

Post Harvest Treatment of Tulips

Introduction

As part of our continuing series of technical newsletters for British flower growers we are looking at post harvest handling of Tulips in this issue.

British grown Tulips are increasing in popularity with consumers and they are a crop where the application of the correct post harvest treatment by the grower results in a huge difference to the quality and vase life of the flowers that reach the customer.

Why use a pretreatment?

There are three important reasons why flowers must be treated at the growers, bouquet makers and by consumers.

1. Food balance – for optimal flower development
2. Plant hormone balance – to maintain leaf colour and reducing premature aging
3. Water balance – to avoid “bent-neck”

Getting the best from your Tulips

Chrysal BVB plus

Advantages:

- Reduces stem elongation in tulips
- In mixed bouquets all stems remain at the same length
- no damage caused by stem growth during transport or storage
- Reduces stem bending in tulips
- Fewer bent stems during dry transport
- Prevents premature leaf yellowing
- Improves the quality of the flowers and leaves
- Extended distribution and sales period possible
- Less waste
- Increases vase life considerably



Without BVB plus With BVB plus
(Flowers shown at the end of the retail phase)

Chrysal BVB plus Dosage table

Period	Time (hour) min – max	Dosage (ml/litre)
Shorter treatment	1 – 2	5
Longer treatment	24 – 48	2
Transport phase	48+	1



Tulips treated with Chrystal BVB plus



Untreated Tulips

Treated Tulips

After treating the tulips with Chrystal BVB plus the problems of leaf yellowing, short flower life and stem elongation are solved. For tulips a vase life guarantee of 7 days becomes within reach if bulb or tulip food is provided. Mixed with other flowers in a bouquet the tulips will not grow out and easily match the vase life guarantee of the other flowers.

General recommendations: for Chrystal BVB plus

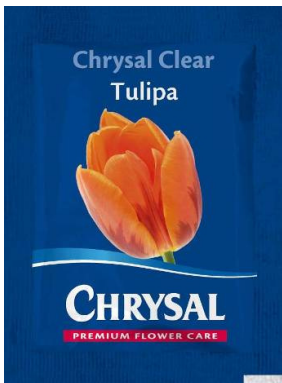
- Available in 1 litre bottles
- Contains a tracer for dosage control
- Store in a cool, dark and dry place
- Shelf life: 24 months in closed package under correct conditions
- pH ready to use solution: 7.5
- pH concentrate: 2.5
- Accurate dosage is important in order to achieve optimal results as over dosing can cause damage, as such we recommend automatic methods



- When used once, the solution is usable for a maximum of 3 days
- The ready to use solution can be reused, provided this is within the same day (only for short term treatments at 5ml / litre)
- Use the solution immediately after mixing. Do not mix old solution with fresh solution
- Residual solutions may be discharged through the drains. However, when dosed correctly 100% of the solution should be taken up by the stems and no solution should be left over.

For the first time this season we will only be supplying BVB that already has the “plus” element included so accuracy is assured and no need to mix two solutions.

We have incorporated a colourless tracer which can be measured by anyone equipped with our Tracyflor meter, a service the Chrystal UK technical team is able to offer.

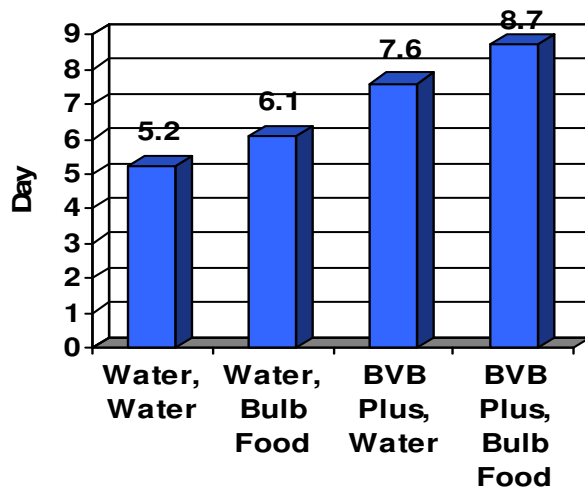


When customers use the Chrysal Clear Tulip or Bulb Food sachets with flowers that have been treated by the grower with Chrysal BVB plus they will see a real improvement in vase life and flower quality.

- Supplies tulip bouquets with necessary nutrients
- Gives 25 to 75% extra vase life when used on tulips treated with Chrysal BVB plus.
- Helps to maintain true flower colour
- Suitable for every tulip variety



Effects Tulip BVB Plus + Bulb food



Should you have any comments regarding something you've read or require further product information then please feel free to contact either Claire or Martin directly on claire@chrysal.co.uk or martin.squire@chrysal.co.uk or for general enquiries email info@chrysal.co.uk

Let us have your e-mail address and we can then make sure you are kept up to date with all new developments and indeed any key issues that are relevant to your business, whilst at the same time helping to reduce our carbon footprint!

Don't forget to visit us on stand 1004 in Hall 7 at Hortifair from 14th -17th October 2008