

Abstract:

Narcissus tazetta is one of the bulbous cut flowers native in the southern regions of Iran and extensively cultivated in Shiraz. Due to its beauty, delicate fragrance, and having several florets on one stem, it is superior to other *Narcissus*-species for Iranian consumers. Experiments were performed in order to find the best harvesting stage and pulse treatment. The harvesting stages were: pencil stage, goose-neck stage, one floret open stage, and majority of florets open stage. The pulsing treatments were carried out in silver thiosulphate (0.2, 0.4 and 0.6 mM), silver nitrate (25, 50 and 75 mg l⁻¹), 8-hydroxyquinoline citrate (150, 300 and 450 mg l⁻¹), and tap water as control. The best harvesting stage was the one floret open stage, followed by the goose-neck stage. The shortest vase life belonged to the tap water and the 8-hydroxyquinoline citrate treatments. The silver nitrate and silver thiosulphate treatments increased the vase life significantly, and that of silver thiosulphate improved the appearance of dehydrated florets in the cluster and also prevented the browning reactions. The interaction of harvesting stages and pulsing treatments showed the beneficial effect of ethylene antagonist pulsing in all harvesting stages. The best treatment was the silver thiosulphate pulsing of the one floret open stage.