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Vase Life Improvement in Cut Iris Flowers

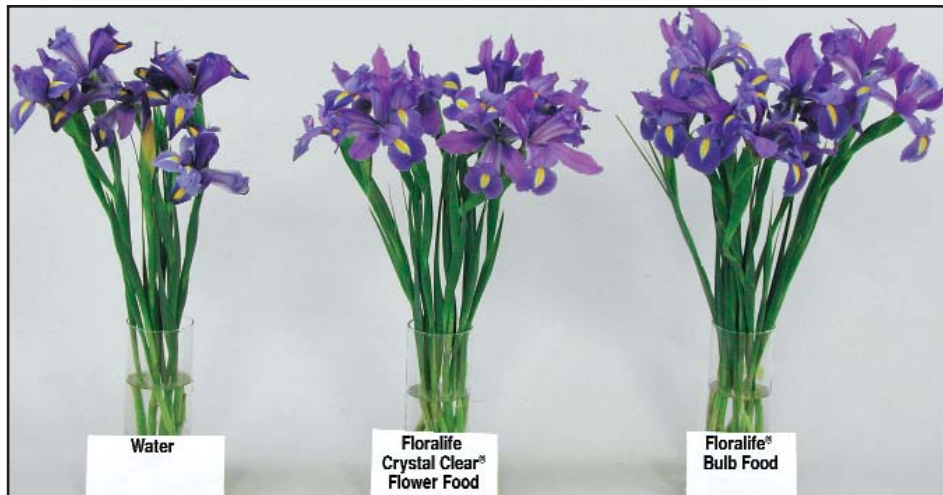
Background

The Iris is becoming an increasingly popular cut flower. You can find brilliant colors of yellow, blue and purple available today. Some possess unique flower shapes as well. The vase life of Iris flowers is short compared to other commercial cut flowers. Proper postharvest care and handling, and proper use of flower food can increase the vase life substantially over regular water.

Research

An experiment was conducted to evaluate the performance of three iris varieties sold by a major supermarket chain. Flowers were obtained from one of the stores and brought to the Floralife® laboratory. Upon arrival at the lab, the flower stems were processed for vase life analysis. The ends of stems were recut in air, any leaves that would be below the water level were removed and stems were placed in vases containing either water, Floralife Crystal Clear® food (10 g/L) or Floralife® Bulb Food (10 g/L). Flowers were held in an interior evaluation room (68 - 70° F, 12 hrs. of light) to monitor the vase life performance.

Results



Iris (Light Blue)
Time Period: 7 Days

Flower Type	Vase life (days) with Water	Vase life (days) with Floralife Crystal Clear® Food	Vase life (days) with Floralife® Bulb Food
Variety 1 (Dark Blue)	4.9	6.5	6.7
Variety 2 (Light Blue)	5.8	9.0	10.7
Variety 3 (Yellow)	5.9	7.7	9.3
Average	5.5	7.7	8.9

Conclusions

An average of 5.5 days of vase life was obtained when water was used as the treatment. Floralife® Crystal Clear flower food improved the vase life by 2.2 days (a 40% increase). Floralife® Bulb Food further improved the vase life by 1.2 days compared to Floralife® Crystal Clear food (a 16% improvement).

For further information on the Research Update, contact Anil Ranwala at anil@floralife.com. Postharvest Care and Handling information can be obtained at www.floralife.com or e-mail: info@floralife.com.