

VBN standard sales simulation for cut flowers

Introduction

The standard transport simulation for house plants is outlined below. This simulation is used to test the keeping quality of house plants and was set up in consultation between the

Proefstation voor de Bloemisterij in Nederland (PBN; Research Station for the Dutch Floricultural Sector) and the Vereniging van Bloemenveilingen in Nederland (VBN; Association of Dutch Flower Auctions).

The conditions for the transport simulation are specified separately for each link in the chain.

Transport phase (growers up to and including exporters/importers)

duration:	flowering plants 7 days green plants 9 days (calculated from the time of harvest)
temperature:	15°C ± 1 degrees C
relative humidity:	75% ± 10%
ethylene content:	at most 0.03 ppm
light conditions:	dark
packaging:	standard primary and secondary packaging, dependent on the product
vibration:	(optionally 1000 km practical transport, until a standard “vibration machine” has been developed)

Retail and consumer phases

duration:	retail phase: - flowering plants 6 days - green plants 12 days consumer phase: - dependent on the product
temperature:	15°C ± 1 degrees C
relative humidity:	60% ± 10%
ethylene content:	at most 0.03 ppm
light conditions:	12 hours light/dark, ± 1.000 lux on table level, Colour 840
Watering:	when needed
Packaging:	unpacked

Standard packaging

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

The following agreements hold:

- a tray (disposable or reusable) is to be used as the unit of packaging for small flowering and green plants;
- the number of plants to be packed per unit of packaging will depend on the pot size; the aim must be to exploit the full loading capacity in a qualitatively sound manner;
- when using Danish boxes, the height of the box must be 80% of the height of the plant;
- plants with a plant height of more than 60 cm or plants in pots of size 17 cm Es or larger must be transported unpacked (i.e. not in any unit of packaging).