

Post Harvest Care of Cut Flowers

Directions: Fill in the blank.

Post Harvest Care of Cut Flowers

1. With proper post harvest care, the vase life of flowers can be maximized.
2. Floral materials with a long shelf life can result in customers who become repeat customers.

Plant Science Basics

3. Light intensity is the amount of light received on the surface of the plant.
4. Flowers are provided with a constant food source when they are attached to a plant.
5. The process of converting light, nutrients, water and carbon dioxide into food for plants is known as photosynthesis.
6. Leaf burn causes the leaf to turn yellow and then brown.
7. Plant respiration is the process by which energy stored from photosynthesis is converted for plant use.
8. Humidity is the amount of water vapor in the air.
9. Transpiration is the process by which water evaporates from plants through the stomata on the leaves.
10. Flowers harvested at an advanced stage of development have a shortened shelf life.
11. Ethylene is a colorless, odorless gas which decreases the shelf life of cut flowers.

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Retail Floral Processing

12. If a flower has stem blockage and does not have a fresh cut, it will not properly take up water to rehydrate the flower.
13. Floral preservatives are used for three main reasons: to lower the pH in the flower, to reduce bacteria growth in the flower and to replenish the food source in the flower.
14. Botrytis is a fungus commonly observed as gray mold on the surface of infected plants.

Storage of Cut Flowers

15. If processing is delayed on fresh flowers, its best to store them in a cooler.
16. Flowers can be used within 12 hours of unpacking and processing them in water.
17. The temperature range for a cooler is optimal between 38 and 42 degrees.
18. The cooler is organized by flower color and flower type.

Tropical Flower Care

19. Tropical flowers are grown in a very humid environment.
20. Tropical plants are usually processed the day after they are received.

Special Stem Treatments

21. Special stem treatments increase the stability, shelf life and overall aesthetic appeal of floral arrangements.
22. Learning proper care and handling procedures is vital for any retail or wholesale employee.