

Floralife® **RESEARCH UPDATE**

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Is it Safe to Use Flower Food in Crystal Vases?

Background

Cut flower foods that yield clear vase solutions are ideal for use in clear or transparent vases. Glass and crystal are two major types of clear vases that can be used for holding fresh cut flowers. Due to the fact that flower foods are acidic (typically pH 3.0 to 5.0), there is a concern whether flower food can cause damage (e.g. etching) to the surface of crystal vases. There is also a concern that any such reaction of flower food with crystal could negatively affect flowers.

Research

Scientists at Floralife Laboratory conducted experiments to compare the effects of clear flower food in glass and crystal vases. Full lead (33%) crystal vases were obtained from NovaScotian Crystal, Canada. Vases were filled with Floralife Crystal Clear® flower food, and fresh-cut flowers were placed in vases. The vase life of the flowers was evaluated. At the end of the vase life test, vases were cleaned and filled with freshly-made Floralife Crystal Clear® Flower Food solution. The flower food solution was held in vases for 5 months (solution was replaced once every month). At the end of 5 months, vases were cleaned and observed for any damage or etching, and another vase life study was conducted.

Results

Initial Vase Life Study

TYPE OF VASE	VASE LIFE (days)		
	Rose	Gerbera	Snapdragon
Crystal Vase 1	11.3	11.0	10.0
Crystal Vase 2	12.3	9.0	9.0
Glass Vase 1	12.0	10.3	8.7
Glass Vase 2	11.7	9.0	8.7
Glass Vase 3	11.0	9.0	9.3

Vase Life Study at the End

TYPE OF VASE	VASE LIFE (days)		
	Rose	Carnation	Chrysanthemum
Crystal Vase 1	12.3	14.0	16.7
Crystal Vase 2	10.0	14.3	16.3
Glass Vase 1	11.0	13.3	16.0
Glass Vase 2	10.3	15.0	16.7
Glass Vase 3	11.0	13.3	16.3



Crystal Vase Crystal Vase Glass Vase Glass Vase

Vase Life Study at the End—Day 7

There was no visible damage to crystal or glass vases at the end of the experiment.

Conclusion

There was no difference in the vase life of flowers held in glass vs. crystal vases. Also, there was no indication of any damage caused by flower food solutions to crystal vases used in this study.

For more information or to download a copy of our "Care and Handling Manual" online, visit www.floralife.com. Questions? e-mail: info@floralife.com

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