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## **Long-lasting Cut Flowers**

Today on Gardening in a Minute: long-lasting cut flowers.

Fresh flowers make a wonderful gift for almost any situation. Here are a few tips to make them last as long as possible.

At the store, flowers should have freshly cut stems, and be kept in clean water. Flower food should be provided with the flowers.

At home, remove leaves or flowers that will end up underwater. Cut one-half to one inch off the stems with a sharp clean knife. Place them in a clean vase filled with fresh water and flower food.

Pre-arranged flowers should come in fresh, clear water or moist floral foam.

If the water turns yellow and cloudy, wash the vase with soapy water and refill it with water and flower food. Re-cut and rinse the stems before placing them back into the container.

For more information about cut flowers and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

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