

Mutui, T.M., V.E. Emongor and M.J. Hutchinson. 2003. Effect of Benzyladenine on the Vase Life and Keeping Quality of *Alstroemeria* Cut Flowers. J. Agric. Sci. Technol. 5: 91-105.

ABSTRACT:

Two experiments were conducted to investigate the response of Benzyladenine (BA) on the vase life and the physiological changes in the leaves of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers. The treatments were combined in a factorial manner and laid down in a completely randomized design with 3 replicates. Treatment of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers with 25 or 50 mg/litre BA 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 50% leaf yellowing. BA at 25, 50 or 75 mg/litre increased both the leaf nitrogen and chlorophyll content of the *Alstroemeria* cut flowers compared to the control. However, 75 and 100 mg/litre BA gave the highest values of leaf dry weight. BA decreased the leaf water content of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers. These results suggests that 25 mg/litre BA has the potential to be used as a commercial cut flower preservative to prevent leaf yellowing and prolonging the vase life of *Alstroemeria* cut flowers.