



Anil Ranwala, PhD.
 Chief Scientist

Improving the Postharvest Quality of Fresh Cut Dahlias with Floralife® Finishing Touch ULTRA

Introduction

Dahlias are growing in popularity as a cut flower. Flowers of dahlias come in many vibrant colors, sizes and forms that attract customers who like variety. Although, one of the major issues is that the vase life of the cut dahlias are relatively short compared to many other cut flower types. We tested spraying Floralife® Finishing Touch ULTRA, our concentrate formula of Floralife® Finishing Touch, as a treatment to improve the postharvest quality of the cut dahlia.

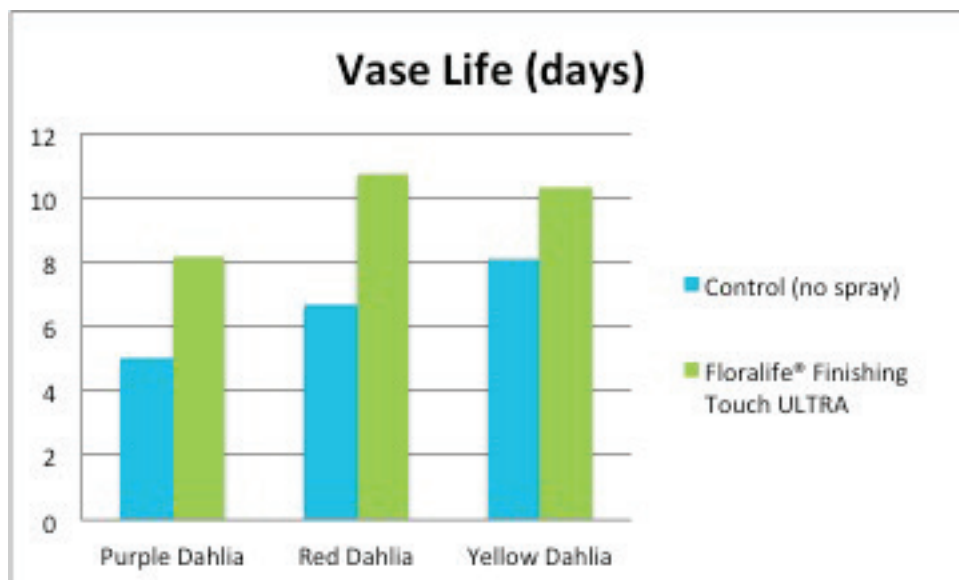
Method

Dahlias (Purple, red and yellow varieties, variety names unknown) were purchased from a farm in California. Immediately after the receipt of flowers in the laboratory, the end of the flower stems were recut and placed in vases filled with Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower food. The following spray treatments were applied to the flowers:

1. Control (no spray)
2. Floralife® Finishing Touch ULTRA

The spray solution was prepared by mixing the concentrate parts in water. The flowers and leaves were sprayed to complete coverage. The vases with the dahlia flowers were held in an interior evaluation room for longevity analysis. For the study, 3 replicates (vases) per treatment were prepared. Each vase contained 3 different varieties (colors) of cut dahlia flowers.

Results



RU June 2014 continued...

Longevity of flowers in vases for each treatment.

Treatment	Vase life (days)		
	Purple Dahlia	Red Dahlia	Yellow Dahlia
Control (no spray)	5.0	6.7	8.1
Floralife® Finishing Touch ULTRA	8.2	10.7	10.3



Control



Finishing Touch ULTRA

Conclusion

The Floralife® Finishing Touch ULTRA spray improved the quality of all of the dahlia varieties tested and increased. It was observed that the vase longevity improved by 2 to 4 days depending on the variety.