

Mutui, T.M., V.E. Emongor and M.J. Hutchinson. 2001. Effect of Accel on the Vase Life and Post harvest Quality of *Alstroemeria* (*Alstroemeria aurantiaca* L. Cut Flowers. African Journal of Science and Technology 2: 82-88

ABSTRACT:

Freshly cut flowering stems of *Alstroemeria* 'Yellow King' and 'Marina' were placed in glass jars containing solutions of Accel at 0, 25, 50, 75 and 100 mg/litre BA equivalent and arranged in a completely randomized design with 3 replicates. The effect of Accel on the vase life and quality of *Alstroemeria* was investigated. Flowers held in Accel at 25 or 50 mg/litre BA equivalent consistently increased the number of days to full opening of primary florets and delayed the onset of flower senescence as measured by days to 50% petal fall and days to 50% leaf yellowing. Accel at 25 mg/litre BA equivalent significantly increased the leaf nitrogen and chlorophyll content of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers. High Accel concentrations of 50, 75 and 100 mg/litre BA equivalent reduced significantly the leaf water content of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers. Accel at 75 and 100 mg/litre BA equivalent increased leaf dry weight of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers. Our results indicate that Accel at 25 mg/litre BA equivalent has the potential to be used as a commercial cut flower preservative solution for delaying flower senescence, prolonging the vase life and enhancing post harvest quality of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers.