

Effect of the flower preservative on water balance in cut shoots of common lilac

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Abstract

Cut shoots of common lilac are praised by florists due to their high decorative value but they are not widely produced in Poland because of the insufficient postharvest longevity. The aim of the work was to study effects of a flower preservative on vase life of common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* ‘Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth’) harvested from shrubs forced between March and April and to determine water balance in cut shoots during their vase life. Chrysal Professional[®] increased the lilac vase life from 5.2 days (water control) to 10.7 days. During flower ageing the fresh weight, water uptake and transpiration decreased, being always higher in lilacs placed into the preservative which also delayed the appearance of the negative values of water balance. Lilac vase life did not seem to be directly related to the amounts of absorbed and transpired solutes.