

Schinus molle: perspectives for use as cut foliage

E. Bosch, G.B. Tognon, F.L. Cuquel , W. do Amaral

Acta Horticulturae 1060: 127-132. (2015)

Abstract

Consumers place value on products with low environmental impact, whose production requires less use of agricultural chemicals and water consumption. Many native species meet these requirements. *Schinus molle* L. (*Anacardiaceae*) is a native species with beautiful flexible green stems and small leaflets with serrated edges, which may be used as cut foliage. The purpose of this study was to evaluate if the species has the minimum features required by florists and evaluate the vase life of the stems. The ornamental potential of the species was assessed by florists, which evaluated 20 stems according to criteria previously defined in the literature. The results obtained showed that *Schinus molle* has high potential as cut foliage, mainly for table arrangements, party arrangements and floral wreaths. In addition, *S. molle* stems were kept in water containers and evaluated every two days for loss of turgidity and color changing (means of the three dimensional CIE L* a*b* color system). The stems presented an average vase life of eight days, showing suitability for the proposed use.