

Floralife® RESEARCH UPDATE

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Vase Life Performances of Mixed Bouquets

Background

The vase life of a bouquet of flowers is dependent upon several factors. Pre-harvest issues, such as the genetics of flower species and variety, growing conditions, and harvest stage all contribute to the potential vase life of flowers. Postharvest conditions, such as the management of temperature during transportation and storage, and the proper use of flower food, determine the length of time a bouquet of flowers will last in a vase.

Based upon survey results, the typical consumer's expectations of vase life for a bouquet of cut flowers is at least seven days. The experiment shows how proper postharvest handling can assist in fulfilling this expectation.

Setup

An experiment was conducted to evaluate the performance of different bouquets sold by a major supermarket chain. Flower bouquets were obtained from one of the stores and brought to the Floralife® laboratory. Upon arrival at the lab, bouquets were processed for vase life analysis. The ends of stems were recut in air, leaves that would be below the water level were removed and stems were placed in vases containing 1 L of Floralife Crystal Clear® (10 g/L) flower food solution. All flowers of a single bouquet were placed in a single jar. The flowers were held in interior evaluation room (68 - 70° F, 12 hr. of light) to monitor the vase life performance.

Observations

| Bouquet No. | Major Flowers in Bouquet | Average Vase Life (days) |
|-------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | Lily, Gerbera, Campanula | 10.0 |
| 2 | Alstroemeria, Chrysanthemum, Carnation | 10.3 |
| 3 | Roses, Alstroemeria, Campanula | 12.0 |
| 4 | Lily, Chrysanthemum, Campanula | 9.0 |
| 5 | Alstroemeria, Chrysanthemum, Carnation | 10.3 |
| 6 | Gerbera, Alstroemeria, Campanula | 11.3 |



Bouquet 1



Bouquet 2



Bouquet 3



Bouquet 4

Photos of Bouquets on Day 7

Conclusion

The data show the vase life can be extended beyond 7 days for a mixed flower bouquet with the proper postharvest handling. The longer a bouquet can survive the greater is the perceived value by the consumer

For more information or to download a copy of our "Care and Handling Book" on line, visit www.floralife.com. Questions? e-mail: info@floralife.com

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