

## **Cut flower best practices**

### **Temperature–**

Proper control of temperature from the farm to the customer will provide fresher, longer lasting flowers and decrease waist.

- Get newly delivered flowers into refrigerator immediately.
- Remove only as many boxes at a time that you can process in 30 minutes.
- Stack boxes so air flows around and under product.
- Optimum cooler temperature is 36-34F.
- Do not cram buckets.
- Place buckets to allow air flow around buds and foliage.

### **Cutting -**

- Cut at least 1 inch off of the bottom of a flower to provide clean stems for water flow.
- Always use a sharp knife or cutter.
- Place flower into water within 25 seconds of cutting.

## Handling –

- Never leave flowers lying on benches out of water.
- Replace mixed flowers to their original buckets.
- Peeling: Do not remove guard petals off of roses unless necessary and only just prior to use.
  - Peeling loosens the petal structure causing faster opening
  - Peeling triggers internal ethylene production

Additional **foliage** on rose stems facilitates the intake of water into the stems.

Use **cold water** for roses, lisianthus, stock, snapdragon, Wax, Callas and any flowers that are open. Refrigerate immediately!

Use **warm water** on carnations, lilies, alstromeria, pomp poms, delphinium, solidago, and any flower that needs to open.

Always use Floralife water in all buckets and vases!