**SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

**Evaluation of the optimal reference genes (Unpublished data)**

In order to accurately quantify the expression level of genes, the geNorm software (Mestdagh et al., 2009; Vandesompele et al., 2002) was used to evaluate the four housekeeping genes (*ACT7*, *EF1-α*, *TUB*, *UBQ*) from the transcriptome data of *Luculia gratissima* ‘Xiangfei’. The results showed that the average expression stability values (*M*) from the candidate internal reference genes were *ACT7*/*EF1-α* (0.35) = *ACT7* (0.35) = *EF1-α* (0.35) < *TUB* (0.47) < *UBQ* (0.67), indicating that *ACT7* and *EF1-α*, and their combinations, had the most stable expression. Furthermore, pairwise variation (*V*2/3 = 0.144) was lower than 0.15 (Vandesompele et al., 2002), indicating that the optimal number for internal reference genes was two genes. Therefore, the *ACT7/EF1-α* combination was used as internal reference in this study to accurately standardize the expression of candidate flower-related genes.

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