

Tips on Making Cut Flowers Last Longer

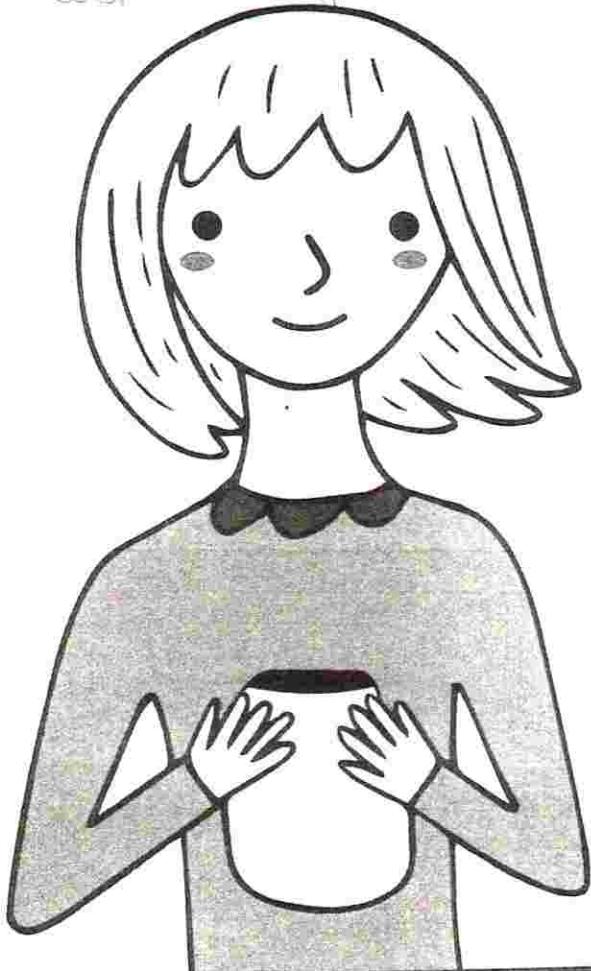
Always start with a very clean, well-scrubbed vase or bucket *if cutting from the garden*

(clean enough for food service)



Flower stems should be recut with a sharp knife or with scissors *designed for cutting flowers*. Avoid using dull scissors, as they may crush capillaries that carry water to the bloom.

cut on an angle absorbs more H₂O



Remove any leaves or foliage that will be below the water line in the vase. This helps prevent algae and bacteria from growing and blocking up the stem.

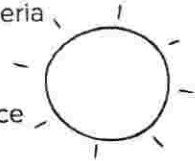


Put the flowers in water immediately after recutting. Change water daily or if it becomes cloudy. Warm water will help open blooms that haven't yet fully opened; cool water preserves flowers that have fully opened.

Using a flower nutrient/preservative in the water can prolong a flower's life. These additives, available at most florist shops, kill bacteria and feed the flower.



Keep flowers in a cool place away from heating vents and direct sunlight. Warm, moving air will cause flowers to lose water faster than they can take it up.



Keep flowers away from fruit, which releases Ethylene gas that accelerates ripening of blooms.

You can extend the life of an arrangement by dismantling it every two or three days and recutting the stems. If a stem is wilting, insert a wire down the center of the bloom to act as an internal splint. Also, older flowers should be discarded to keep the arrangement fresh-looking.

