

Research Paper :

Effect of different household treatments on the weight of selected flowers during their vase life

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ABSTRACT

Avenues of decoration with fresh (cut) flowers are increasing and people are finding it as giving handsome returns. So, the present study was designed to study the effect of household treatments on the weight of selected flowers during their vase life and to recommend specific treatments for increasing vase life of selected cut flowers. For the study, five commonly used flowers for making flower arrangements and five household treatments were selected. Results of the study revealed that maximum change in the weight of rose flower (128.94%) was found with the treatment lemon + household bleach, on the 3rd day. In case of carnation also, the maximum change (133.33%) was observed with the same treatment but on the 4th day. For the gladiolus flowers, the maximum per cent change (116.03%) in weight was observed in case of flowers treated with Sugar + Household Bleach on the 5th day. In case of gerbera flowers, the maximum change in weight (118.60%) was observed in the control group on the 2nd day. The treatment Sugar + Household Bleach resulted in maximum change in weight (104.06%) of tuberose on the 2nd day.

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Love for flowers is a universal phenomenon, and their demand is increasing day-by-day due to growing western life style in the society. In present days, more and more people are buying flowers as they have become almost an essential part of all rituals in our society. They are required for all the functions and festivals in the family for decoration purpose as these flowers symbolize with 'Welcome' for guests and 'Happiness' for personal gatherings. For all the purposes of celebrations and decorations, we love to use fresh flowers. Using flowers in decoration has its importance in adding colour, fragrance, variety and life to the surroundings in addition to giving a welcome message to the visitors and guests.

Flowers are a part of our lives and arranging flowers gives splashes of colour and vibrancy in homes as well as in public and commercial places. The term "cut flower" is used for a flower, which is cut along with portion of stem. Major cut flowers, which dominate the world flower trade are rose, carnation, gerbera, orchids, gladiolus, lilies, anthurium and gypsophila etc. The appearance, quality and longevity of plants depend upon the conditions of cultivation, harvest time and post harvest handling. Bhaskar *et al.*, (1999) conducted a study on the effect of mineral salts namely, aluminum sulphate and calcium nitrate on vase life of tuberose. They reported that these

mineral salts were found to delay the senescence of cut tuberose by increasing water uptake and reducing the water loss leading to increased fresh weight and vase life. Prolonging life of cut flowers has always been a priority of florists, decorators and homemakers because fresh flowers, though attractive in their beauty are expensive, short-lived and available only during a particular season. Singh *et al.* (2003) revealed in their study on vase life and quantity of China aster flowers as influenced by selected holding solutions. The fresh weight of cut stems increased on 3rd and 6th days. The holding solutions were found beneficial in increasing the vase life and quality of cut flowers over control. Increase in fresh weight is an indicator of prolonged vase life and decreasing trend in weight of cut flowers leads to senescence. Hence, the present study was planned with the following specific objectives: to study the effect of household treatments on the weight of selected flowers during their vase life and to recommend specific treatments for increasing vase life of selected cut flowers.

METHODOLOGY

Selection of flowers:

Five most commonly used flowers selected were; Gerberas, Roses, Carnations, Tuberose, Gladiolus.