



## Caring for cut flowers in summer



Whether you believe in climate change or not, one thing we have to agree on is that with summer in Australia comes hot weather, and plenty of it. With a few tropical exceptions, cut flowers do not like hot weather. Temperatures over 20 to 25°C speed up cut flower development dramatically, which simply means they die faster. But there are a number of things you can do to help prevent this, and ensure you get long flower life and value for money from cut flowers even in the hottest weather.

### 1. **Buy Fresh**

Fresh flowers last longer, but finding the freshest flowers is not as easy. First, buy from an established florist – they buy flowers just about every day and in most cases the flowers arrive at the florist shop the day after they were picked. Don't buy flowers that are displayed outside. This rule applies even if the flowers are in the shade and outside a florist shop. It only takes an hour or two of warm temperatures to damage flowers, whether they are in water or not. Buy flowers that are kept inside either in a fridge or in air-conditioned rooms.

### 2. **Select Summer Flowers**

Some flowers are more tolerant of warm weather than others. In summer it makes sense to choose these flowers as they will last longer. Choose tropicals like heliconia, crab claws, ginger, anthurium and orchids. Other good summer flowers

are lilies (asiatics, orientals and LA's), gerbera, alstroemeia, chrysanthemums, kangaroo paw, protea and sunflowers. A good tip is if they flower naturally in summer they should handle the heat. Flowers not recommended for hot weather are roses, tulips, iris and freesia.

### 3. **Transport Cool**

Even a short drive home in a hot car can permanently damage cut flowers. Arrange to get your flowers delivered as most good florists have air-conditioned vans. Alternatively place your flowers on the car floor and turn your air-conditioning on so the cold air flows over your feet. Drive straight home. It only takes a few minutes parked in the sun and the interior temperature of your car will exceed 60°C, and your flowers will be dead.

### 4. **Preparation**

Once home, cut 1 to 2cm off the stem ends with secateurs

and place your flowers in cold water (with a flower preservative) as quickly as possible. You need to do this with arrangements or bunches. If your arrangement is in floral foam you don't need to re-cut the stems, but make sure to top up the water as there may have been spillage during transport.

### 5. **Placement**

Place your arrangement in a cool part of the house. An air-conditioned room is best. Don't place the flowers in direct sun or where there are warm air currents.

### 6. **Maintenance**

In summer flower arrangements need to be checked every day. Remove any wilted or dying flowers. Top up the water level. Longest flower life will be achieved if you replace the water every second day with a flower preservative mixed with clean cold water.

