The Asian Journal of Horticulture, **December 2007, Vol. 2 (2) : 239-244**

STUDIES ON POSTHARVEST APPLICATION OF MINERAL SALTS ON SCAPE BENDING, PEROXIDASE ACTIVITY AND BIOCHEMICAL COMPONENTS OF CUT GERBERA

P.PRASHANTH AND R.CHANDRASEKHAR

See end of article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :
P. PRASHANTH
Department of Horticulture,
College of Agriculture,
ANGRAU, Rajendranagar,
HYDERABAD (A.P.) INDIA.

Accepted : December, 2007

ABSTRACT

The postharvest vase life of cut gerbera is limited by bending of flower stalk, called scape bending. Cut gerberas held in $AgNO_3$ 20 ppm (18.014 degrees) recorded lowest scape bending curvature and highest vase life (8.09 days), whereas highest scape bending (76.666 degrees) and lowest vase life (4.58 days) was registered in control. The highest POD activity was registered in flowers held in distilled water (0.034 Units/g f wt) and $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ 100 ppm (0.032 Units/g f wt) and lowest POD activity (0.028 Units/g f wt) was observed in $AgNO_3$ 20 and 40 ppm. The maximum total sugars and reducing sugar content were observed in $AgNO_3$ 20 ppm (3.155 mg/g f wt) and $AgNO_3$ 40 ppm (1.786 mg/g f wt) respectively. The treatment KCl 100 ppm (2.802 mg/g f wt) and $AgNO_3$ 20 ppm (17.225 mg/g f wt) recorded maximum total phenols and protein contents in flower scapes respectively resulting in longest vase life.