



## **VBN STANDARD SALES SIMULATION FOR TESTING**

### **GARDEN PLANTS INTENDED FOR SALE VIA GARDEN CENTRES**

#### **1. Introduction**

The standard transport simulation for garden plants intended for sale via garden centres is outlined below. This simulation is used to test the keeping quality of garden plants and was set up in consultation with the VBN auctions. It was decided to make no distinction between different groups of garden plants (bedding plants, container plants and arboricultural products). The conditions for the transport simulation are given separately for each link in the chain.

A test with or without consumer phase simulation can be used to assess the keeping quality of garden plants intended for sale via garden centres as it will not always be possible to simulate the consumer phase. In tests without consumer-phase simulation a longer retail phase is to be used. The aim of the test is then not to assess a product's keeping quality at the consumer's home but to find out whether the product loses its quality in the various links in the sales chain and/or how long the product will remain saleable.

#### **2. Transport phase (growers up to and including exporters/importers)**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| duration :         | 2 days<br>(calculated from the time of harvest)  |
| temperature:       | 15°C +/- 1° C  |
| relative humidity: | 75% +/- 10%  |
| ethylene content:  | at most 0.03 ppm   |
| light conditions:  | dark;  |
| packaging:         | depending on the product, see also chapter 5;  |
| vibration:         | (optionally 1000 km practical transport, until a standard "vibration machine" has been developed). |

### 3. Retail phase

|                    | <i>end-of-flowering area</i>                                  | <i>glasshouse or outdoors</i>                           |
|--------------------|---|---|
| duration:          | 9 days (or longer if consumer phase can't be simulated)       | 9 days (or longer if consumer phase can't be simulated) |
| place:             | end-of-flowering area   | glasshouse or outdoors                                  |
| temperature:       | 20°C +/- 1°C  | ambient conditions (data logger)                        |
| relative humidity: | 60% +/- 10%   | ambient conditions (data logger)                        |
| ethylene content:  | at most 0.1 ppm   | ambient conditions                                      |
| light conditions:  | 12 hours' light/dark, ± 1.000 lux on table level), colour 840 | ambient conditions (data logger)                        |
| packaging:         | unpacked  | unpacked  |
| water dose:        | as required   | as required   |

### 4. Consumer phase

(If possible)

action:

Plant outdoors in the soil or in a larger container containing standard potting soil in an area to suit the product concerned;

Conditions:

in accordance with ambient conditions.

### 5. Standard packaging

The form of packaging will depend on the product concerned – according to either the packaging specifications laid down in the national supply regulations or the packaging methods employed in practice.

The following agreements hold:

- a set (disposable or re-useable) is to be used as the unit of packaging for small garden plants (bedding plants);
- the number of plants specified per set is based on a production method of sound quality, in accordance with the VBN supply specifications;
- plants with a plant height of 60 cm or more or plants in pots of size 17 cm Es and larger are to be transported unpacked (i.e. not in any packaging unit).

Bron: Vereniging van Bloemeneilingen in Nederland en Royal FloraHolland

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