

Cut Flower Vase Life Chart - Becky Hassebroek

Name	Species	Earliest time to cut flowers for best vase life*	Storage Temp (F)**	Ethylene sensitive***
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus africanus</i>	1/4 florets open	33-35	
Agastache	<i>Agastache sp.</i>	3/4 of florets open	35-40	
Ageratum	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Center florets fully open, side florets well colored	35-40	
Alstroemeria	<i>Alstroemeria sp.</i>	First floret fully covered, side florets mostly colored	36-39	yes
Ammi, Bishopweed	<i>Ammi majus</i>	80% of florets open	37-40	
Ammobium	<i>Ammobium alatum</i>	Buds well colored but before yellow centers are colored	35-40	
Anemone	<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	Sepals separated from the center but not fully open	33-35	yes
Armenian basketflower	<i>Centaurea macrocephala</i>	flowers 1/2 to 3/4 open	35-40	
Asters	<i>Aster sp.</i>	1/4 florets open	33-35	
Astilbe	<i>Astilbe species</i>	1/2 to 3/4 florets open	35-40	yes
Australian everlasting	<i>Rhodanthe manglesii</i>	flowers are well colored	35-40	

Bachelor's button	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	top flowers 3/4 to fully open	35-41	
Balloon flower	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i>	2-3 opened flowers	38-40	
Bleeding heart	<i>Dicentra sp.</i>	lower 1/3 of flowers fully colored and open	33-35	
Calendula	<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	fully opened flowers	39-41	
Calla lily	<i>Zantedeschia cvs</i>	just before the edge of the spathe (petal) begins to turn downward	33-35	no
Carnation	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i>	petals emerged 1/2 inch above the calyx	33-35	very sensitive
Caryopteris	<i>Caryopteris incana</i>	lower whorls of buds show color or are fully opened	34-40	
Cattleya	<i>Cattleya sp.</i>	3-4 days after opening	50-55	very sensitive
Celosia	<i>Celosia argentea</i>	flower head fully colored but before seed production	36-41	
China aster	<i>Callistephus chinensis</i>	outside ray flowers beginning to open	32-39	
Chrysanthemum	<i>Dendranthema x grandiflorum</i>	outer petals fully elongated	32-35	slight or not at all
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>	1/2 flowers open	40-45	
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	fully open flowers	39-41	
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos bipinnatus</i>	petals on apical flower opening but not yet flat	36-41	no
Cymbidium	<i>Cymbidium sp.</i>	3-4 days after opening	31-39	very sensitive

Dahlia	<i>Dahlia x hybrida</i>	3/4 fully open flowers	39-41	yes
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis sp.</i>	1-2 half opened flower	35-40	
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium sp.</i>	3/4 to fully open flowers	33-35	very sensitive
Dendrobium	<i>Dendrobium sp.</i>	1-2 days before full bloom	50-55	no
Edelweiss	<i>Leontopodium alpinum</i>	fully opened flowers	33-35	
English daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	full opened flowers	39-41	
Erigeron	<i>Erigeron sp.</i>	fully open flowers	38-40	
Everlasting	<i>Xeranthemum sp.</i>	flowers fully open	35-40	
Flowering cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	any time stems are long and center leaves are well covered	32-35	
Flowering onion	<i>Allium sp</i>	1/4 to 1/2 florets open	40-45	
Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	1/2 florets open	39-41	
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	2-3 lower florets open	35-40	
Foxtail lily	<i>Eremurus robustus</i>	lower 3 rows of florets open	33-35	yes
Fritillaria	<i>Fritillaria sp.</i>	half opened flowers	35-40	
Gaillardia	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	fully opened flowers	38-40	
Gentians	<i>Gentiana sp.</i>	1-2 flowers open or 3/4 buds well colored	36-41	

Gerbera	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>	2 outer rows of disk florets showing pollen	32-35	slight
Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus cv</i>	lower 2 buds showing color	33-35	no
Globe thistle	<i>Echinops bannaticus</i>	1/2 to 3/4 florets showing color	40-45	
Globeflower	<i>Trollius sp.</i>	half opened flowers	36-39	
Godetia	<i>Clarkia amoena</i>	1/2 florets open	36-39	
Grains	<i>many kind</i>	seed heads full size but before seeds are mature	32-35	
Grape hyacinth	<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	1/2 florets open	33-35	
Gypsophyla	<i>Gypsophila sp.</i>	fresh: up to 30% flowers fully open; dry: 80-90% of flowers open	33-35	yes
Harebells	<i>Campanula sp.</i>	1-2 florets well colored and open	34-36	yes
Heather	<i>Erica sp.</i>	1/2 florets open	33-35	
Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	1/3 florets open	35-40	
Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea</i>	1/2 florets open	35-40	
Iris	<i>Iris sp.</i>	before the falls reflex	32-35	yes
Japanese sea thistle	<i>Cirsium japonicum</i>	full open flowers	36-41	
Lavatera	<i>Lavatera trimestris</i>	petals just opening	35-40	
Leopard's bane	<i>Doronicum orientale</i>	almost fully open flowers	35-40	
Lepidium	<i>Lepidium sativum</i>	Pods fully formed	35-40	
Liatris	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	3-4 florets open	32-35	
Lilac	<i>Syringa sp.</i>	first florets open	40-45	yes

