

MACRONUTRIENT CONTENTS IN *HELICONIA. PSITTACORUM* CV. GOLDEN TORCH

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Nutritional deficiency is frequently observed in heliconia cut flowers production due to the lack of information on this matter. The developmental phase of the plant and the diagnosis of nutrient content in plant parts are very important with respect to fertilization. The aim of this paper was to evaluate *Heliconia psittacorum* x *H. spathocircinata* cv. Golden Torch N, P and K contents at two development phases: 90 days after planting (DAP), representing the vegetative phase, and 360 DAP representing the reproductive phase. Three different plant parts were analyzed: the rhizome, a mix of leaves and the third leaf. At the vegetative phase, the nitrogen content in rhizomes and leaves did not differ statistically, nevertheless the greatest content was found in the third leaf. This plant part was the only one to show different nitrogen content among the analyzed phases. Phosphorus content, in the vegetative phase, did not vary for any of the plant parts. At the reproductive phase, the highest phosphorus content was found in the third leaf. The potassium content did not differ statistically among the analyzed plant parts, however the contents were higher in the vegetative phase than in the reproductive one. These results may be useful for other researches on heliconia nutrition and the third leaf is the best plant part to represent its nutritional condition.

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Falta incluir no Anho