Longevity of red gladiolus affected by pulsing with sucrose and stage of development

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Abstract

This study aimed to establish pulsing conditioning solutions, specific to the species *G. grandifloras* 'Red', aiming to increase the vase life by the use of sucrose and in different stages of harvest. The inflorescences were collected at two development stages: 1, all florets closed and swollen; stage 2, 1 to 3 florets showing final petal color. Afterwards, the stems were placed in jars for 6, 12, 18, 24 and 48 h in 20% sucrose solution. Regardless which stage the inflorescences were harvested intense flower opening started in the first 24 h, with more than half opened at the end of the vase life. Treatment with 6 h of pulsing was effective in prolonging the vase life from inflorescences harvested at stage 2 with a total of six days and five days for the stage 1. Treatment with 12 h with 20% sucrose solution was more efficient in prolonging the vase life. Pulsing for 48 h inhibited the opening of the flowers, indicating a possible damage to the petals.