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Growth Performance of A Lotus Variety Selected for Seed Production

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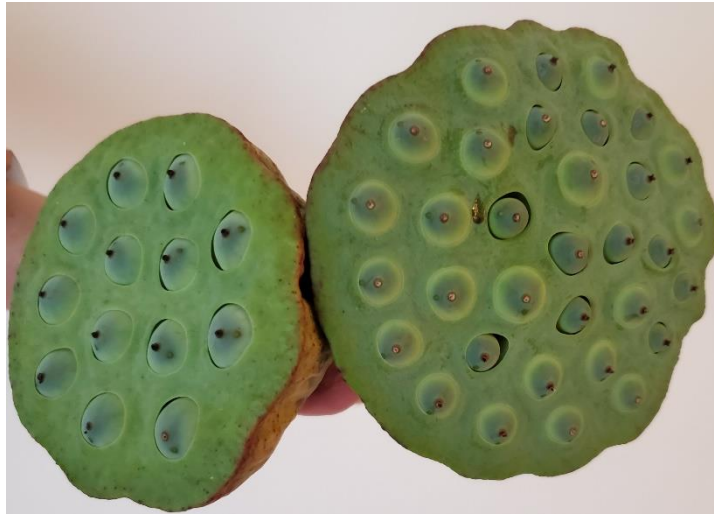


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Introduction

Fresh lotus seeds are consumed widely in China and other Asian countries and there is a potential market for fresh lotus pods as the population of Asian immigrants increases in Kentucky. Some consumers are willing to pay \$1 or \$2 for a quality fresh lotus seed pod.





Introduction

Mature seeds can be processed into pastes to be used as fillings for traditional delicacies such as the moon cakes.





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Introduction

Varieties of lotus are selected for seed production
The can also be used as ornamental plants;

It has been demonstrated that lotus plants can
grow under the climate conditions of Kentucky .



Objective

To determine the growth performance of lotus plants selected for seed production in a shallow pond.



Materials and Methods

- A variety well known for its seed production (Jianxuan 17) (12 tubers) was planted in a shallow pond (7.8 square meters in area). After each plant had grown at least one standing leaf, 10-10-10 for Vegetables (Southern States Cooperative) were applied every 21 days.
- The number of standing leaves, flower buds, flowers and seed pods were counted weekly.

