

**Title** Plant quality assessment in Moroccan ornamental nurseries  
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#### **Abstract**

A quality diagnostic study was carried at 5 nurseries in the Souss Massa region (Southern West of Morocco) on three most marketable woody ornamental species: *Bougainvillea glabra*, *Ficus microcarpa* and *Hibiscus rosa sinensis*. Quality assessment at the marketable stage was done by measurement of total plant height, plant main stem diameter and plant median stem internode length. Important divergence in quality standards at the marketing stage, between plots and production systems were found for the three species studied: 1) *Ficus microcarpa* averaged 206 cm as maximum and 49 cm as minimum for the high and 3.6 cm as maximum and 1 cm as minimum for the diameter. 2) *Bougainvillea glabra* averaged 73 cm as maximum and 23 cm as minimum for the high and 4.4 cm as maximum and 0.6 cm as minimum for the diameter. 3) *Hibiscus rosa sinensis* averaged 87 cm as maximum and 36 cm as minimum for the high and 1.7 cm as maximum and 0.8 cm as minimum for the diameter. None of nurseries had an optimal growing system for the three species studied and there no clear correlation was found between plant quality and management system: The medium bulk density was generally high in the different growing systems and averaged from 0.68 to 1.42 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, the pH was usually high (7 to 8.8) and the EC varied from low to relatively high (0.7 to 5 ds/cm depending on the nursery. Substrates fertility however seems to have a significant impact on the marketable quality of plant no distinction of the specie.