

# Postharvest longevity of *Heliconia wagneriana*

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## Abstract

*Heliconia* flowers are known for their lush beauty of shapes and colors. However, the final quality is mainly linked to the postharvest handling. Therefore, we evaluated the postharvest quality of *Heliconia wagneriana* after pretreatment with preservative solutions of 10 and 20% sucrose, 30 and 75 mg L<sup>-1</sup> silver nitrate (AgNO<sub>3</sub>). Recutting the stems' base at every 48 h improved the quality and maintained the ornamental status for a longer period, maintaining the tissues' color and brightness for 18 days. Control stems showed a decreased ornamental value at the 9th day after packing, and by the 12th, the stalks had dark bracts, with yellowing and dehydrated tips. These symptoms may have been caused by high transpiration rates and low absorption of water by the uncut stems.