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Methods for Extending the Freshness of Cut Flowers, Ornamental Trees, and Plant Cuttings

The present invention describes a method for preserving the freshness of cut flowers, fruits, foliage, and plant parts severed from growing plants. In an overall and general sense, the method comprises treating freshly-harvested crops or the cut stem portion or leaves of the cut flowers, floral or foliage with an effective amount of an anti-senescent compound to extend the shelf life or the appearance of the plant, cut flower, fruit or plant cuttings. The method may alternatively involve soaking, shipping, storing, or dipping such plant parts in one or more solutions that comprise one or more of the active anti-senescent compounds. Likewise, the method may alternatively comprise treating the roots or leaves of the floral or foliage plant under cultivation in a field, greenhouse, or pot with one or more anti-senescent compounds in an amount effective to maintain the freshness or to extend the aesthetic qualities of the plant or flower once harvested.

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