



## Flower Care

### How to care for, and extend the life of your flowers once you get them home

Most flowers in arrangements will last five to seven days. I endeavour to grow flowers and foliage that have decent vase life and some things will last much longer, but managing this can be difficult. To get maximum life and enjoyment out of your flowers, follow these simple instructions.

#### Choose a clean vase

Always place flowers in a clean vase, bowl, jar or jug. Remember you can use anything to store your flowers, just make sure it isn't dirty as bacteria can quickly build up.

#### Add clean water (and flower preservative, if supplied)

Using tepid water (approximately 40 degrees, or just warmer than from the tap) is a good way to rehydrate flowers, allowing a steady water flow up the stems. Add flower food supplied by following the included instructions, if it is included. Note this isn't necessary to get good vase life from your arrangement though.

#### General flower care

- Remove any leaves from stems that will be below the water line in water. This reduces the amount of bacteria and fungi growth that can foul the water.
- Use sharp scissors to re-cut all stems on a 45° angle. This helps allow maximum water intake up the stem to hydrate the flowers.
- Remove wrapping if you wish to rearrange the flowers in a vase. Removing wrapping isn't essential, but you should make sure it isn't wet.
- Select an appropriate size vase for the flowers. Don't overcrowd the flowers, they need air around them so they stay fresh.
- Position the vase in a suitable spot - out of direct sunlight and away from heat and fruit.
- Replace water regularly. Flowers drink a lot, especially if it is hot or humid! Every two-three days check the water and at the same time to trim the stems by about 5-10mm.
- Follow any specific instructions for certain flowers – some can be particular!

#### For extra-long vase life consider:

- Minimising proximity to other fruit and vegetables (as these give off ethylene gas which quickens the aging process).

- Keep away from smoke, dust or excess heat (including gas heaters).
- Remove foliage and flowers as they age, to reduce premature aging of the remaining flowers.