

Title Cutflower production and postharvest handling in Dalat, Vietnam
Authors Nguyen Van KET and Mai Xuan LUONG
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Abstract

The highland city of Da Lat is called the kingdom of flower since its climate and soils are particularly suitable for floriculture. Da Lat is the largest flower growing area in Lam Dong province. The total flower production area in Da Lat is approximately 450 hectares, with estimated output of 255 million stems per year. Species commonly grown include rose, chrysanthemum, gladioli, carnation, gerbera, lilies (Arum, Asia lilies, Oriental lilies, and agapanthus), anthurium, cymbidium, statice and gypsophila. Chrysanthemum production comprises an estimated 40% of the total flower production in the area. A foreign company produces a huge amount of high quality export cut flowers every year while the small family enterprises produce lower quality flowers with poorer colour, thinner stems infected with insect and disease and so their produces are sold out at a lower price. Due to limited use of post harvest treatment chemicals by small-scale growers, the vase life of cut flowers is reduced significantly.