

Method for Preserving Bird of Paradise Flower through Freeze Drying Process

Metta Siresha and Mahalakshmi V Reddy

Department of Resource Management and Consumer Science, College of Home Science,
Hyderabad

ABSTRACT

Flowers preserved from special occasions, evoke the past, and leave us with sentimental thoughts. They help us commemorate good times punctuating every celebration in our lives. Freeze drying flowers retains the shape and colour of the flowers almost as if they are still fresh, original colour and shape for many years to come. This study was taken to protect the physical characteristics of Bird of Paradise flower through freeze drying technique. Different preservatives were identified and tested for hydration, pre and post treatments to retain the physical characteristics of flowers. Among the different methods, the flower treated with preservative (a blend of Sprite and Bleach) in luke warm water during hydration process, followed by pre treatment with (T₅) which includes composition was evolved by blending chemicals meant for dehydration solvent, colour fixative, environmental fixer, biofixer and shatter resistant polymer. After hydration and pre treatments, those flowers were dried with freeze drier followed by application of DMP as sealant as post treatment was found to be effective for retaining inherent qualities of the flowers.

Key words: Freeze Drying Process, Bird of Paradise, Physical Characteristics, Preservative.