

# *Specific Crop Treatments*

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## **Sunflower**



Genus: *Helianthus* (*he-lee-an' thus*)

Family: *Compositae*

Origin: United States

### ***Grower Recommendations***

There is literature that suggests sunflowers are ethylene sensitive and would benefit from the use of an anti-ethylene product, such as EthylBloc®. Use Floralife's Hydraflor®/100 for 1-2 hours (*room temp.*) immediately after harvest or overnight in a cooler. Transfer flowers into a holding solution of a properly mixed Floralife® Fresh Flower Food or Professional formula. The flowers are then ready for shipment/storage.

### ***Wholesaler/Retailer Recommendations***

#### ***Buying Tips:***

- Sunflowers should be open upon purchase (*pollen should be visible*).
- Avoid flowers with yellow or dried leaves.

#### ***Processing:***

Unpack immediately. Remove foliage below water level. Recut stems.

#### ***Pretreatment:***

If sunflowers have not been treated with an anti-ethylene product, treat them with EthylBloc as soon as possible. Use Floralife Hydraflor® (*see below*) to promote water uptake and hydration. This treatment will help decrease flower wilting and bent neck as well as keep flower stems free flowing.

There are two Floralife Hydraflor® products to consider:

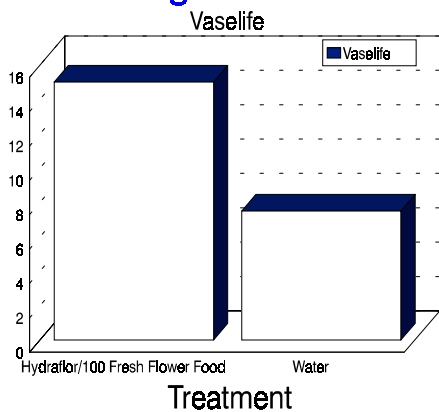
- 1.) Hydraflor®/100: A concentrate, generally recommended for maximum results, especially with hard-to-hydrate flowers. The treatment is usually for one half hour at room temperature.
- 2.) Floralife Quick Dip®: A ready-to-use version which requires no mixing or measuring. This quick one second stem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

Flowers should then be placed into a holding solution of a Floralife Brand Fresh Flower Food. (*see next section*)

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## Sunflower (continued)

### 'Sunbright' Sunflower



#### Holding Solution:

Use fresh flower food at recommended rate: 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 (2-4 if flowers are limp) prior to storage, design, display, or sale. As a finishing touch to any floral design, spray Floralife FloralMist® over entire project.

#### Storage:

Place 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 specially formulated to kill microbes over an extended period.

#### Customer Satisfaction:

Always give a packet of a Floralife Brand Fresh Flower Food with your designs. Five gram packets treat one pint of water. Ten gram packets treat one quart of water.

#### Troubleshooting:

##### Problem:

Leaf Yellowing

##### Reason/Solution:

May be due to age of flower or improper storage and handling. Flower will last longer than the foliage: as foliage dies remove the leaves.

Bent Neck

May be due to improper stage of harvest, or flower may be dehydrated. Recut the stem under water and hydrate the flower (see above section on "Hydration"), then place in fresh flower food.