

Title Screening vase life heterogeneity of cut roses

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Abstract

During a 10-year period of extensive trialling, the flower longevity of about 50 market relevant cut rose cultivars of European origin, and various market channels have been tested at different seasons, and with different postharvest treatments (optimal and numerous challenging conditions). Investigations have shown that variation within cultivars is often higher than variation between cultivars. The range of heterogeneity seems to be cultivar dependent. The longevity of some cultivars varied from 4 to 33 days (sensitive cultivars), whereas with other cultivars was much less variable, reaching usually about 7 to 20 days. Those cultivars have shown both a quite low variability between different seasons and sources (usually <10%), and also between single roses within bunches. For susceptible cultivars, considerable effects of source were typical as well as considerable bunch heterogeneity (often > 50%). Furthermore, the vase life of such cultivars was often reduced by high occurrence of bent neck, especially after drought stress or when no floral preservatives had been applied. From these observations it is proposed to cluster roses not only into those ones with a short, a medium or a good vase life potential, but also roses which are sensitive or insensitive/robust to different production and handling practices.