

MOST BEAUTIFUL CUT FLOWER VARIETIES

Dahlia

Dahlias come in a huge array of colours and forms. They can be grown from bulbs to be sure what flower you are getting and can also be grown from seed for a floral surprise. Learn more about growing Dahlias [here](#).

Dahlias are perennial so you can plant once for gorgeous flowers year on year. They have a long flowering season from Summer to late Autumn.

Dahlias have a 5-8 day vase life and are best picked when blooms are half open. Smaller-headed varieties such as 'pom pom' types will have a longer vase life but the larger 'dinner plate' style can be stunning in bouquet. They have hollow stems, so cut the stem on an angle with sharp snips to ensure water can be drawn up the stem.



Lilium

Liliums are a favourite cut flower for their extraordinary vase life and large attractive blooms. They typically last 10-14 days in a vase and

sometimes even longer. Liliiums are best harvested while the flower buds are still closed but are showing good colour, indicating that they will open soon. They are thirsty blooms, so for the best vase life recut stems and top up with fresh water daily. There are many varieties to choose from, choose the right one for you garden by following our handy guide.

Some varieties have a gorgeous, sweet fragrance but there are also fragrance free choices for those who find it overpowering. Pollen from liliium flowers can stain clothing and cause allergies in sensitive people. If this is a concern, grow a pollen-free variety. Some pollen-free varieties include Liliium Double Sundew, Liliium Double Red Twin and Liliium Double Must See.

Liliiums are highly toxic to cats if ingested, so grow and display with caution if you have cats in your home.



Sunflower

Sunflowers have large cheerful blooms and a vase life of 7-10 days. Harvest flowers when half or fully open and recut stems regularly to extend vase life. Strip lower leaves before displaying in a vase.

Modern breeding means there are a lot of varieties to choose from other than classic yellow - with reds, oranges, bicolours and doubles now available. If you suffer from allergies or just prefer to avoid the mess, opt for a pollen-free variety. Read more about the different varieties and growing tips [here](#).



Sweet Pea

Sweet peas yield huge bunches of blooms. There are many varieties to choose from in an array of colours. As they are climbers, they don't take up much space in the garden and can be grown over trellises or archways for a gorgeous floral display. For growing advice check out our [Sweet Pea growing guide](#).

Sweet peas have a vase life of 5-7 days and fill the room with sweet perfume. The flowers are sensitive to ethylene so avoid displaying near fruit as this can shorten the vase life. Harvest when the top two or three buds are coloured and partly open.



Zinnia

Zinnias are prolific bloomers with a long flowering season from Summer to Autumn. The secret to getting many flowers is to pinch out the plants when they are young. Once they have 2-3 sets of leaves, cut out the centre of the plant with sharp snips. This causes the plant to branch and become bushy, producing many flower heads. Harvest the flowers regularly to encourage more blooms.

Zinnia must be cut at the right time to last well in a vase. To test if the flower is ready, grab the stem about 20cm below the flower head and gently shake. If the stem is stiff and strong, the flower is ready to harvest. If the stem bends or is droopy, it is not ready so leave it for a few days before testing again. If harvested at the right time, Zinnias have a vase life of 5-8 days. Strip lower leaves before displaying in a vase. A drop of bleach in the water will also extend the vase life.

