of investigation.

The author is gratified to record her sincere thanks to Dr. A. R. Pathak, Vice-chancellor, J.A.U., Junagadh, Dr. A. Y. Desai, Director of research and PG Dean, Dr. A. V. Barad, Principal and Dean, College of Agriculture, J.A.U., Junagadh and Dr. R. S. Chovatia, Professor & Head, Department of Horticulture, J.A.U., Junagadh for providing necessary facilities for conducting the research work and for necessary help and co-operation to me during the period of study.

I wish to convey my special thanks to Dr. D. V. Desvadiya, Dr. A. N. Makwana, Dr. R. R. Viradia, Professor, Department of Horticulture, J.A.U., Junagadh and Dr. D. K. Varu, Dr. K. M. Karetka, Dr. K. Kanzaria, Kathadbhai, Gopalbhai, Kalubhai, Patelbhai and all other staff members of Horticulture Department.

The importance of library and role of its staff can never be underestimated but it is mostly forgotten during acknowledgement. I am deeply indebted to this central library, Junagadh Agricultural
University. I specially appreciate librarian Ms. P. Dave, and Chandresh Shah, Assistant librarian and staff members for their ever willing help during this study.

The financial support provided by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, in the form of ICAR—PGS for the post graduate degree programme is sincerely acknowledged.

I cannot eschew to express my whole hearted sense of reverence to my beloved parents Arun K, E and Jisha Arun, Brother, Amal Arun and my mentor Midhun K, P. who were instrumental in providing this opportunity for building up my educational carrier, encouragement and inspiration throughout the study. Eternal strength of my parents endowed me full of energy and enthusiasm to take challenges in life. Thus the completion of this higher education is the result of great sacrifices.

I am really grateful to my dear friends Deepthi, Manju, Tanvi, Jaya, Tejaswini, Monika, Pooja, Shailini, Remya and to my beloved seniors Elangivendhan, Athulya, Raziya, Nidhi, Pooja and all my ICAR UG juniors for their timely help and kind cooperation during the course of my study and field work.

Lastly but not least, I thanks to the almighty, who helped me on every path of life and made every step great success and because of their worship I can achieve present situation and hope for future life.

…any omission in this small manuscript does not mean lack of gratitude.

Place: Junagadh

Date: 19-06-2017

(Amrutha Arun)