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CUT CHRYSANTHEMUM (CHRYSANTHEMUM MORIFOLIUM RAMAT.) IRRIGATION SCHEDULING UNDER GREENHOUSE CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT Soil water tension has been used with success as a criterion of irrigation scheduling. It avoids the excessive application that frequently results in lost of quality. Looking for the best representation of the obtained data, this research was developed at a farmer located in Paranapanema-SP, Brazil, in cultivations developed by the producer. The aim of this research was to identify the soil water tension which results in the best quality of cut chrysanthemum (Dark Orange Reagan cultivar). Experimental design was totally randomized with 3 repetitions, subdivided in 30 parcels, each one controlled by a register, with drip tape lines. Treatments were defined for 10 soil water tension levels: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 e 50 kPa. Leaves area evaluations, dried weight, diameter, and plant high were measured every 14 days, using 3 plants per parcel. Results showed that there is no significant difference among treatments for most of the evaluated variables. Plants irrigated with soil water tensions of 20 and 50 kPa showed increases in dried weight and in the highest number of A1 packs (highest possible quality).

Keywords: Cut Chrysanthemum, irrigation scheduling, greenhouse