

## Care and Handling



**SEEING IS BELIEVING** The investment in a flower food specially formulated for bulb flowers pays off with an additional 3.6 days of vase life. Above, bulb flowers on day seven after sitting in plain water (left), versus those that had the benefit of a flower food solution.

### NO FIB TULIPS

> If every flower has a personality, the tulip can be characterized by its honesty. When properly cared for, tulips have an average vase life of five to 10 days. So when you get an old tulip, it will be obvious, to you and (very soon), your customers. The petals fall off. The foliage browns. Unlike other flowers that can hide their age, tulips don't show minor discoloration or wilting. For them, it's an all-or-nothing display, and your care and handling procedures, and any mistakes, will be easy to spot.

#### The Honest Truth

So how do you help extend the life of a tulip? Take care and handling seriously. Be vigilant about not skipping any steps. Start by making sure that your wholesaler sends your flowers upright if wet-packed, since tulips tend to bend. If you are receiving tulips wet-packed, the flowers need to be **shipped in a hydration solution**, such as Floralife Hydroflor 100 or Chrysal Clear Professional 2. If

you are receiving flowers dry-packed, flowers should be properly **cut and processed in a holding solution**, such as Hydroflor 200.

After processing, get those tulips right into the cooler. Optimal cooler temperatures for tulips should be 33 F or 0 C overall. It's a good idea to **map the temperatures of your cooler** to find the hot and cold spots; this tip will help extend vase life for all of your flowers, not just tulips. The easiest way to get an exact temperature of a cooler is to measure the temperature of the water in cooler buckets throughout your cooler. In general, your temperature range should be 33 F to 35 F. Use any variance to your advantage. For instance, **tulips prefer cooler spots**. Poms like warmer areas. Tropicals should be kept at 58 F or 15 C. Remember, too, that airflow out of the air handler can be well below freezing.

Finally, make sure that flowers are presented in a vase with flower food already in the water, such as Floralife

Crystal Clear 300 or Chrysal Clear Professional 3, along with extra flower food packets and customer instructions so that customers get the most out of their tulips. For maximum tulip life, Floralife Bulb Flower Food Clear 300 is beneficial for all fresh-cut bulb flowers. **Bulb foods can increase vase life by 37 percent**, which translates to 3.6 days. That means fresher, higher quality flowers and happier clients.

One final tip: Before tulips arrive at the shop, make sure that you are ready for this finicky friend by preparing for proper processing, cooler space and vase solutions. For more information, check the resources available from your post-harvest experts. Both Floralife Inc. and Chrysal have informative websites with flower variety information and customer service specialists to help. 🌷

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