



## COMMON PROBLEMS

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

It is important to consider common problems that can occur when working with perishable goods.

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

### **Drooping flower heads**

One of the most common causes of wilting flowers is the presence of an air-block in the stem, a bubble of air that becomes trapped and stops water reaching the flower head. The air-lock usually forms when the stem is cut and atmospheric pressure forces air into the water ducts of the stem. To revive, re-cut the stems and place the cut end in warm to hot water to push out air-block.

### **Flowers aging prematurely**

Placing flowers in a warm domestic environment, near direct heat source, next to fruit, not changing the water or removing faded blooms can age flowers prematurely.

### **Buds not opening**

Due to being picked too early, especially roses.

### **Crushed stems**

During the conditioning process, it is important to avoid crushing the stems as this can cause damage to the tissues, which leads to build up of bacteria and shortens the life of the material.



For a basic conditioning information guide & specific stem types, visit guides in the 'Resources.'