

A review on the postharvest physiology of cut flowers

M. Memar Moshrefi and A. Talaei

Dept. of Horticulture, College of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran.

Like any other commercial activities the flower production industry is also focused on increasing of productivity as well as market share. Since flowers, particularly cut flowers, have a short life, therefore the scientists try to prolong the shelf life of the flowers as long as possible.

Therefore it is very important to know about the phenomena, which increase or decrease the shelf life of flowers.

In this study it is tried to review and evaluate the results of researchers and studies of researchers and compile the required information in this connection. Many scientists believe that the short shelf life of flowers is due to senescence, which is a physiological phenomenon and shows off in different parts of plant. The environmental factors, such as light, heat, humidity, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, etc. have positive or negative effects on senescence. This effects cause biological and biochemical changes and follows by hormonal and enzymatic changes, proteins degeneration, and finally senescence and death of the flowers.

The scientists believe that the ethylene fluctuation, which normally has a genetical origin, interferes the senescence phenomenon of the flower and/or auxin has a considerable role on the increment of their shelf life.

Studying and comparing the views of the scientists, reveal the fact that adoption of special methods can increase the shelf life of the cut flowers and thus help economization of this elegant commodity.