



BASIC CONDITIONING GUIDE

Conditioning flowers involves the preparation of cut plant material prior to arranging to prolong **longevity** in displays and ensure they look their best!

This process can be applied for commercially grown flowers and home grown flowers.

- Secateurs
- Scissors
- Buckets
- Flower Food
- Water source

- 1** Remove cellophane packaging on receipt (if commercial).
- 2** Strip all of the lower leaves (half to two-thirds) of each stem. As a general rule, any foliage that sits below the water line should be removed to prevent rotting in the water and build up of bacteria.
- 3** Re-cut the stems using a sharp florist knife or scissors at a 45 degree angle. Avoid crushing the stems and reducing their ability to take up water.
- 4** Place the stems in a bucket of clean water with flower food (optional) in a cool, low lit environment for at least 2-3 hours or ideally overnight. This will allow the flowers to drink before arranging and being brought into a warmer environment. Whilst conditioning, do not leave near a direct heat source, in a draft or near fruit.
- 5** Cut flowers with soft stems such as tulips are prone to bending. To straighten the stems, wrap in brown paper and stand them in deep water.



For conditioning information on specific stem types & common problems, visit guides in the 'Resources.'