

Radio Program 2/6/18

Tips for handling your Valentine's Day Roses:

As the calendar turns to February, many of your lady (female) listeners are starting the countdown to Valentine's Day. While our male listeners are seeing days' fly by and yet they don't have their evening plans yet planned beyond the Rose buying part. But if you're like me, you don't want to spend that hard earned money on roses that will die within 2 or 3 days. Just like our significant others don't want that beautiful bouquet to wilt and die before they get to thoroughly enjoy them.

So today we are going to talk about Handling tips for Valentine's Day Roses to make sure we get all the life we can out of them. We want to get the roses in the food solution as soon as possible. But if you can't do that, then keeping them in a cool place will help till we can. First we need to fill a clean, deep vase with water and add the flower food solution obtained from your florist. Make sure that you dissolve the entire packet in room temperature water before you begin cutting the stems. These preservatives typically contain ingredients that limit bacterial growth and provide carbohydrates for longer lasting flowers. Secondly we are going to want to make sure we remove any leaves that would be below the waterline as the leaves in the water will only promote bacterial growth and give off a smelly decay odor. Thirdly, we will want to cut the stem ends to encourage them to take up water. Use a sharp knife or pruners to avoid crushing the plant tissue, and if possible, cut the stems underwater or place them in water soon after cutting so that they draw water in instead of air.

Doing these simply steps will help your roses last longer so you can enjoy them to their fullest. But here are a few other tips that should help as well:

- 1) Make sure to check the water daily as roses can take up a lot of water.
- 2) If the water turns cloudy make sure to replace immediately and, if possible, cut one or two inches off the bottom of the stems with a sharp knife or pruners.
- 3) The benefits of adding common sugars such as soda pop are a myth that actually risks increased bacteria and may shorten the bouquet's life.
- 4) Keep your flowers in a cool place to keep the development of your roses slower. If the room where you would like to enjoy your flowers is warm, move them to a cooler place when you are at work and bring back in the evening. Direct sunlight should be avoided because it can make the flowers open too quickly, as can heating vents.

I hope that these tips help and that you have a wonderful Valentine's Day.

Ryan