



Evaluation card:

Pot plants in general

The following general evaluation criteria can be used. The specific cards indicate which of the following issues are relevant for the product concerned.

Incoming inspection

Height

Record: the plant's height measured from the bottom of the pot to the highest point of the plant in cm.

Pot size

Record: the diameter of the pot in cm.

Grade

Record: the grade according to the VBN purchase specifications (this will differ per product).

Damage

Description: damage caused during harvest or transport or by insects (which may have disappeared).

Record: any damage observed will always be recorded on a product's arrival.

Reject: if more than 25% of the leaf area is damaged.

Product information

Record: presence of product information.

During the test

General

Animal parasites

Description: presence on the foliage, stem and/or flower of live parasites.

Record: if observed.

Action: discard the plant and regard it as lost value if it constitutes a risk of infection for other plants. Optionally spray the plant in the case of an emergency.

Disease

Description: foliage, stem and/or flower is affected by bacteria, fungus or a virus.

Record: the degree of infection.

Action: discard the plant and regard it as lost value in the event of a moderate degree of infection.

Decorative value

Description: evaluate the entire plant in the case of green plants and only the foliage in the case of flowering plants with respect to one of the following criteria or a combination of those criteria, using the following decorative value scale as a reference. Flowers of flowering plants are to be recorded separately.

Decorative value	Decorative value in text	Description	Degree to which plant is affected
5	Very good	Product without defects	0%
4	Good	Product with minor quality criticism	0-5%
3	Satisfactory	Product is still suitable for sale	5-15%
2	Moderate	Product is not suitable for sale	15-25%
1	Poor	Product which a consumer will discard	>25%

Record: the decorative value and/or the degree to which the product is affected.

Reject: when a plant reaches the stage of decorative value 1 its life is assumed to be over.

Continued growth

Record: the plant continues to grow during the test: it develops new leaves and/or shoots.

Roots

Record: the condition of the roots and/or the extent to which the roots continue to grow.

Foliage**Yellowing**

Description: the leaves turn yellow.

Record: the degree of yellowing.

Reject: if more than 25% of the leaf area has turned yellow.

Lesions/spots/discoloured edges

Description: (desiccated) lesions or spots in the leaves and/or discoloured leaf edges.

Record: the degree to which the plant is affected by lesions/spots/discoloured edges.

Reject: if more than 25% of the leaf area consists of lesions, spots and/or discoloured edges.

Leaf desiccation

Description: the leaves dry out.

Record: the degree of desiccation.

Reject: if more than 25% of the leaf area has dried out.

Leaf abscission

Description: the leaves fall from the plant.

Record: count/estimate the number of leaves that fall from the plant.

Reject: if more than 25% of the number of leaves have fallen.

Wilting leaves

Description: the leaves begin to wilt.

Record: the degree of wilting.

Reject: if more than 25% of the number of leaves have wilted.

Chilling injury

Description: dark edges/lesions in the leaves due to too low temperatures.

Record: the degree of chilling injury.

Reject: if more than 25% of the leaf area shows these phenomena.

A plant may also be affected by a combination of the aforementioned phenomena. If more than 25% of the leaf area has been affected by a combination of these phenomena, the plant is to be rejected.

Agreements

- The plants are to be tested and assessed for at most 5 weeks during the consumer phase (after the sale phase). The main aim of the tests conducted during the consumer phase is to determine the effect of the cultivation conditions and the sale phase on the products' keeping quality. This effect can be determined within 5 weeks. After those 5 weeks the consumer's influence on the product becomes a more influential factor.
- If plants are subjected to shop simulation tests after the transport simulation, they are to be evaluated after the transport simulation, too (beginning of shop phase).
- During the consumer phase the plants are to be evaluated at least once a week. Products that are assumed to have a keeping life of 2 weeks or less are to be evaluated at least every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (see also the individual product cards).
- The evaluations are to focus on consequences, not causes. If known, the cause is however to be specified as second reason.
- The reason for rejection is to be recorded.
- Rejected plants may be removed immediately unless a photo date or meeting has been scheduled.
- Plants are to be watered when needed. No plant nutrients are to be added to the water.
- The plants are to be watered by pouring water onto the soil or into the saucer (pouring off any excess water) or the plants are to be immersed in water. This will depend on the product and the type of test conducted.
- The testing method will be specified in separate project protocols.
- Rejected leaves may be removed. Allow for any removed leaves in determining the decorative value.
- Evaluation will also be done at the start of the consumer phase.
- Make a record of the used VBN purchase specifications (pictures or descriptions).

Source: *Vereniging van Bloemenveilingen in Nederland* (Association of Dutch Flower Auctions).

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Supplement:

Flowering and berry-bearing plants

The following general evaluation criteria can be used. The specific cards indicate which of the following issues are relevant for the product concerned.

During the test

Flowers

Number of flowers

Description: flowers that have opened properly without deformation.

Record: count/estimate the number of flowers.

Percentage of colour

Description: the percentage of colour relative to the green parts of the plant, in the case of products with an abundance of flowers.

Record: the percentage of colour according to the following model:

0	0% colour
1	1–10% colour
2	11–35% colour
3	36–65% colour
4	66–90% colour
5	91–100% colour

End of flowering

Description: flowers wilt, become transparent, turn brown or fall from the plant.

Record: count/estimate the number of flowers past flowering.

Reject: (unless otherwise indicated on the specific evaluation card) if more than 80% of the total number of flowers and buds capable of flowering are past flowering.

Bud desiccation and/or bud abscission

Description: the buds colour brown and/or dry out and/or fall from the plant.

Record: percentage brown and/or desiccated and/or fallen buds of the total number of buds or the total number of flowers or buds.

Reject: (unless otherwise indicated on the specific assessment card) if more than 80% of the total number of buds capable of flowering are brown, desiccated and/or have fallen.

Flower desiccation and/or flower abscission

Description: the flowers colour brown and/or dry out and/or fall from the plant.

Record: percentage brown and/or desiccated and/or fallen flowers of the total number of flowers and buds.

Reject: (unless otherwise indicated on the specific assessment card) if more than 80% of the total number of flowers and buds capable of flowering are brown, desiccated and/or have fallen.

A plant may also be affected by a combination of the aforementioned phenomena. If more than 80% of the flowers are not/no longer in flower, the plant is to be rejected as a flowering plant.

Percentage in flower

Record: at the end of the test record the ratio of the number of flowers that have opened and the total number of buds.

Berries

Berry abscission

- Description:* the berries fall from the plant.
Record: count/estimate the number of berries that fall from the plant
Reject: if more than 50% of the berries have fallen.

Berry desiccation

- Description:* the berries dry out.
Record: the degree of desiccation.
Reject: if more than 50% of the berries have dried out.

A plant may also be affected by a combination of the aforementioned phenomena. If more than 50% of the berries have fallen or dried out, the plant is to be rejected as a berry-bearing plant.

Berry discolouration

- Description:* the berries change colour.
Record: the degree of discolouration.

Additional agreements for flowering and/ or berry-bearing plants

- Rejection of flowers and/or buds means rejection of a plant as a flowering plant. The plant may still have decorative value as a green plant.
- Rejection on the basis of berries means rejection as a berry-bearing plant. The plant may still have decorative value as a green and/or flowering plant.
- Flowers that are passed flowering may be removed from a plant. They are of no importance for determining the decorative value of the foliage.

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