

Tips for Cut Flowers

- Cut flowers early in the morning. They are at their maximum hydration before the heat of the day so they will last longer in an arrangement.
- Flowers with multiple buds should be cut with at least one bud beginning to open. Cut single stem flowers when they are fully open.
- Carry a bucket of water with you to the garden when you cut the flowers so you can place the cut stems directly into the water. Leaving the cut stems open to air allows damage to the vascular tissue which impedes water absorption into the flower.
- Re-cutting flowers stems (1/4" to 1") and immediately placing in water opens up new vascular tissue and is one of the best things you can do to lengthen the life of your flowers.
- Use a clean vase to prevent bacteria and fungus from killing your flowers.
- Using a flower preservative is useful as it will lengthen the life of your arrangement.
- Remove the leaves below the water line as rotting leaves are unsightly and will shorten the life of your arrangement.

- Placing cut flowers in lukewarm water (110° F) then moving to a cool location for an hour or two is called "HARDENING" and allows for maximum water uptake and life for your cut flowers.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BASIC GUIDELINE FOR CUT FLOWER PREPARATION. CERTAIN FLOWERS REQUIRE SPECIAL PREPARATION, BUT THIS GETS YOU STARTED:

Hearty Stems: (solid) cut diagonally and place in warm water.

Hollow Stems: turn upside down and fill with water then plug with a piece of cotton or use your finger and put into a vase with water.

Soft stems (bulb flowers): place in cold water (no warm water).

Woody Stems: make vertical cuts in the end of the stem to create more surface area to absorb water (some people smash the stem end with a hammer).

Milky Stems: if a stem oozes milky sap when it is cut, sear the end of the stem by applying a flame to the cut end for 30 seconds or dipping the cut end in boiling water for 30 seconds.

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Suggested Flowers for the Cutting Garden and How to Use Them

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Cut Flowers



Part of the pleasure of gardening is being able to look at, smell, and enjoy the results of your labor. When you cannot be in the garden, bring the garden to you with cut flowers! You could

cut any flower from your garden for a bouquet, but here we will consider a good cut flower if it keeps for at least five days after cutting. Cutting flowers from your garden is also good for the plants as it performs a function similar to dead-heading (removing old blooms) and encourages more blooms.

Cut Flowers

Where? First, think about where you would like to plant your flowers. Most of the flowers that make good cut flowers grow best in the sun, so a sunny location is preferred. You can grow flowers for cutting either incorporated into the rest of your garden or creating a separate space for them. In any case, you'll want to be able to have enough to enjoy in your garden as well as some to cut and bring inside.

What? You should plant what you like for cut flowers. Think about the flower colors you like. You could do a color scheme like hot colors (yellow, red, orange, and white) or cool colors (blue, purple, green, and white) or a mix of colors. Bouquets of flowers look best when there is a combination of flower types and shapes like spikes, single stems, and racemes.

The List: Good Cut Flowers

Annuals

Ammi majus False Queen Anne's Lace
Antirrhinum majus Snapdragon
Calendula officinalis Marigold
Callistephus chinensis China aster
Centaurea cyanus Cornflower
Consilida ajacis Larkspur
Cosmos
Gomphrena globosa Globe amaranth
Helianthus Sunflower
Helichrysum bracteatum Strawflower
Lathyrus odoratus Sweet Pea
Limonium sinuatum Statice
Matthiola Stock
Moluccella laevis Bells of Ireland
Nigella damascene Love-in-a-mist
Salpiglossis sinuata Painted tongue
Tagetes African Marigold
Zinnia

Perennials

Achillea Yarrow
Alchemilla mollis Lady's mantle
Allium
Alstromeria
Astrantia Masterwort
Aster
Campanula Bellflower
Chrysanthemum
Coreopsis Tickseed
Crocsmia
Dahlia



Delphinium
Dicentra spectabilis Bleeding Heart
Dianthus caryophyllus Carnation
Echinacea purpurea Purple Coneflower
Echinops Globe Thistle
Euphorbia Spurge (Careful of milky sap!)
Ferns (foliage)
Gaillardia x grandiflora
Gladiolus
Gypsophilia paniculata Baby's Breath
Hosta (foliage)
Iris
Liatris spicata Gayfeather
Lilium Lily
Limonium latifolium Statice
Monarda Bee Balm
Narcissus Daffodil
Paeonia Peony
Phlox paniculata Summer phlox
Rudbeckia hirta Gloriosa Daisy
Scabiosa Pincushion flower
Tanacetum parthenium Feverfew
Tulipa Tulip
Verbena bonariensis
Zantedeschia Calla



Shrubs & Grasses

Carex p. 'Sparkler'
Eucalyptus (foliage)
Hebe (foliage and flowers)
Hydrangea
Rosa Rose (Flowers and hips)
Salix caprea Pussy Willow
Syringa Lilac
Viburnum opulus 'Sterile' Snowball Bush