

Title Edible flowers: new crops with potential health benefits

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Abstract

We have investigated several cultivars from amongst the genus *Begonia*, *Tropaeolum*, and *Rosa* that have flowers with an acceptable taste. The yield, postharvest performance and antioxidants levels of *Begonia* and *Tropaeolum* cultivars were characterized. Previously these parameters have been investigated for several *Rosa* cultivars (Friedman et al., 2007). Results suggest that the cultivars we have investigated have potential to be cultivated as edible flowers. Postharvest storage for 7-8 days did not reduce antioxidant levels. In addition, we have determined previously that rose petals contain relatively high levels of antioxidants, which can attribute to their development as a new crop with significant health benefits.