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# Cut Dendrobium Orchids Vase Life Improvement

## Background

Dendrobium orchids are ever increasingly popular as a cut flower. There are many varieties with colors ranging from white, purple, pink and yellow available in the market today. At the time of harvest of cut Dendrobiums there are many flowers in the spike that are at different stages of development, varying from immature buds to fully open flowers. Proper care and handling and supply of adequate nutrients are critical for the flowers to properly develop and maintain the best flower life.

## Research

An experiment was conducted at the Floralife, Inc. postharvest laboratory to evaluate the effects of flower food on cut Dendrobium flowers, obtaining a white variety from a commercial industry supplier. Upon arrival of the flowers the stems were processed in preparation of the vase life analysis. The stem ends were recut 1" with clean cutters and placed in clean vases containing either water or Floralife Crystal Clear® flower food. Flowers were held in an interior evaluation room between 68 - 70° F with 12 hours of light to monitor the vase life performance. The end of a flower spike's vase life was determined when more than 50% of the flowers in the spike were wilted, discolored, or had dropped.

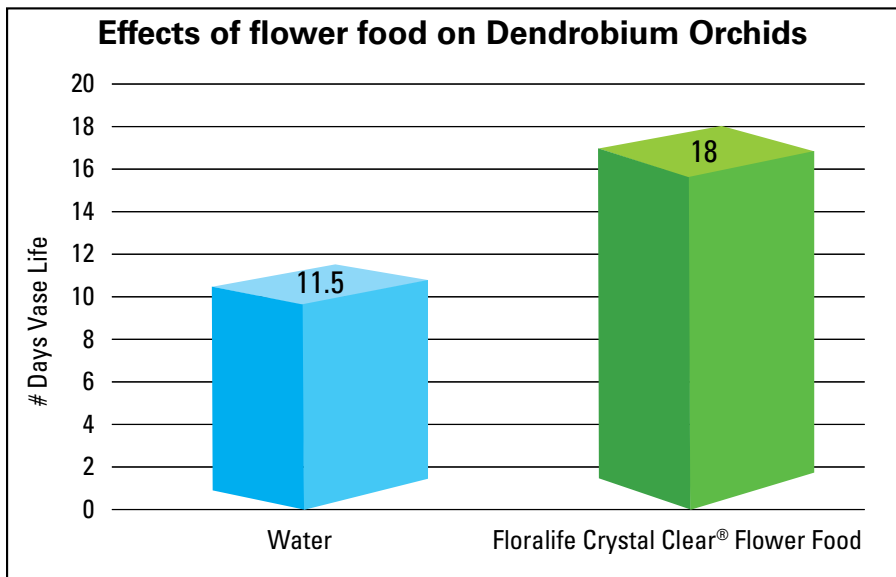
## Results



Control (water)

Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower Food

**10 Days Vase Life**





**Control (water)**



**Florilife Crystal Clear® Flower Food**

### **10 Days Vase Life**

#### **Conclusions**

Florilife Crystal Clear® flower food improved the vase quality and vase life of Dendrobium orchids tested in this experiment over the use of plain water. The flowers overall were fresher and better quality.