# THIS WEEK'S PRICES

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE	PREMIUM PRICE
ACHILLEA	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
AGAPANTHUS	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
AGERATUM	10	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
ALLIUM - GIANT	PER STEM	\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
ALLIUM - MINI	5	\$3.50	
ALLIUM - DRUMSTICK	PER STEM	\$5.00	
ALSTROEMERIA	SML - 7, LGE - 10	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
AMARANTHUS	10	\$6.00 TO \$8.50	
ANTHURIUM	PER STEM	\$1.50 TO \$3.50	
ARABS EYES	5	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
ARUM LILIES	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.50	
BANKSIA - BAXTERI	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.50	
BANKSIA - COCCINEA	5	\$5.00	
BANKSIA - HOOKERIANA	PER STEM	\$1.60	
BANKSIA - MENZIESII	PER STEM	\$1.40 TO \$1.80	
BANKSIA - SPECIOSA	PER STEM	\$1.20 TO \$2.00	
BLUSHING BRIDE	5	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
BOUVARDIA	7-12	\$4.00 TO \$7.50	
CALENDULA	10	\$2.00	
CALLA LILY	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.00	
CAMPANULA (CANTERBURY BELLS)	10	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
CARNATION HEADS	BOX	\$10.00 TO \$15.00	
CARNATION - MICRO	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$3.00	
CARNATION - SPRAY		\$3.50 TO \$4.00	
CARNATION - CHINESINI	10-15	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
CARNATION - FIELD		\$1.50 TO \$2.50	
CARNATION - SIM		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
CELOSIA - COCKSCOMB	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.00	
CELOSIA - PLUME	5	\$5.00	
CHINCERINCHEE	5	\$2.50 TO \$3.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - DISBUD	5	\$6.50 TO \$8.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - FIELD		\$2.50 TO \$4.50	
CHRYSANTHEMUM - GLASSHOUSE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
COSMOS	10	\$2.00	
DAHLIA	5	\$2.50 TO \$3.00	
DAISY - SHASTA		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
DELPHINIUM - GIANT	5	\$6.00 TO \$9.00	
DELPHINIUM - BUTTERFLY	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.50	
EASTER DAISY		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
EREMURUS	10	\$7.00 TO \$11.00	
ERICA - YELLOW & PINK	10	\$4.00 TO \$6.00	
ERICA - GREEN	5	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
ERIOSTEMON - WHITE	5-7	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
ERIOSTEMON - PINK	5-7	\$5.50	
ERYNGIUM (SEA HOLLY)		\$7.50 TO \$8.50	
EVERLASTING DAISY	10	\$2.00 TO \$2.50	
FLANNEL FLOWER	5	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
FREESIA	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
GARDENIA (HEADS ONLY)	BOX OF 6	\$10.00 TO \$15.00	
GARDENIA	7-10	\$15.00	
GELEZNOWIA (YELLOW BELLS)	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
GERANIUM	5	\$4.00	
GERBERA	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
GERBERA - MINI	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
GLADIOLI	10	\$8.00 TO \$12.00	
GLORIOSA LILY	3	\$5.00 TO \$13.00	
GODETIA	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00	
GOLDEN ROD (SOLIDAGO)	10	\$2.50 TO \$4.00	
GYMEA LILIES	PER STEM	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
GYPSOPHILA - STANDARD		\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
GYPSY		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
HELICONIA	5	\$6.00	
HELICONIA CLAW	PER STEM	\$4.00 TO \$7.50	
HELICONIA SEXY	PER STEM	\$7.50 TO \$10.00	
HIPPEASTRUM	5	\$6.50 TO \$14.00	
HYDRANGEA	5	\$4.00 TO \$7.00	
IRIS	10	\$3.00 TO \$6.50	
IRIS - BEARDED	5	\$3.50	
ISOPOGON	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
KALE	PER STEM	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
KALMIA	5	\$5.00 TO \$8.00	
KANGAROO PAW - STANDARD	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.00	
KANGAROO PAW - BLACK		\$8.00 TO \$9.00	
LAVENDER		\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON	5	\$2.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - DISCOLOUR	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - GALAPINI	5	\$4.50	
LEUCADENDRON - SAFARI SUNSET	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCADENDRON - SILVAN RED	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LEUCODENDRON - SILVER TREE		\$3.00	
LEUCOSPERMUM - REFLEXUM	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	

