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# New OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife Trial Shows Enhanced Gerbera Performance

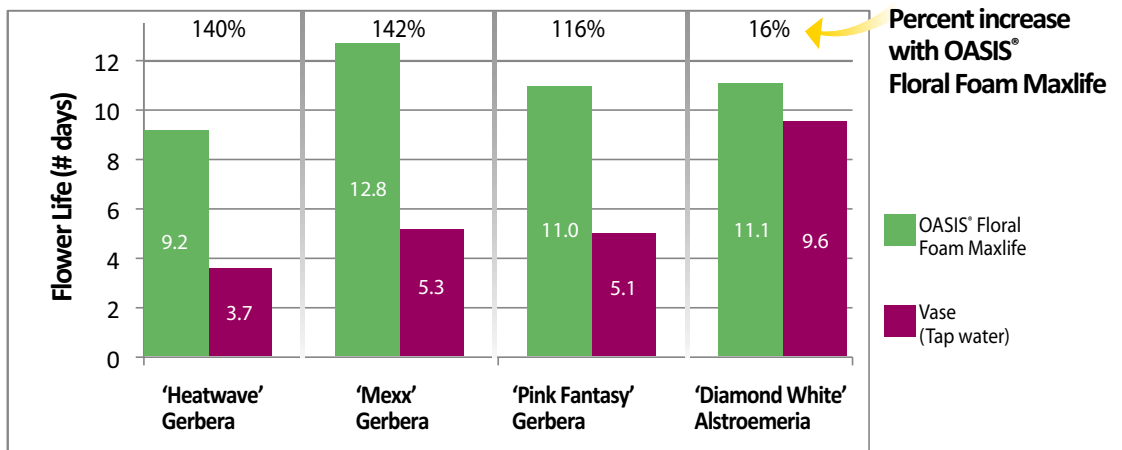
## Background

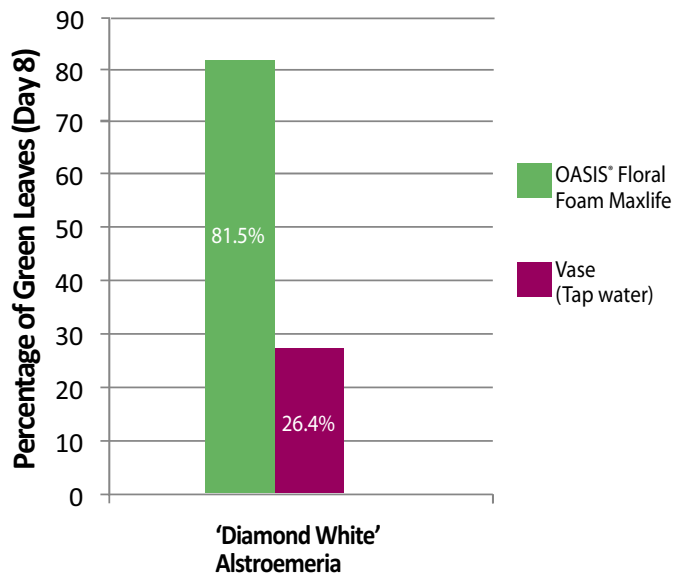
Gerberas are among the top selling cut flowers globally; however, they are one of the most challenging crops in terms of postharvest performance. Many floral designers have elected not to use Gerberas in floral foam arrangements, as their flower life is only a couple days. To help florists improve upon providing quality arrangements to their customers, Smithers-Oasis Company engineered and just recently introduced a new floral foam, OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife, which enables flowers to live as long, or longer, than flowers in a vase of plain water. To show the enhanced performance a trial was conducted using three different Gerbera cultivars in OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife compared to a vase water treatment.

## Research

Dutch variety Gerbera cultivars 'Heat Wave,' 'Mexx,' and 'Pink Fantasy' were received at the Smithers-Oasis Laboratory in Kent, OH for testing, along with 'Diamond White' Alstroemeria. Upon arrival, the flower stems were recut and placed in tap water (60 ppm alkalinity) and moved into the cooler at 36° F (2° C) overnight to hydrate. The next day, OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife was saturated in plain tap water and placed into designer trays. All flower stems were recut to a uniform stem length and inserted into the floral foam treatments at a depth of 2 - 3" (6 - 7 cm). The designer tray reservoirs were filled with plain tap water at set up only and no additional water was added throughout the experiment. The flower vase treatments contained 1 liter of plain tap water. The flowers were then held in an interior evaluation room at 68° - 70° F (20 - 21° C) with 12 hours of lighting to monitor flower life performance. Each floral foam or glass vase treatment consisted of 3 repetitions per treatment to achieve reliable results. Each OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife brick and glass vase contained 4 stems of each flower type, for a total of 16 stems. Flower life (# of days) was determined subjectively for each flower and then averaged for each floral foam brick and vase. In addition, the percentage of green leaves for 'Diamond White' Alstroemeria at day 8 of the experiment was determined for each experiment by the following: Total # of green leaves (per 4 stems) / Total # of leaves (per 4 stems) multiplied by 100. The following data represents the averages of the 3 repetitions for each treatment.

## Results





**OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife (Photo taken Day #5)**



**Plain Tap Water Vase Treatment (Photo taken Day 5)**



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**OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife (Photo taken Day #8) –**

Note: Dead Gerberas have been removed



**Plain Tap Water Vase Treatment (Photo taken Day #8) –**

Note: Dead Gerberas have been removed



**Conclusions**

The use of OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife resulted in a significant flower life increase compared to the plain tap water glass vase treatment for all Gerbera cultivars in this test. Flower life increases, compared to the water vase treatments, ranged from 116 percent to 149 percent, depending upon cultivar. OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife showed a 16 percent increase in 'Diamond White' Alstroemeria flower life compared with the water vase treatment. Another benefit noted was how the new OASIS® Floral Foam Maxlife showed a significant retention of green leaves on the eighth day of these trials, only 26 percent yellowed compared with 74 percent using the vase tap water treatment.