



HARVEST GUIDE FOR CUT FLOWERS

Flower	Barely opening, cracking bud, glimpse of color	First 2-3 florets on flower head are open	Fully open, developed	Will continue opening in vase after cutting	Special Cases	Where to Make First Cut
Ageratum		?		Yes		Base of plant above set of leaves.
Agrostemma (Corn Cockle)	?			Yes	Damages easily if arranged while open	Base of plant above set of leaves.
Ammi & Dara		?		Yes	Watch for flower head to “flatten” to avoid wilt. If harvested overripe, will drop pollen.	Base of stem above set of leaves.
Basil (Mrs Burns Armomatta Purple)			?	Yes	Prone to wilt if not cut mature. Stems should be nearly “woody.” Allow minimum 4 hours to rehydrate at room temperature. Avoid cooler.	Base of plant. Cut hard for continuous stems.
Calendula			?	No	Sticky!	Base of plant above set of leaves.
Celosia			?	No	Don’t leave on plant past maturity due to seeds dropping from arrangements	Base of plant above set of leaves.
Cosmos	?			Yes		Base of plant above set of leaves.
Daffodil	?			Yes	Rest minimum 4 hours. Sear cut stems with lighter before arranging with other flowers.	Base of plant. If you tug and pull gently, may release from bulb and provide longer stem.
Delphinium		?		Yes		Base of plant above a set of leaves.
Dianthus (Sweet William)		?		Yes		Base of plant above set of leaves.
Digitalis Foxglove		?		Yes		Base of plant above set of leaves.
Feverfew		?		Yes		Base of stem.
Gomphrena			?	No		Base of stem.
Hydrangea	?	?	?	Yes	Prone to wilt. Straight water. Cool in refrigerator if possible.	Base of stem.

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Larkspur		?		Yes	Beautiful dried.	Ground level.
Lilies	?			Yes	Easily damaged if arranged while open.	Ground level.
Monarda	?	?		Yes		Base of plant above set of leaves.
Nigella	?	?	?	Yes	If left, pods add interest to bouquets and make wonderful dried flowers	Base of plant above set of leaves.
Peonies	? “Marshmallow” to the squeeze			Yes	Can be stored refrigerated, out of water, up to 3 weeks. Recut stems before placing in water.	Base of stem. Cut no more than 1/3 of plant.
Iceland Poppies	?			Yes	Benefit from searing stem cut with lighter.	Ground level.
Rudbeckia			?	Yes	Give wiggle test to ensure readiness to harvest	Base of plant or stem above set of leaves.
Salvia		?		Yes		Ground level.
Snapdragons		?		Yes	Remain photosensitive after cutting. Place in tall bucket away from light to avoid bending stems.	Ground level.
Sunflowers	?			Yes	Place in DEEP water. Do not cool. Rest in own bucket before arranging.	Ground level (single stem) or base of stem (branching).
Sweetpeas		?		Yes (a little)	Short life in vase.	Base of stem just above vine.
Tulip	?			Yes	If whole bulb is pulled, can be stored refrigerated and horizontal for up to a month.	Ground level or pull up whole bulb.
Veronica		?		Yes		Ground level.
Yarrow			?	No		Ground level.
Zinnia			?	No	Wiggle test. If stem is too floppy (“drunk guy”) not quite ready. Do not cool. Rest in own bucket. If left to age on the plant, a more “cupcake” shape is achieved.	Base of plant above set of leaves.

