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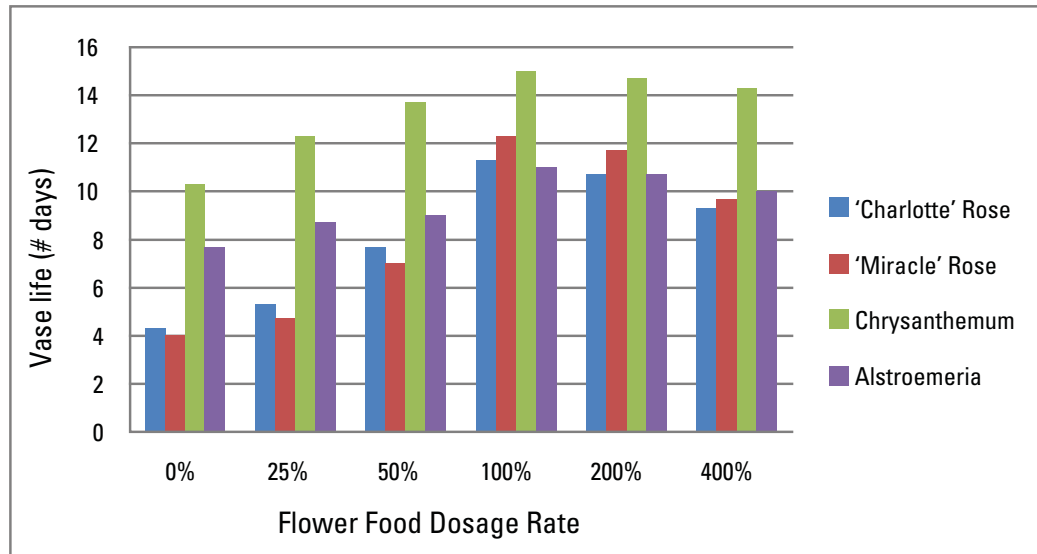
Proper Dosage is Critical for Flower Food Effectiveness

Background:

Fresh cut flowers significantly benefit from commercial flower food. Flower foods are usually available as a powder or a concentrated liquid which should be mixed with water to prepare solutions for use. There is a recommended dosage for each flower food - usually 10 g for one liter (or one quart) of water for powder products. As with any other formulated product, flower foods are designed to work best at the recommended dosage. Either under- or over- dosing can reduce the effectiveness of flower food benefits.

Research:

An experiment was conducted at the Floralife, Inc. laboratory to evaluate the effects of different doses of flower food. Floralife Crystal Clear® flower food powder was mixed with water at different rates to prepare vase solutions containing 0, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 400 percent of the recommended dosage (0, 2.5, 5, 10, 20 or 40 g were dissolved in one liter of water respectively). The number of days of vase life of roses, alstroemeria, and chrysanthemum was determined with solutions containing different doses.



Flower Food Dosage
Photo Taken on Day 7 of the Vase Life

The photo above shows the appearance of the flowers on day 7 of vase life. Flowers wilted early at dosage rates less than 100 percent recommended rate. At higher than recommended doses the flower stems lost leaves due to phytotoxic damage.

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OF VASE LIFE

Conclusion:

The best results in using flower food were obtained at the recommended dose provided on the label. Flowers which were under-dosed with flower food did not receive the benefits, and in fact were ineffective. Over-dosing of flower food caused leaf damage and did not aid in the overall vase life. This study confirms the critical importance of mixing flower food at the recommended rate to achieve the best results.

Floralife provides pump dispensers with liquid flower food and measuring scoops with powders for accurate measuring. With flower food packets, the whole content of the packet should be dissolved in the correct volume of water as indicated on the packet.

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