

FLOWER PICKING GUIDE

Here are some tips to help you cut long-lasting flowers and keep our gardens healthy:

LOOK FOR FLOWERS THAT HAVE FRESHLY OPENED BUDS and avoid cutting flowers that haven't opened yet.

Varieties of flowers such as zinnias, dahlias or asters that produce one blossom per stem prefer to be cut after the bud has begun to open. Other flowers, like snapdragons, larkspur, and delphiniums that produce multiple flowers per stem prefer to be cut when blooms on the lower 1/3 of the stem have opened. The remaining blooms will continue to open after cutting.

CUT THE STEM OF THE FLOWER ABOVE A NEW LEAF SET to encourage branching. To ensure that our gardens continue producing please do not cut stems longer than 12 inches unless it is a Gladiola or a Sunflower. Gladiolas and Sunflowers can be cut all the way to the ground. Harvesting extra long stems with multiple buds and branching points will count as more than one stem. Lisianthus will have clusters of buds at the top of a stem; in this case, you may cut a stem with buds.

CUT A MIXTURE OF TEXTURES, COLORS, AND FLOWER VARIETIES, which will add interest to your bouquets. For greenery, look for Bupleurum, Eucalyptus, and ornamental grasses.

BRING A BUCKET or container that can hold water for your freshly cut stems. Flowers wilt quickly in the heat and do best when placed directly into water.

CUT YOUR STEMS ON AN ANGLE when arranging your flowers in a vase. This will allow the plant to take up more water.

DISCARD ANY FOLIAGE THAT WILL BE BELOW THE WATER level in your vase. Leaves under water will break down quickly and clog up stems resulting in a shorter vase life.

