APPLIED PLANT RESEARCH
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Pretreatment of organic flowers

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Background

The regular products for pretreatment of cut flowers cannot be used for organic flowers, because of their non-organic manufactoring.
A large number of alternatives, that may be used for organic flowers were tested on their effect of bacterial growth in the water and on the vase life of summer grown flowers, in 2008.
Based on the results, two products were tested on a large number of summer grown flowers in 2009.

Method

The effect of pretreatment with two alternative products (Dipper and Cropclean), which could be used in organic flower production, were tested at 10 species of summer grown flowers.
After a transport simulation of 5 days, the number of bacteria in the water was determined and the vase life of the flowers was tested.
The alternatives were compared with the common product Chrysal CVBN and clean water.

Testing vase life

Results

Cropclean did not lead to sufficient supression of bacterial growth in water.
Dipper supressed bacterial growth.
The influence of pretreatment with Dipper on vase life of flowers was small, but comparable with Chrysal CVBN.
The optimal concentration of Dipper depended on the tested specie.
Dipper can be a useful product for organic flowers.

A high concentration of Dipper caused leaf burn (left).
Bent neck of Campanula (right) was almost absent with Dipper.

Follow up

The producer of Dipper is starting the procedure to get registration of this product for organic flowers.

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