

Anil Ranwala, Ph.D.  
Manager, Postharvest R&D - FloraLife

## Background

Globally, roses are the most popular cut flowers. They are grown in many parts of the world and are often times the main flower in bouquets, especially at Valentine's Day. There are hundreds of different rose varieties available with different colors, shapes and opening characteristics. Regardless of the variety, proper postharvest care is vital to keep the quality of cut roses and to maximize consumer enjoyment. Common quality issues of roses are wilting, premature color fading and bent neck. Research confirms that cut flower food plays a major role in maintaining the quality and increasing the longevity of flowers.

## Research

The following table presents a compilation of vase life data of different rose varieties gathered from experiments conducted at FloraLife cut flower testing facilities. Flowers were evaluated in simulated consumer environments with 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark at 18 - 20°C / 64 - 68°F. The data in the table compares the vase life of rose varieties when using properly mixed flower food compared to using only water.

## Results

Rose Variety	Flower Food	Vase Life in Water (Days)	Vase Life in Flower Food Solution (Days)	% Vase Life Increase with Flower Food
'Freedom' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Powder	8.5	12.9	52%
'Bikini' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Powder	9.5	14.7	55%
'Isabel' Rose	FloraLife® Express 300 Powder	8.6	12.4	44%
Sweet Akito' Rose	FloraLife® Express 300 Powder	10.1	12.4	23%
'Sweet Unique' Rose	FloraLife® Express Universal 300 Liquid	10.8	16.9	56%
'Taiga' Rose	FloraLife® Express Universal 300 Liquid	7.2	14.3	99%
'Moon Walk' Rose	FloraLife® Express Universal 300 Liquid	6.4	11.0	72%
'Light Orlando' Rose	FloraLife® Express 300 Powder	5.8	12.2	110%
'Orange Crush' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Powder	9.0	20.1	123%
'High & Magic' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Liquid	8.2	14.8	80%
'Goldstrike' Rose	FloraLife® Express Universal 300 Liquid	6.9	11.3	64%
'Impression' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Liquid	11.6	15.4	33%
'Idole' Rose	FloraLife Crystal Clear® Liquid	11.6	15.6	34%
'Satina' Rose	FloraLife® Express 300 Powder	13.7	16.3	19%



January 2022

Anil Ranwala, Ph.D.  
Manager, Postharvest R&D - FloraLife

Photos on Day 7: 'Freedom' and 'Orange Crush' Roses



Water



FloraLife Crystal Clear® Flower Food

### Conclusions

The data clearly shows the benefits of using flower food to maintain the quality and longevity of cut roses. The level of benefit varied according to the variety, but all varieties benefited from flower food. The vase life increase of using flower food versus not ranged from 19% to 123%.

\*Product availability depends upon geographical region.