

Vase life of selected florist greens in different holding solutions with commercial preservatives

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Abstract

Florist greens enhance the beauty of flower arrangements and should have decorative appeal and vase life that match that of the cut flowers. Flower preservatives are commonly used to extend the vase life of cut flowers but their effects on cut foliage are less known. This study compared the efficacy of two commercial preservatives, *Eurofleur* and *Cocogro*, in prolonging the vase life of cut foliage of *Microsorium punctatum* 'Gradiceps', *Davalia* sp. and *Dracaena sanderiana*. Two concentrations of Eurofleur (5 and 10 mg.L⁻¹) and Cocogro (10 and 15 mg.P⁻¹) were tested as holding solutions and compared to tap water as control during ambient storage (23-33°C, 65-88% RH). Responses to preservative treatments varied with cut foliage. In *M. punctatum* 'Gradiceps', the two preservatives had no effect on senescent changes. *Eurofleur* even promoted senescence, resulting in a shorter vasselife (4.2-4.9 weeks) than that of the control and *Cocogro* treatments (6.2-8.9 weeks). In *Davalia* sp., 5 g.L⁻¹ *Eurofleur* inhibited senescence and improved the vasselife by about 5 d more than that of the control and *Cocogro* treatments (13.3-14.0 d). In *D. sanderiana*, the two preservatives had no remarkable effect as the cut foliage from all treatments remained visually desirable at the end of the 32-d holding period.