NAME	STEMS PER BUNCH	PRICE RANGE	PREMIUM PRICE
LIATRIS	10	\$7.50 TO \$9.50	
LILAC	10	\$6.00 TO \$7.50	
LILY - ASIATIC	5	\$2.00 TO \$4.50	
LILY - LONGIFLORUM	5	\$5.00 TO \$9.00	
LILY - ORIENTAL	5	\$8.00 TO 10.00	
LILY - LA	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
LIMONIUM - EMILE	10	\$3.50 TO \$4.50	
LIMONIUM - MISTY	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LIMONIUM - STATICE	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.50	
LISIANTHUS	7-10	\$6.00 TO \$8.50	
LOTUS PODS		\$3.00	
ORCHID - CYMBIDIUM	PER STEM	\$13.00 TO \$17.00	
ORCHID - SINGAPORE	5	\$4.00 TO \$8.00	
ORCHID - TIGER	5	\$11.50	
ORCHID - TIGER (DANCING LADIES)	10	\$25.00	
POPPIES	10	\$2.50 TO \$3.00	
PROTEA - KING	PER STEM	\$1.00 TO \$2.00	
PROTEA - PINK ICE		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
QUEEN FABIOLA	10	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
RICEFLOWER	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
ROSE - 30CM	10	\$2.50 TO \$4.00	
ROSE - 40CM	10	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
ROSE - 50CM	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.50	\$8.00 TO \$18.00
ROSE - 60CM	10	\$7.00 TO \$8.00	\$9.00 TO \$20.00
ROSE - 70CM+	10	\$7.00 TO \$9.00	\$10.00 TO \$22.00
ROSE - MINI	10	\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
SAFFLOWER (CARTHAMUS)	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SANDERSONIA	5	\$8.00	
SCABIOSA		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
SCABIOSA PODS	10	\$7.50	
SEDUM	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SNAPDRAGON	10	\$2.50 TO \$5.00	
SOLIDASTER	10	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
STIRLINGIA (BUD)		\$5.00	
STRELITZIA - BIRD OF PARADISE	5	\$10.00 TO \$12.50	
SUNFLOWER	5	\$3.00 TO \$9.00	
SWEETPEA	10	\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SWEET WILLIAM		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
TULIPS	10	\$4.00 TO \$8.00	
VERONICA	10	\$4.00 TO \$4.50	
WALLFLOWERS		\$2.50 TO \$4.00	
WATER LILIES	5	\$4.00 TO \$10.00	
WATSONIA	10	\$3.00	
WAX FLOWER - GERALDTON (OPEN)	10	\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
<b>FOLIAGE</b>			
ACACIA - BAILEYANA	10	\$4.50	
ANDROMEDA (FLOWERING)		\$4.50 TO \$6.00	
BAMBOO	PER STEM	\$2.00 TO \$20.00	
BOTTLEBRUSH (FLOWERING)	PER STEM	\$3.00 TO \$6.00	
BOX		\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
CHESTNUT FOLIAGE		\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
CLETHRA	5	\$6.00	
CHRISTMAS BUSH	10	\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
CORDYLINE	10	\$4.50 TO \$5.00	
FAN PALM	10	\$5.00	
FISHBONE FERN		\$3.50 TO \$7.50	
FUCHSIA GUM	10	\$5.00	
GARRYA	3	\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
GERBERA FOLIAGE		\$3.00	
GINGER FOLIAGE		\$5.00	
GREEN & GOLD	10	\$4.50	
GREVILLIA (FLOWERING)		\$5.00 TO \$7.50	
GUM	5	\$3.00	
HOLLY		\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
HYDRANGEA FOLIAGE	10	\$5.00 TO \$7.00	
KOALA FERN		\$4.50	
LAUREL		\$3.50 TO \$4.00	
LEATHER FERN		\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
LEPTOSPERNUM (FLOWERING)	10	\$5.00	
LOTUS PODS	EACH	\$4.00 TO \$6.00	
MOLUCCA BALM (IRISH BELLS)	5	\$4.50 TO \$5.50	
MONSTERIA LEAVES		\$6.50 TO \$9.00	
MORRISON		\$5.00	
PHILODENDRON - XANADU	5-6	\$3.00 TO \$3.50	
POLYGALA (FLOWERING)	5	\$3.00 TO \$4.00	
RHODODENDRON FLOWERING	5	\$4.00 TO \$5.00	
SHRIMP PLANT	5	\$6.00	
SILVER SUEDE		\$5.00 TO \$6.00	
SNOTTY GRASS	5	\$3.00 TO \$5.00	
SPEAR GRASS		\$2.00 TO \$3.00	
SPRUCE (BLUE)	5	\$7.00 TO \$8.00	
VIBURNUM FLOWERING	5	\$6.50	

This newsletter is posted weekly on the Melbourne Markets website, [www.melbournemarkets.com](http://www.melbournemarkets.com)  
National Flower Centre Australia, Box 1, 542 Footscray Road, West Melbourne VIC 3003 Tel: (03) 9687 7714  
Prices quoted are per bunch and exclude GST. Bulk orders may receive lower prices depending on availability