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Efficacy of Premium OASIS® brand Floral Foam enhanced with Floralife® Technology

Background

Foliage quality is a very important component in a designed floral arrangement. Colorful flower petals are much more appealing when contrasted against lush green foliage. The flower petals of Alstroemeria and Asiatic Lily will often outlast the foliage which turns yellow quickly and reduces the overall aesthetic quality of the arrangement. To help florists improve upon providing quality of arrangements to their customers, Smithers-Oasis Company enhanced its Premium OASIS® brand Floral Foam using Floralife® technology.

Research

"Diamond White" Alstroemeria flowers were obtained dry from a reputable grower in South America. Upon arrival at the Smithers-Oasis Kent, OH laboratory, flower stems were recut and placed in tap water (60 ppm alkalinity) and moved into the flower cooler at 36° F (2° C) for 24 hours to hydrate. After this time, flowers were then inserted into the enhanced OASIS® Floral Foam brick *with* Floralife® technology and the "control" Premium OASIS® brand Floral Foam *without* Floralife® technology for evaluation.

For the test, both floral foams were initially saturated in tap water and then placed into trays where a 1 inch reservoir of water was maintained during the entire experiment. In a retail shop environment, floral foam should be soaked in flower food solution for best results.

Ten flower stems were then recut and inserted to within 1/2 inch of the bottom of the treated and control floral foam bricks. Each treatment consisted of four floral foam bricks containing 10 flower stems each.

The leaf yellowing percentage (number of yellow leaves / total number of leaves x 100) at "Day 5" was recorded for each treatment. The graph below represents the treatment effects on the leaf yellowing percentage of "Diamond White" Alstroemeria. The data represents the average leaf yellowing percentage of the four bricks in each treatment.

Results

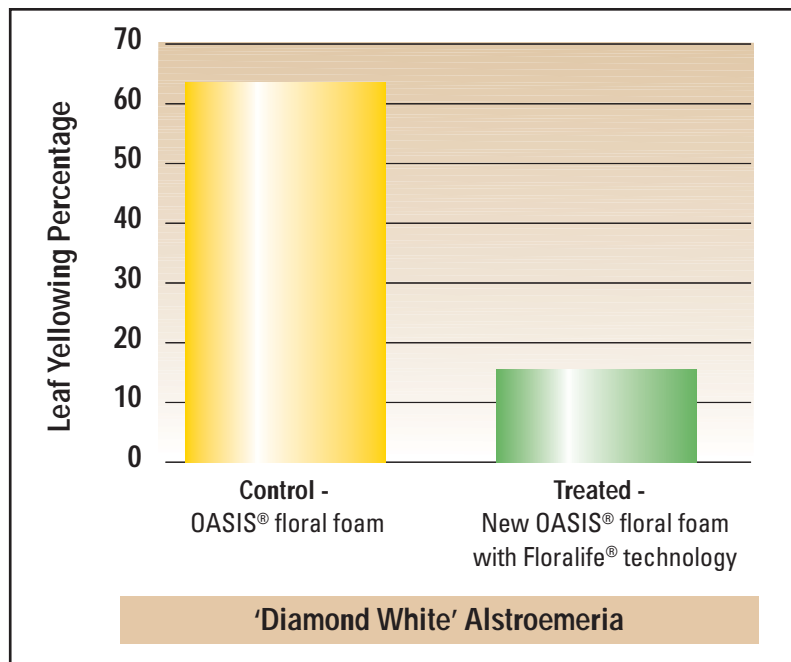


Day 5

Treated
OASIS® Floral Foam
with Floralife® technology

Control
OASIS® Floral Foam
without Floralife® technology

continued on back



Conclusions

The premature leaf yellowing percentage of "Diamond White" Alstroemeria in this study was much less when using the "treated" Premium OASIS® brand Floral Foam enhanced with Floralife® technology versus the "control" foam. The data indicated the Alstroemeria foliage stayed fresher and greener much longer.

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