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## Floralife® Express Universal 300 flower food helps eliminate the need to recut summer season field flowers (Zinnia, Lisianthus, and Sunflower)

### Introduction

Locally grown field flowers like Zinnia, Lisianthus and Sunflower are becoming increasingly popular as seasonal specialty cut flowers during the Summer months. The objective of this test was to determine if Express Universal 300 powder flower food can eliminate the need to recut stems when processing these crops.

### Objective

To test the effectiveness of Floralife® Express Universal 300 powder on the vase longevity of Zinnia, Lisianthus, and Sunflower when stems are not recut.

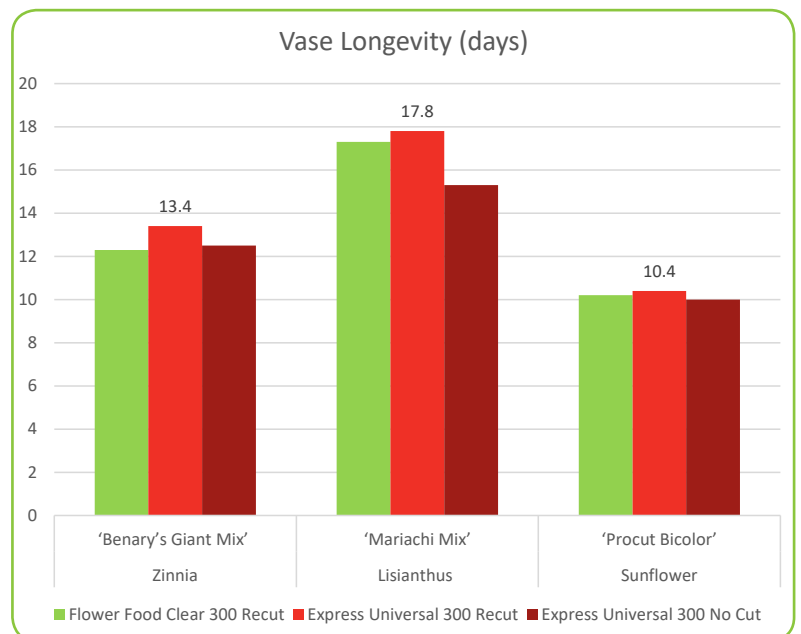
### Method

Field grown Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Mix', Lisianthus 'Mariachi Mix' and Sunflower 'Procut Bicolor' were harvested by a local grower and placed in plain water. Flowers were hydrated in the cooler (36° F) in plain water overnight. Stems were assembled into bunches of 10 and stored dry in the cooler (36° F) for 24 to 72 hours. Flowers were recut or left uncut depending on treatment and placed in vases of Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300 powder or Floralife® Express Universal 300 powder. Flower types were evaluated in separate vases with each treatment replicated 3 times with 5 stems per vase. Vases were placed in postharvest evaluation room (18-20 °C, 12/12 hr light/dark) for vase longevity evaluation.

### Treatments:

1. Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300 powder – recut (current practice)
2. Floralife® Express Universal 300 powder – recut
3. Floralife® Express Universal 300 powder – no cut

**Data:** Vase Longevity (days)



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## Results

### Photos on Day 7 in Vases Set 1: Zinnia



Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– No Cut

### Photos on Day 7 in Vases Set 2: Lisianthus



Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– No Cut

### Photos on Day 7 in Vases Set 3: Sunflower



Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– Stems Recut



Floralife® Express Universal 300  
– No Cut

### Chart 1. Vase longevity (days) of Zinnia, Lisianthus, and Sunflower (page 1)

#### Conclusion

Zinnia, Lisianthus, and Sunflower achieved a vase longevity of 10 to 15 days without the need to recut stems. Zinnia in Express Universal 300 powder (no cut) performed as well as Flower Food Clear 300 powder (cut) with a vase longevity of 12.5 days. Lisianthus in Express Universal 300 powder (no cut) showed a 2-day reduction in vase longevity compared to Flower Food Clear 300 powder (cut), but still achieved a vase longevity of 15.3 days. Sunflower achieved a vase longevity of 10 days without the need to recut stems, performing as well as Floralife® Flower Food Clear 300 powder (cut).