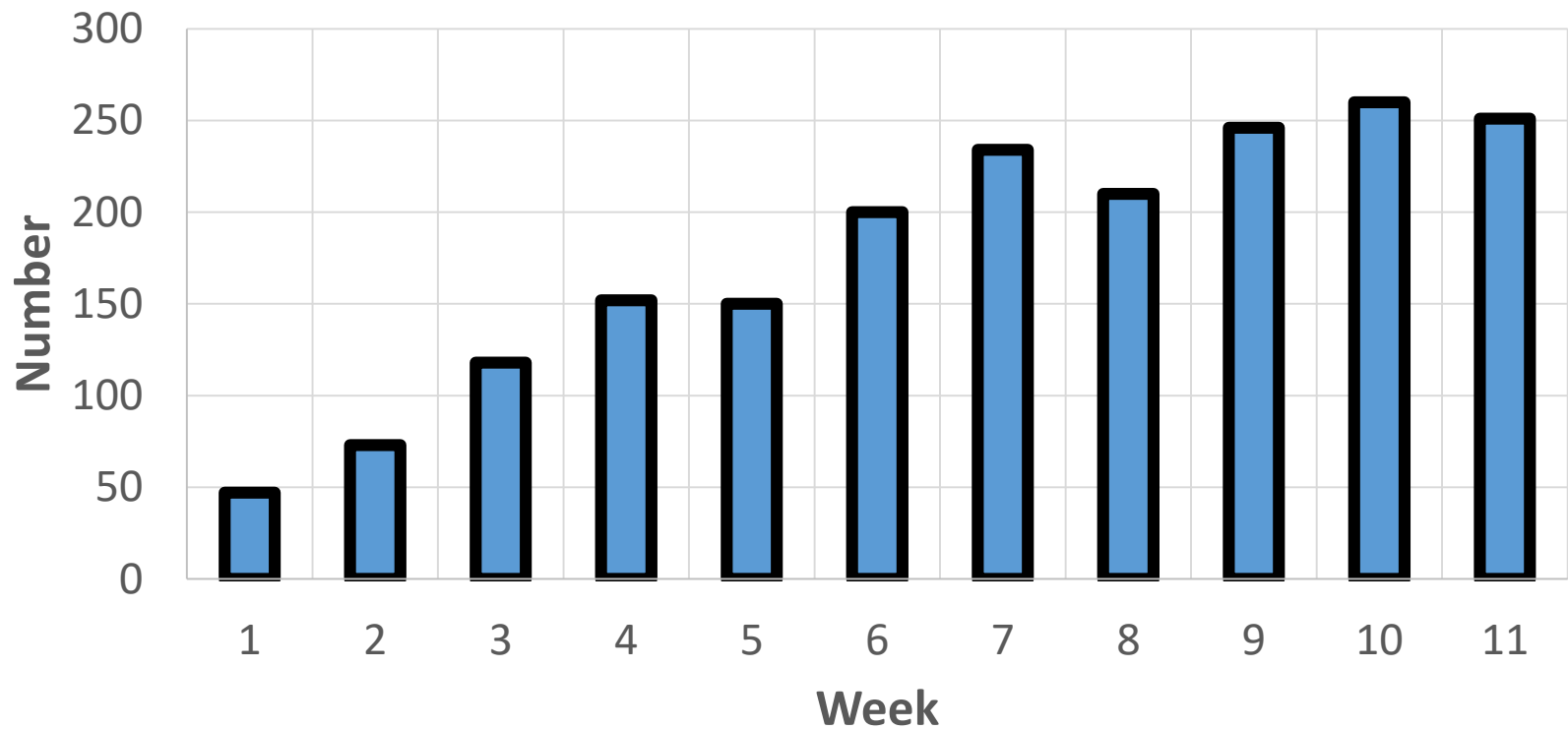


Results

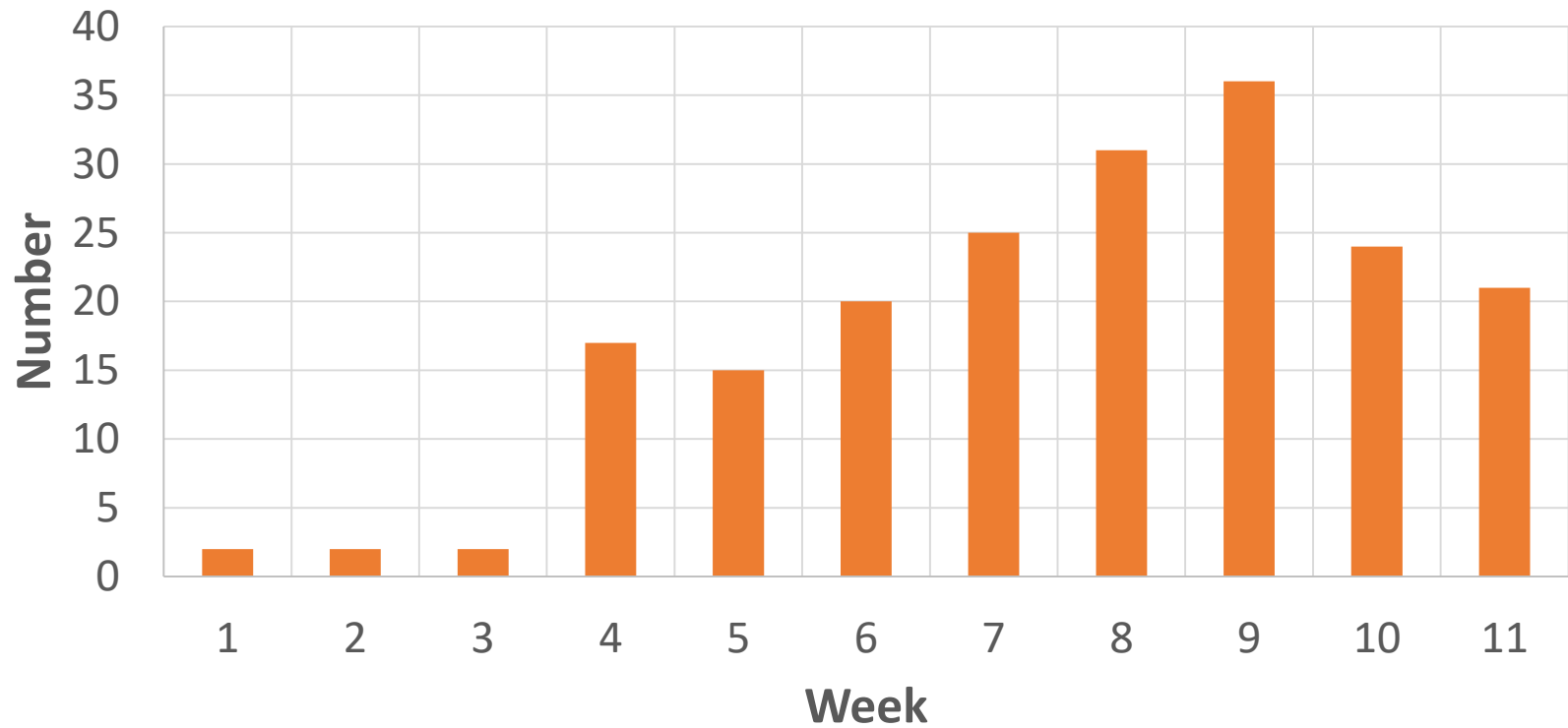




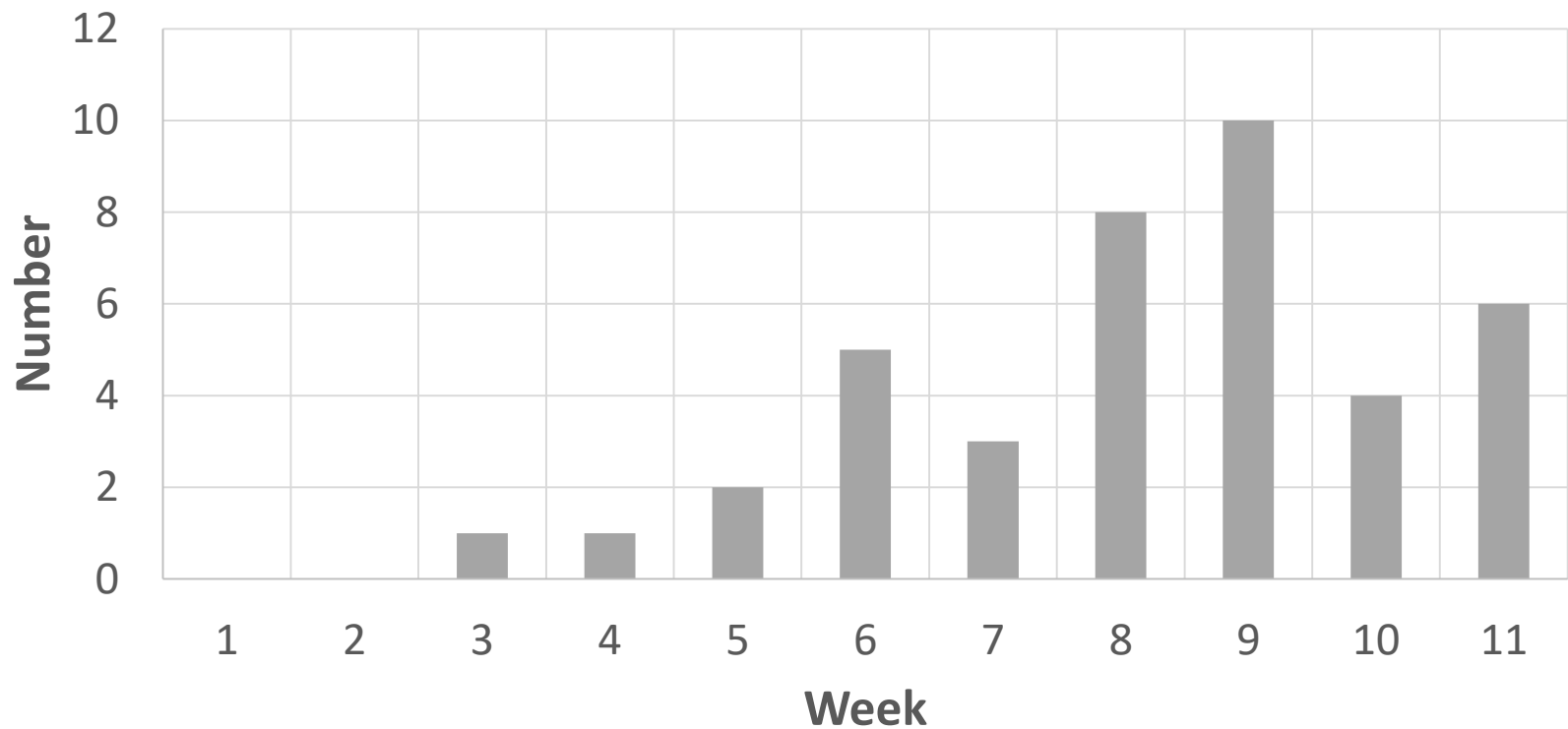
Number of Standing Leaves



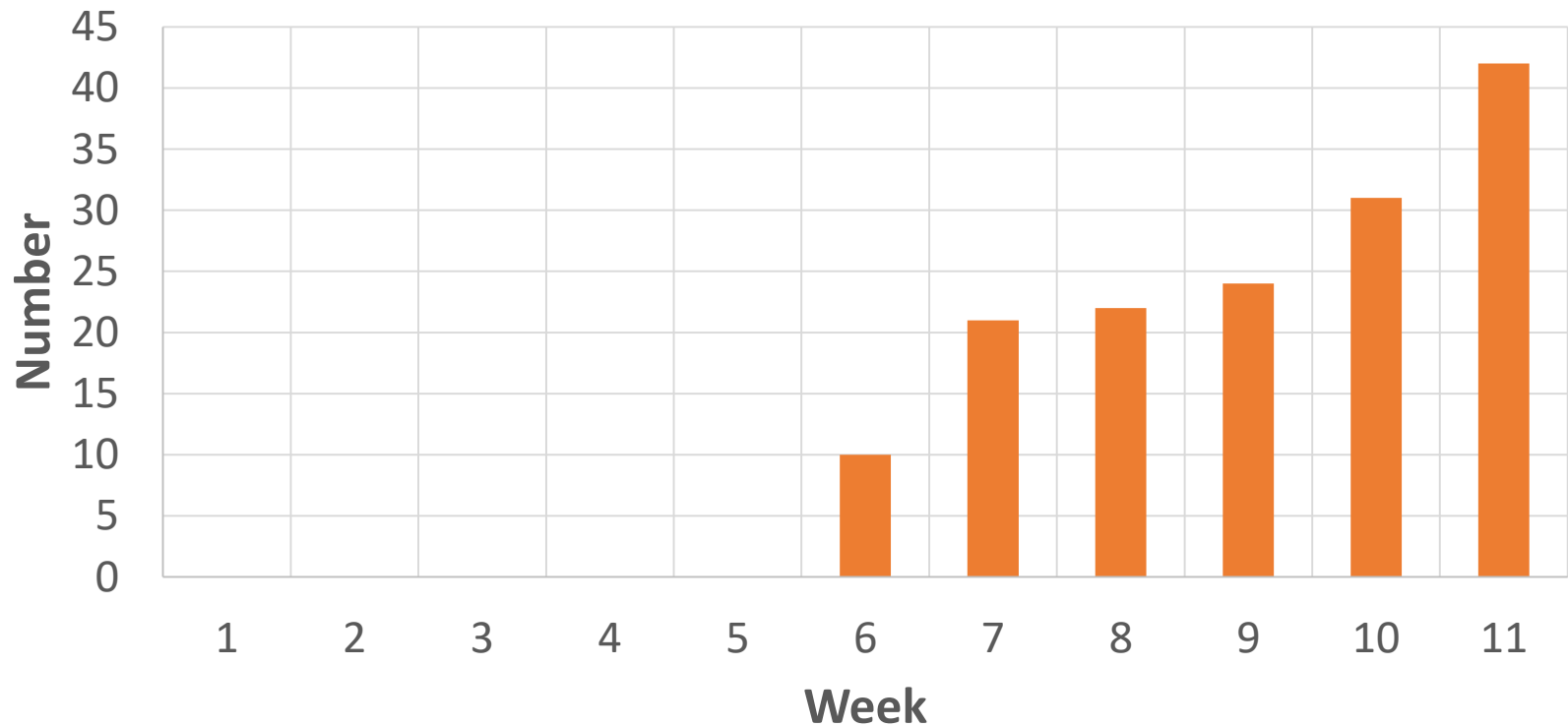
Number of Flower buds



Number of Blooming Flowers



Number of Seed Pods



Summary

- Lotus plants grew rapidly during the month of June, July and Aug;
- Flower buds started forming at the beginning Of June, flowers started blooming at the beginning of July and seed pods formed right after that. It took 2-3 weeks for the seed pods to form harvestable seeds. It took about 4 weeks for the seeds to be fully mature;
- Majority of the flower buds developed into blooming flowers then formed seed pods.



Conclusion

- These results suggest that each square meter of pond surface can produce 7-8 flowers and seed pods during the growing season.
- It is possible to grow lotus to produce fresh seed pods in Kentucky.



