

Potential use of *Heliconia* Brazilian species as cut flower

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Acta Horticulturae 1000: 139-145. 2013.

Abstract

Aiming to increase the number of *Heliconia* species and varieties, suitable for using as cut flowers, an evaluation was carried out based on morphological and agronomic characteristics, as well as on postharvest performance. The genetic resources of heliconia (*Heliconia* spp.) held at the BAG *Zingiberales* of the Instituto Agronômico Campinas (IAC/APTA, São Paulo, Brazil) were studied. The BAG consists of 28 species and varieties, 25 of which are naturally occurring in Brazil: *H. episcopalis* Vell., *H. hirsute* L., *H. bihai* (L.) L. 'Nappi Yellow', *H. stricta* Huber, *H. spathocircinata* Aristeg., *H. lourteigiae* Emygdio & Santos, *H. farinosa* Raddi, *H. rivularis* Emygdio & Santos, *H. pseudoaemygdiana* Emygdio & Santos, *H. acuminata* C. Rich, *H. angusta* Vell. 'Aurea', *H. angusta* Vell. 'Flava', *H. angusta* Vell. 'Holiday', *H. psittacorum* L., *H. metallica* Planch. & Linden, *H. subulata* R & P., *H. chartaceae* Lane ex Barreiros 'Sexy Pink', *H. chartaceae* Lane ex Barreiros 'Sexy Scarlet', *H. pendula* Wawra, *H. marginata* (Griggs) Pittier, *H. rauliniana* Barreiros, *H. rostrata* R. & P., *H. densiflora* Verlot, *H. aemygdiana* Burle Marx, *H. tenebrosa* MacBride, and *H. richardiana* Miq. Based in the morphological and agronomic characterization data and the post-harvest evaluation, it was found that *H. bihai* 'Nappi Yellow', *H. stricta*, *H. lourteigiae*, *H. farinosa*, and *H. angusta* 'Aurora' are very suitable for use as cut flower.