



<u>Botanical</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Bloom Time</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Harvest Stage, Tips</u>	<u>Vase Life, days</u>
Salvia	Sage	Summer	Purple, White, Pink	1-2'	Just opening	5-7
Scabiosa	Pincushion Flower	Summer	Pink, lavender, white, blue	1-2'	Just Opening	5-7
Sedum	Sedum, Stonecrop	Summer	Pinks, bronze	1-2'	Most Florets Opening	7-10
Solidago	Goldenrod	Fall	Yellow, Gold	2-4'	Few Florets Open	10
Thalictrum	Meadow Rue	Summer	Purple, Pink	3-6'	Mostly Open	7
Trollis	Globe Flower	Early Summer	Yellow, Orange	1-2'	Petals Opening	5-7
Veronica	Speedwell	Summer	Several	1-2'	Half Florets Open	7

Perennials for Cut Flowers

The following are only a few of the more recent, proven or noteworthy selections useful for cut flowers in USDA Zones 5 and colder. They include herbaceous perennials, few or no bulbs or woody species. All are hardy to at least zone 4. Other more unusual species and cultivars may enable a product niche.

Note: Those marked with * are toxic if eaten.

Keep Petals at their Peak

All living things wilt a bit with age, but there are steps for maintaining cut flowers in their prime.

- Keep fresh flower arrangements away from heat, direct sunlight, and ripening fruit.
- Check the water level in the vase every day.
- Re-cut the stems of limp blooms and discard any that do not recover.

Vase Water Demystified

Aspirin, vitamin pills, vinegar, and pennies are just a few of the more common folklore additives used unsuccessfully to preserve flowers. What works are ingredients that prohibit bacteria, feed the flower, and encourage water uptake. Commercial flower preservatives contain a blend of these ingredients that can extend the life of cut blooms by days. A homemade mixture that works as well as the commercial variety: Mix 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 teaspoon bleach, and 2 tablespoons lemon or lime juice in a quart of warm water. Warm water is important because it's more easily absorbed.

First Cut Fables

The first step to fresh-looking flowers is stripping all leaves from stems that will be below the water line. Submerged foliage encourages bacteria growth in the container water. Remove at least 1 inch from the bottom of any flower stems that have been exposed to air. Legends abound as to the best way to cut, slice, or crush stems before placing them in water. Cutting stems at a 45-degree angle does help most flowers absorb water. Some woody stemmed flowers benefit from slicing their stems, but you can't go wrong with a diagonal cut. Use garden shears or a sharp knife to cut stems. Common household scissors can crush the vascular systems of the flower stem, inhibiting water uptake. As soon as you make the cut, plunge flowers into a vase or container filled with lukewarm water.

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Achillea	Yarrow	Summer	Many	2-4'	Visible pollen	7-12
Aconitum *	Monkshood	Summer	Blue—purple	2-3'	Just opening	7-10
Alchemilla	Lady's Mantle	Spring -Summer	Greens and Yellows	1-2'	Fully open	7
Anemone	Windflower	Early Fall	Rose, White	2-4'	Buds Opening	5-10
Anthemis	Marguerite Daisy	Summer	White, Gold	2-3'	Just Opening	10
Aquilegia	Columbine	Spring	Many	1-2'	Just Opening	5-7
Aster	Aster	Fall	Many	3-4'	Mostly Open	5-10
Astilbe	Astilbe, Plume Flower	Summer	Many	2-3'	Half open, hot water dip	4-12
Astrantia	Masterwort	Summer	Red, Pink White	2'	Upper flowers open	5-7

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Bellamcanda	Blackberry Lily	Summer	Orange	3-4'	Half open, or seed pods	5-7	Hosta	Plaintain Lily	Summer	White—Lilac	2-4'	Showing Color	7-10
Campanula	Bellflower	Summer	Blue, White, Pink	2-4'	Half flowers open	5-16	Iris	Iris	Summer	Violet, Pink, Yellow, White	1-2'	Showing Color	3-7
Centaurea	Cornflower	Summer	Blue, Purple	3-4'	Half open, warm water	5-7	Kniphofia	Red Hot Poker	Summer	Red, orange, yellow	2-3'	Lower florets opening	7-10
Centranthus	Jupiter's Beard	Summer	Red, white, pink	2-3'	First flowers open	7-10	Lavender	Lavender	Summer	Blue, white	1-2'	Mostly open	10-14
Chelone	Turtlehead	Late Summer	Pink	2'	Just opening	7	Leucanthemum	Shasta Daisy	Summer	White	1-2'	Buds in color	10-14
Coreopsis	Tickseed	Summer	Yellow's Gold	2'	Fully Open	7-10	Liatris	Blazing Star, Gayfeather	Summer	Purple, White	2-3'	Top florets open	10-14
Delphinium	Larkspur	Summer	Several	3-6'	Half florets	6-8	Lilium	Lily	Summer	Many	2-4'	Buds in Color	10-14
Dianthus	Sweet William	Spring	Several	1-2'	Flowers just opening	7-10	Lobelia	Cardinal Flower	Summer	Red	2-4'	Buds in Color	7-10
Digitalis *	Foxglove	Summer	Several	2-3'	Lower Florets Opening	10-14	Lysimachia	Loostrife	Summer	Yellow, white	2'	About half open	5-10
Echinacea	Cone Flower	Late Summer	Pink, purple	2-3'	Petals Expanding	7-10	Monarda	Bee Balm, Oswego Tea	Summer	Pink, lavender, Red	2-4'	Flowers Opening	7
Gaillardia	Blanket Flower	Summer	Yellow/Red	2-3'	Fully Open	7-10	Paeonia	Peony	Summer	Pink, Red, White	2-3'	Buds just in color	5-10
Gypsophila	Baby's Breath	Summer	White	2-4'	Mostly Open	5-10	Phlox	Garden Phlox	Summer	Various	2-3'	Half flowers open	5-7
Helenium	Helen's Flower	Late Summer	Orange, Red	3-5'	Mostly Open	8-10	Physostegia	Obedient Plant	Summer	Pink, white	2'	Florets Just Opening	7-14
Heliopsis	False Sunflower	Summer	Yellow-Gold	3-6'	Fully Open	7-10	Penstemon	Beards Tongue	Summer	Various	2-3'	Just Opening	5-7
Hesperis	Dames Rocket	Early Summer	Lilac, White	2-3'	Just opening, don't chill	5-7	Rudbeckia	Cone Flower	Summer	Yellow/Black	2'	Just Opening	5-7
Heuchera	Coral Bells	Summer	Red, Pink, White	2-3'	Half Florets	5-7							