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## Efficacy of Floralife® HydroSpray on cut Anthurium



### Introduction

Anthurium grows native in the tropics of South America and is nowadays cultivated mainly in Holland, Poland, Italy, the Caribbean and Hawaii. This crop is available both as a potted plant and as a cut flower. Anthurium, as a cut flower, is in terms of turnover one of the main crops that is traded via the flower auction at FloraHolland, with the main markets in Germany, Italy, France and the UK. Although the leaves themselves are separately harvested for use in bouquets and flower arrangements, it is a crop that is harvested without leaves. As they easily damage, the harvested flowers need to be handled carefully, which is the reason for packing each single spathe in a sleeve. In addition, Anthuriums are cold sensitive, so they need to be stored at temperatures higher than 15°C.

Anthurium has the image of being an exclusive crop with a long shelf life. Both growers and breeders work hard on achieving and keeping this image. It is known that certain conditions can influence the shelf life of this crop, depending mostly on cultivar (genetics), season (in winter less vase life than in summer), storage conditions (long duration and extreme temperatures), and to a lesser extent the grower conditions. In the following research, the postharvest product Floralife® HydroSpray was tested on several cultivars to see if this product can prolong the shelf life of Anthuriums.

### Method

The following spray treatments were tested:

1. No spray (control)
2. Floralife® HydroSpray

The control stems were not sprayed, the other stems were sprayed at top and bottom of the spathe with Floralife® HydroSpray. After spraying the appropriate flowers, the stems were recut in air prior to being placed in vases with tap water (1 Liter in each vase).

### Results

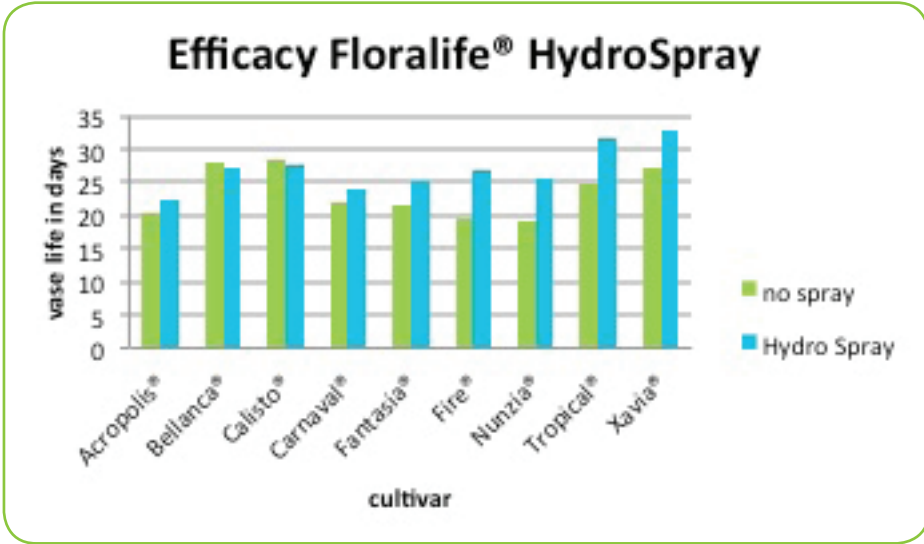
Table 1.a. Mean vase life per cultivar, for each treatment.

Treatment	Acropolis®	Bellanca®	Calisto®	Carnaval®	Fantasia®	Fire®
No spray	20,3	28,0	28,4	21,8	21,7	19,6
HydroSpray	22,5	27,3	27,5	23,9	25,2	26,6

Table 1.b. Mean vase life per cultivar, for each treatment.

Treatment	Fantasia®	Nunzia®	Tropical®	Xavia®
No spray	21,7	19,1	24,6	27,3
HydroSpray	25,2	25,5	31,5	32,7

RU December 2013 continued...



It was observed that desiccation was delayed because of this treatment (shine and color of the spathe kept longer), which was the reason for improved longevity of the vase arrangement.



Day 19: Fire® Anthuriums with No spray (Control)



Day 19: Fire® Anthuriums with Floralife® HydroSpray

### Conclusion

Floralife® HydroSpray increased the longevity of most of the Anthurium cultivars that were tested.