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Efficacy of Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution

Background

Maintaining the water balance, nutrients and sanitation during each phase of postharvest handling is critical to ensure the quality and vase life of cut flowers. Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution is a convenient holding and shipping treatment ideal for use by bouquet operators, supermarkets and mass merchants. It is designed to maintain cut flower hydration and nutrition without causing excessive opening and development of the flower petals before the final consumer sale.

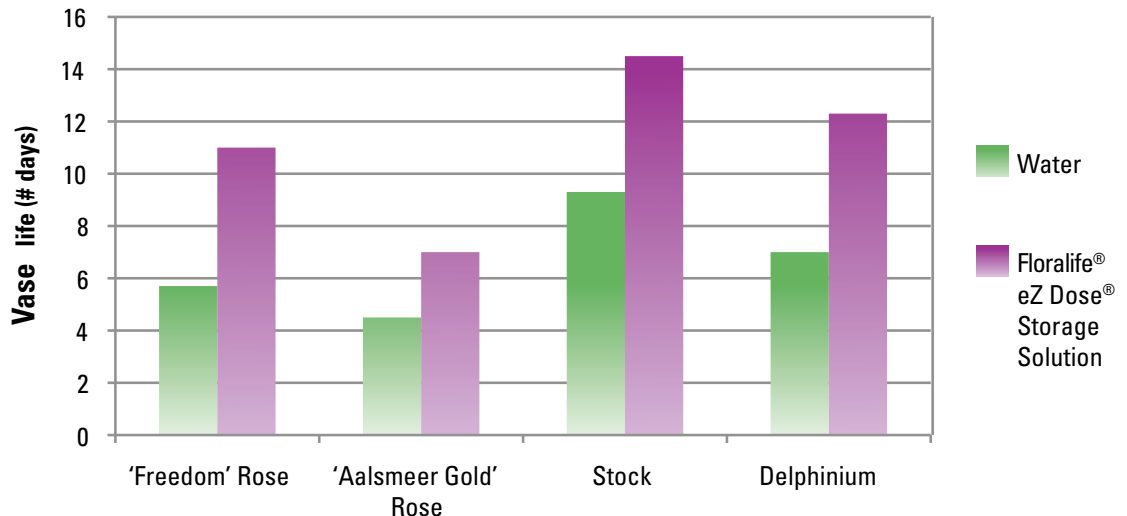
Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution is made in a micro-perforated packet in that it can be placed directly or dropped into a clean flower bucket without having to tear the packet open. The microperforated holes allow water to penetrate into the packet quickly and dissolve the flower food inside the packet. The product is available in various premeasured food amounts to accommodate different bucket volumes of water. Special formulations are also available for customers who use extremely hard or pure water for processing flowers.

The micro-perforated packet has a bright color which is easily seen and should remain in the bucket until it is time to reclean the flower buckets and change out the food solution. This colorful packet serves as a visual identifier to confirm the treatment has been made.

Research

An experiment was conducted in the Floralife Walterboro, S.C. lab to test the effectiveness of Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution. Cut flowers were stored in clean buckets containing either plain water (control) or water treated with Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution. The buckets of flowers were stored for 2 days in a cooler between 34 - 36° F, then held at 68 - 70° F for 3 days to simulate shipping and retail store conditions. At the end of shipping and retail simulation, all flowers were placed in vases containing Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower Food vase treatment and held in an interior postharvest evaluation room for vase life determination.

Results





Control: Water →
Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower Food



Treated: Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution →
Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower Food

Photos taken on Day 6 of Vase Life Experiment

Conclusions

Data show the importance of proper postharvest treatment during shipping and the storage of cut flowers for subsequent quality and vase life during consumer phase. All flower varieties tested in this experiment benefited when Floralife® eZ Dose® Storage Solution was used prior to the final consumer stage.