Lilies	<i>Lilium sp.</i>	first bud well colored but not yet open	32-35	yes
Lily of the valley	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	all florets are white	31-32	
Love-in-a-mist	<i>Nigella sp.</i>	fresh: flowers fully colored but petals not fully separated from center; dry: pods mature and well colored	36-39	
Love-lies-bleeding	<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i>	Fresh: 1/3 florets open; dry: allow all flowers to grow seed and flower parts to become firm	36-41	
Marguerite dais	<i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>	most flowers on spray open	32-35	
Marigold	<i>Tagetes erecta</i>	fully open flowers	39-41	
Masterwort	<i>Astrantia major</i>	uppermost flowers open	35-40	
Mignonette	<i>Reseda odorata</i>	1/2 florets open	35-40	
Monarda	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	one ring of florets open and others fully colored	35-40	
Money plant	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Pods fully developed	33-35	
Monkshood	<i>Aconitum sp</i>	1-3 lower florets open	33-35	yes
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	fully opened flowers	36-39	
Northern sea oats	<i>Chasmantheum latifolium</i>	soon after heading	32-35	
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	up to 4 flowers open at base	34-36	
Pansy	<i>Viola x wittrockiana</i>	almost opened flowers	34-40	yes
Peony	<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i>	Flowers showing true color with	33-35	no

		flower soft and petals beginning to open		
Phalaenopsis	<i>Phalaenopsis sp.</i>	3-4 days after opening	45-50	very sensitive
Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	2 or more florets open	39-41	yes
Pincushion flower	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	half to fully open flowers	36-39	
Pnestemon	<i>Penstemon sp.</i>	several florets open	36-39	yes
Poppies	<i>Papaver sp.</i>	Calyx just starting to open	35-40	
Primroses	<i>Primula sp.</i>	1/2 florets open	36-39	very sensitive
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	petals fully expanded, first ring of disk florets open	36-45	no
Quaking grass	<i>Briza sp.</i>	soon after heading	45-50	
Ranunculus	<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	flowers show color and almost fully open	32-35	slight
Red valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	first flowers fully open	40-45	
Rocket larkspur	<i>Consolida ambigua</i>	2-5 florets open	33-35	very sensitive
Roses	<i>Rosa sp.</i>	first 1-2 petals beginning to unfold, calyx reflexed below horizontal position	32-35	slight
Rudbeckia	<i>Rudbeckia sp.</i>	fully opened flowers, first ring of disk florets open	36-41	
Sea holly	<i>Eryngium sp.</i>	entire flower head well colored	38-40	
Sea lavender	<i>Limonium perezii</i>	40% of flower heads open	33-35	

Sedum	<i>Sedum cvs</i>	1/2 to fully open flowers	40-45	
Siberian squill	<i>Scilla sibirica</i>	half opened flowers	32-35	
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	1/3 of flowers open	53-55	very sensitive
Solidago	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	1/2 florets open	36-39	
Statice	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	almost fully open flowers, white petals visible	33-35	
Stock	<i>Matthiola incana</i>	6-10 florets open	33-35	very sensitive
Strawflower	<i>Acroclinium roeum</i>	Nearly fully open	33-35	
Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum bracteatum</i>	centers just visible	36-41	
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus sp.</i>	flowers 3/4 open	33-35	yes
Sweet william	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	10-20% of florets open	33-35	
Tassel flower	<i>Emilia cocinea</i>	first flower fully open	35-40	
Thalictrum	<i>Thalictrum sp.</i>	most florets open	36-39	
Thorowax	<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i>	almost all flowers open	35-40	
Verbena bonariensis	<i>Verbena bonariensis</i>	most florets open	36-39	
Veronica	<i>Veronica sp.</i>	1/2 florets open	36-41	
Viola	<i>Viola sp.</i>	almost fully open flowers	34-40	
Wallflower	<i>Erysimum cheiri</i>	1/2 florets open	40-45	
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium, A. filipendulina, A. ptarmica</i>	Fully opened flowers and pollen visible	36-45	
Zinnia	<i>Zinnia elegans</i>	full open flowers	39-41	

- If flowers are harvested before this stage, they may not open properly or may be deformed. Florets= individual flowers in a cluster or spike; Cvs= cultivars = cultivated varieties. Calyx= mostly green leaf-like structures individually called sepals that protect the flower petals. Disk flowers: in an aster-type flower the central disk is made up of hundreds of individual flowers. They usually bloom in a specific pattern such as bottom to top in Rudbeckias.
- ** All flowers that have an optimum temperature below 45F benefit from chilling in a cold room or refrigerator for a day or two before putting in a vase. In some cases, vase life can be doubled by a cold period. The temperatures listed are optimum for the longest and best storage. The holding temperature can be higher but not lower. The higher the temperature, the faster the flowers will open. Flowers with temperature recommendations above 45F can be injured by chilling temperatures and need to be kept at warmer temperatures for longer vase life.
- ***Some flowers are very sensitive to ethylene gas. This gas can come from faulty motors that are not tuned up properly as well as many ripening fruits and vegetables. If a flower shows any sensitivity, do not store them in a refrigerator or cold room with apples, bananas, strawberries, all citrus, tomatoes and more. The flowers will drop prematurely. Blank spaces in this column do not mean no sensitivity. NO work has been done on it yet.