

Title Effect of different postharvest solutions on three species with potential for the cut flower industry

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Abstract

Evaluation *Brassica juncea*, *Leonotis nepetifolia* and *Kalanchoe delagoensis* was conducted to determine their potential as cut flower crops. Inflorescences were harvested and evaluated with postharvest solutions. Solutions were classified as: Solution 1 (a control of distilled, deionized water), Solution 2 (19.72 g/L sucrose, 1 mL/L Clorox[®], 0.147 g/L citric acid), and Solution 3 (19.72 g/L sucrose, 1mL/L Clorox[®], 0.147 g/L citric acid, 0.221 g/L KCl and 0.257 g/L K₂ SO₄). Daily evaluation for number of flowers was performed until deemed unmarketable. Results of this research demonstrated the potential of *B. juncea* and *L. nepetifolia* as cut flower crops, lasting both species an average of 17 days. The difficulty in handling and transportation of *K. delagoensis* flowers limits its potential for the cut flower industry, even though they can last an average of 19 days.