

Title Postharvest physiology of harvested *Mokara* inflorescences
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Abstract

Mokara orchid inflorescences are one of the most important orchid hybrids for cut flower exports. The objective of this research was to study the physiological changes of *Mokara* inflorescences during storage. Inflorescences of *Mokara* Panee, *Mokara* Red, *Mokara* Nora 'Yellow', *Mokara* Chark Kuan 'Pink' and *Mokara* Nora 'Pink' were harvested from an orchid nursery at a commercial maturity stage and were transported to the laboratory. The stem ends were re-cut to ensure a uniform size before placing in distilled water at 25°C. Ethylene production, respiration rate, fresh weight, water uptake and bud opening were measured daily and vase life was noted at 50% of floret senescence. *Mokara* Nora Pink had the lowest thylene production, *Mokara* Panee had the highest respiration and bud opening, while *Mokara* Red had the highest fresh weight and water uptake. The display life of *Mokara* Panee, *Mokara* Red, *Mokara* Nora 'Yellow', *Mokara* Chark Kuan 'Pink' and *Mokara* Nora 'Pink' was 13, 11.6, 12.4, 12.4 and 12.7 days, respectively. These results indicate that the vase life and physiological changes of cut *Mokara* inflorescences depend on the cultivar.