

Title Study on Drying Method of *Dendrobium* Anna Flowers by Microwave Oven.  
By Assoc.Prof.Chornitsiri Siusuwan  
Department of Horticulture  
Faculty of Agricultural Technology  
King Mongkut's of Technology Ladkrabang Bangkok

### ABSTRACT

The serious problem of drying *Dendrobium* Anna flower was the change of petal color. The purpose of this study was to decrease this problem. Three experiments were carried out in this study. First experiment was conducted to find out the suitable period of drying, ranging from 10 – 60 seconds. Second experiment was carried out to compare different kinds of preservative sprays (soft hair spray, medium hair spray, hard hair spray and hardly hair spray). In the third experiment, the effect of pulsing the inflorescence with 3 color levels of dyed solution, filtered water and acidified with citric acid to 150 ppm, pH3, 4 and 5 was investigation and compared with the control.

The results showed that the best treatment was pulsing the flowers in filtered water and acidified with citric acid to pH 4.0 for 12 hours for drying by microwave oven under 900 watts of electric power for 30 seconds in the plastic bowl contained of silica gel for flower drying, size 0.063 – 0.200 mm. to absorb moisture. After heating, let the flowers remained in the medium for 48 hours. Thereafter the flower petals were carefully cleaned with fine pain brush, sprayed with a hard hair spray and kept in a close corrugated fiber board box with contained silica gel for moisture absorbing and stored in 20 °c, 78% RH air condition room. After keeping for 5 month, this treatment was show to be more effective and highly significant than others.