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ORIGINAL PAPER



Sorting, Grading and binding of Chrysanthemum

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Chrysanthemum is an ornamental flowering plant that has high economic value, including flowers that are in great demand at domestic or abroad. This is because chrysanthemums have several excellences in terms of color, type and size of flowers. At present Chrysanthemum's economic value ranks second in the world after roses. As cut flowers, chrysanthemums are used as a series for purposes in human life, such as traditional ceremonies, religious rituals and national holidays. With the increasing demand for chrysanthemum cut flowers, the area of planting and production has also increased. Due to the improper post-harvest handling sometimes causes serious damage to the final produce and causes loss to the farmers. The good post-harvest handling the freshness of chrysanthemum cut flowers can be maintained up to 12 days, conversely if the handling is not good then the freshness of the flowers only lasts 5-6 days. The stages of handling post-harvest chrysanthemums include the stages of harvesting, sorting, grading, packaging and storage. Grading and sorting may help to choose perfect and fresh flower it eliminates unhealthy flower and infected ones so that people can get fresh and good flower. Grading of flower is a very important operation as it gives high price to the grower and improves packaging, handling and brings an overall improvement in marketing system.

SORTING

Sorting is basically to separate flower on the basis of perfect flowers and damaged flower we have to cut the sepals of the flower i.e. the base of flower so that it can meet the standard. Three leaves from the bottom of the flower are removed.

GRADING

Grading is to classify flowers according to their quality. The Standard chrysanthemums are graded into Blue, Red, Green and Yellow, whereas spray types are graded into Gold,

Silver and Bronze based on the quality parameters. The lower leaves are stripped off upto 15-20 cm and bundled in units of 5 stems and secured with a rubber band. Grading is done on basis of flower color, size and its length of stalk number of flowers, stem straightness, number of florets per spike, color of florets and freshness of flowers. In Dutch market, spray chrysanthemums are graded into extra grade and shorter grade.

Parameters	Standard	Spray	Dwarf
Stem length	88-100 cm	77-88 cm	25-38 cm
Weight	30g/stem of 90 cm	30g/stem of 85 cm	30g/stem of 30 cm
Number of flowers	Only one flower with one bud	10 flowers	10-12 flowers
Diameter	60-80 mm	35mm for half bloom. 45mm for full bloom	30 mm

Grade	Spike length	Minimum number of florets
Fancy	107	16
Special	96-107	14
Standard	81-96	12
Utility	<81	10

According to the North American Gladiolus Council(NAGC),USA

BINDING

Flowers and leaves that have been selected and determined by their grading criteria, bound using a rope or rubber according to the rules of the amount. For standard sizes, cut chrysanthemums are tied by 10 stems per bunch, 10-12 stems per bunch for Daisy chrysanthemums or 5-8 stems per bunch.

CONCLUSION

Chrysanthemum post-harvest handling actions are needed to maintain the quality of flowers and encourage farmers to obtain added value from chrysanthemum agribusiness, so that the application of appropriate post-harvest technological innovations is needed. Sorting, grading, binding and grouping are important steps of handling chrysanthemum after harvesting which can majorly affect the selling and value of the flower. Neglecting any of the steps can affect the freshness of flower.