

Specific Crop Treatments

Delphinium/Larkspur



Delphinium (**Delphinium** Hybrids)

including Pacific Hybrids, Belladonna Hybrids, Elatum Hybrids, Larkspur, Annual Delphinium (*Consolida ambigua*)

Family: *Ranunculaceae*

Genus: *Delphinium*

Origin: Mediterranean area - Western Asia

Grower Recommendations

Delphinium/Larkspur are ethylene sensitive and benefit from an anti-ethylene product treatment such as EthylBloc®. Ethylene will cause shattering (*excessive drooping*) of the florets. To protect flowers from ethylene damage use an anti-ethylene product to treat flowers as soon as possible after harvest. After cutting, place flower stems in a solution of Hydraflor/100 for 1 hour (or up to overnight at 34-38F). Transfer stems to a solution of one of Floralife Professional formulas for storage. Please contact Floralife for specifics.

Wholesaler/Retailer Recommendations

Buying Tips:

- **Ask:** Has the product been treated properly with a commercial anti-ethylene product such as EthylBloc®? Has the product been stored and under what conditions?
- **Avoid:** Stems with florets that easily fall off; stems with florets that are brown or shriveled.

Processing:

Rinse stems of any dirt or debris. Remove foliage below water level. Recut stems.

Pretreatment:

Even if delphinium/larkspur have been treated with an anti-ethylene product such as EthylBloc, treat them again, as soon as possible. Use one of the Floralife hydration products to promote water uptake and hydration. This treatment will help decrease flower wilting and helps keep flower stems free flowing.

There are two Floralife Hydraflor® products to consider:

- 1.) Hydraflor®/100: A concentrate, generally recommended for maximum results, especially with hard-to-hydrate flowers. The treatment is usually for one half hour at room temperature.
- 2.) Floralife Quick Dip®: A ready-to-use version which requires no mixing or measuring. This quick one second dip may be more suitable for use in a retail flower shop.

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Delphinium/Larkspur (continued)

Holding Solution:

Use fresh flower food at recommended rate: Use Floralife® Crystal Clear™, Floralife® Professional or Clear Professional, or depending on water test results, Floralife® Original, Special Blend Hard Water® or Special Blend Pure Water®.

To have water tested, send a plastic quart bottle of your water to: Floralife, Inc., 751 Thunderbolt Drive, Walterboro, SC 29488, Attn: Laboratory. Hold flowers at room temperature for 1-2 hours before storage in cooler or usage in design work or placed on display. As a finishing touch to any floral design, spray Floralife FloralMist® over entire project.

Storage:

Place delphinium/larkspur in a 34-38°F cooler with 80-90% humidity.

Cleaning:

Use Floralife Formula D.C.D.™ to clean buckets, vases, coolers, etc. D.C.D. is specifically formulated to kill microbes over an extended period.

Customer Satisfaction:

Always give a packet of a Floralife Brand Fresh Flower Food with all your flower sales. Five gram packets treat one pint of water. Ten gram packets treat one quart/liter of water.

Troubleshooting:

Problem:

Shattering
(excessive dropping of florets)

Reason/Solution:

Can be caused by drying out, rough handling, old age, and/or exposure to ethylene. Check with supplier on product harvest date. Make sure a proper anti-ethylene treatment is performed, fresh flower food is used and rough handling is avoided.