

Australian Standard™

**Fresh cut flowers and foliage—  
Australian and related flora**

**Part 1: General and postharvest vase  
life requirements**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS-090, Horticulture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 15 March 2004 and published on 18 June 2004.

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The following are represented on Committee CS-090:

Arboricultural Association of Australia (Vic.) Inc.  
Australian Flower Export Council  
Australian Institute of Horticulture  
Electricity Supply Association of Australia  
Environment Australia Biodiversity Group  
Institute of Land and Food Resources  
Ministry of Economic Development (New Zealand)  
National Arborists Association of Australia  
Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia

Additional interests participating in the preparation of this Standard:

Australian Flora and Protea Growers Association  
Department of Agriculture WA  
Department of Primary Industries Victoria  
Flower Association of Queensland Inc  
Flowers Victoria  
NSW Agriculture  
Queensland Wax & Native Flower Association  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CS-090, Horticulture. The series of Standards was proposed by the Australian Flower Export Council who had expressed concern that substantial markets could be lost if the quality of fresh cut flowers is not improved. A Standard could also open the way to further markets and improve the quality of flowers for domestic sale.

This Standard is based on industry standards developed by the Australian Flower Export Council and the Queensland Wax and Native Flower Association.

The postharvest vase life test is based on an industry standard initially developed for waxflower (*Chamelaucium* spp.) by CSIRO Division of Horticulture.

The aim of the series of Standards is to improve the quality of fresh cut flowers and foliage of Australian and related species for export by setting minimum specifications to maintain the potential of the product at the point of export.

The AS 4689 series of Standards sets out general and product packaging requirements in Part 1. Part 1 includes a postharvest vase life test, the aim of which is to provide a test that can be used to compare batches of flowers or foliage. The remaining Parts contain specific requirements for particular flowers or foliage. This series of Standards is intended for use by flower producers and exporters within Australia.

This is Part 1 of AS 4689 series which comprises 7 Parts as follows:

AS

- 4689.1 Part 1: General and postharvest vase life requirements
- 4689.2 Part 2: *Anigozanthos* (kangaroo paw)
- 4689.3 Part 3: *Banksia*
- 4689.4 Part 4: *Caustis blakei* (koala fern)
- 4689.5 Part 5: *Chamelaucium* (waxflower)
- 4689.6 Part 6: *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* sylv. *Helichrysum diosmifolium* (rice flower)
- 4689.7 Part 7: *Telopea* (waratah)

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1 SCOPE.....	4
2 OBJECTIVE .....	4
3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.....	4
4 DEFINITIONS.....	4
5 POSTHARVEST VASE LIFE .....	5
6 CONSISTENCY AND QUALITY.....	5
7 TOLERANCE.....	6
8 LABELLING .....	6
9 DESPATCH OR STORAGE OF CUT STEMS .....	7
10 PACKAGING .....	7
11 PACKING OF PRODUCT.....	7
 APPENDICES	
A POSTHARVEST VASE LIFE TEST.....	9
B OPTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAY BE QUANTIFIED .....	11

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## Fresh cut flowers and foliage—Australian and related flora

## Part 1: General and postharvest vase life requirements

**1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out minimum general and specific characteristics of fresh cut flowers and foliage for Australian and related flora grown in Australia. It includes requirements and guidelines on how to achieve the appropriate freshness and quality, storage conditions, longevity (postharvest vase life), packaging and labelling criteria required to ensure the best possible quality product for export.

The Standard does not apply to dried flowers and does not include information on operational matters or market specific requirements.

**2 OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Standard is to provide growers, suppliers, exporters and purchasers with minimum specifications for selected native flowers and foliage for export, and enable use of these criteria to assist in evaluating, selecting or achieving the consistency in quality required for export.

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
4689	Fresh cut flowers and foliage—Australian and related flora
4689.2	Part 2: <i>Anigozanthos</i> (kangaroo paw)
4689.3	Part 3: <i>Banksia</i>
4689.4	Part 4: <i>Caustis baxteri</i> (koala fern)
4689.5	Part 5: <i>Chamelaucium</i> (waxflower)
4689.6	Part 6: <i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i> syn. <i>Helichrysum diosmifolium</i> (riceflower)
4689.7	Part 7: <i>Phyllozora</i> (waratah)
2852	Packaging—Pictorial marking for the handling of packages

**4 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

**4.1 Described cultivar**

A cultivar that has been described in sufficient detail to distinguish it from other similar products. The description is generally used by the academic, production and export sectors of the industry.

**4.2 Mature**

The particular stage of development of a flower or foliage when the stem is harvested to ensure maximum postharvest vase life.

NOTE: Photographs are included of all products in AS 4689, parts 2 to 7, to illustrate the ideal stage for harvesting.