

Quality of ornamental pepper grown in different substrates

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Abstract

The Brazilian market for ornamental peppers follows a minimum quality standard. The quality patterns take in consideration some plant characteristics, such as the height, fruit number and diameter. These characteristics give harmony to the potted plant, which among other factors, depend on genotype and the substrate employed. This study aimed to determine the effect of different substrates on the final quality of two pepper genotypes ('Biquinho' and BGH-7073). Two types of substrates were evaluated, a commercial substrate (Bioplant[®]) and a local garden substrate with unknown composition. Seedlings were grown in a greenhouse and transplanted to 900-ml pots. When the plants had at least 30% of fully ripened fruits they were considered ready for marketing. Regardless the used substrate, no difference was observed on the number of days between transplanting up to the day that the plants were marketed. The genotypes BGH-7073 and the cultivar 'Biquinho' were marketed at 50 and 55 days after transplanting, respectively. Plants grown on substrate Bioplant[®] had higher plant height, canopy diameter, number of leaves and fruits per plant, but no visual differences in color were determined.