



Rice's Picks

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Perennials Cut & Dry Flowers

Tips for Cut Flowers

Here's a list of tips that will help keep your cut flowers looking fresh:

- Pick your flowers early in the day.
- Choose flowers for cutting that aren't fully open .
- Cut stems cleanly with sharp scissors or pruners.
- Carry a bucket of lukewarm water and plunge stems into it as soon as they're cut. The water should come at least halfway up the stems but shouldn't reach the blooms.
- Set the bucket in a cool shady place.
- Strip off all the leaves and buds that would be underwater in your arrangement.
- Recut stems on a slant before adding them to the arrangement.
- Use lukewarm water for your arrangement.
- Treat foliage like artemisias, ivy, and lamb's ear the same way you treat flowers.

There are a few flowers that require special care. Flowers that drip milky sap from the cut ends last longer if you sear the cuts in a flame for a second, or dip them in boiling water for a minute.

Flowers for Cutting

<i>Achillea</i>	Yarrow
<i>Alchemilla</i>	Lady's Mantle
<i>Allium</i>	Allium
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Japanese Anemone
<i>Aquilegia sp.</i>	Columbine
<i>Armeria</i>	Common Thrift
<i>Aster</i>	Aster
<i>Astilbe</i>	Astilbe
<i>Campanula</i>	Bell Flower
<i>Centaurea</i>	Bachelor's Button
<i>Chrysanthemum</i>	Mum
<i>Convallaria</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley
<i>Coreopsis</i>	Tickseed

CUTTING Continued...

<i>Crocosmia</i>	Crocosmia
<i>Delphinium</i>	Larkspur
<i>Dianthus</i>	Dianthus
<i>Dicentra sp.</i>	Bleeding Heart
<i>Digitalis</i>	Foxglove
<i>Doronicum</i>	Leopard's Bane
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower
<i>Echinops</i>	Globe Thistle
<i>Gaillardia</i>	Blanket Flower
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Baby's Breath
<i>Heuchera san guinea</i>	Coral Bells
<i>Iris</i>	Iris
<i>Lavandula</i>	English Lavender
<i>Leucanthemum</i>	Shasta Daisy
<i>Liatris sp.</i>	Gayfeather
<i>Lilium</i>	Lily
<i>Lobelia</i>	Lobelia
<i>Lupinus 'Russell'</i>	'Russel' Lupine
<i>Miscanthus</i>	Grass
<i>Monarda</i>	Bee Balm
<i>Oenothera</i>	Sun Drop
<i>Paeonia</i>	Paeonia
<i>Penstemon</i>	Bearded Tongue
<i>Phlox</i>	Phlox
<i>Physostegia</i>	False Dragonhead
<i>Platycodon</i>	Balloon Flower
<i>Polemonium</i>	Jacobs Ladder
<i>Pyrethrum</i>	Painted Daisy
<i>Rudbeckia sp.</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Salvia</i>	Salvia
<i>Scabiosa</i>	Pin Cushion Flower
<i>Sedum</i>	Stonecrop
<i>Stokesia</i>	Aster
<i>Tritoma</i>	Red Hot Poker
<i>Trollius</i>	Globe Flower
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Spike Speedwell

Tips for Drying Flowers

Dried flowers can have many uses but some of the most popular are for wreaths, flower arrangements and potpourri. Here are a few tips that will help you with drying your flowers:

- Cut flowers just before they reach their full potential
- Cut flowers when they are dry - in the heat of the day

There are many methods for drying flowers. Here are a few:

Air Drying

Hang the flowers in a warm, dry, dark room usually upside down until they appear dry.

Desiccant Drying

Place the flowers to be dried in a container with silica gel for one to two weeks. This method is faster than air drying.

Microwave Drying

Place the flowers in a container with silica gel and dry them in a microwave. These flowers appear more life-like than that of other methods.

Flowers for Drying

<i>Achillea</i> sp.	Yarrow
<i>Alchemilla</i>	Lady's Mantle
<i>Allium</i>	Allium
<i>Artemisia</i>	Artemisia
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Globe Thistle
<i>Erianthus</i>	Plume Grass
<i>Galium</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Gypsophila</i>	Baby's Breath
<i>Iris siberica</i>	Siberian Iris (seed pod)
<i>Lavandula</i>	English Lavender
<i>Liatris</i>	Gayfeather
<i>Miscanthus</i>	Grass
<i>Oenothera</i>	Sun Drop
<i>Panicum</i>	Grass
<i>Papaver</i>	Oriental Poppy (seedpod)
<i>Pennisetum</i>	Grass
<i>Perovskia</i>	Russian Sage
<i>Sedum</i>	Autumn Joy