

GIBBERELLIC ACID AND SUCROSE DELAY SENESCENCE OF CUT  
*LUPINUS DENSIFLORUS* BENTH FLOWERS

W. A. Mackay\*, N. Sankhla, and T.D. Davis

Texas A&M University, TAES-Dallas, 17360 Coit Rd., Dallas, TX 75252-6599

The inflorescence of *L.densiflorus* consists of several tiers of attractive yellow flowers in a group of 6-7 per node. Unlike some other lupines, where both flower abscission and senescence affect vase life, in *L. densiflorus* flower senescence is the key factor that influences postharvest quality and display life of cut inflorescences. This study was undertaken to optimize postharvest protocols for cut inflorescences of *L.densiflorus* and evaluates the role of gibberellic acid (GA) and sucrose on senescence of flowers. Two lines of *L.densiflorus* (light yellow or dark yellow flowers) served as the experimental material. Cut inflorescences were placed in vases containing GA (1-20 mg/l) and sucrose (1-4%) solutions at 22–25 °C under illumination ( $30 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) for 12 hours per day. Sucrose in the holding solution effectively delayed the onset of flower senescence in both the light yellow and dark yellow flowered lines. As with sucrose, the presence of GA was also very effective in delaying flower senescence. Sucrose and GA, in combination, proved even more effective than either sucrose or GA individually.