

# Floralife® Research Update

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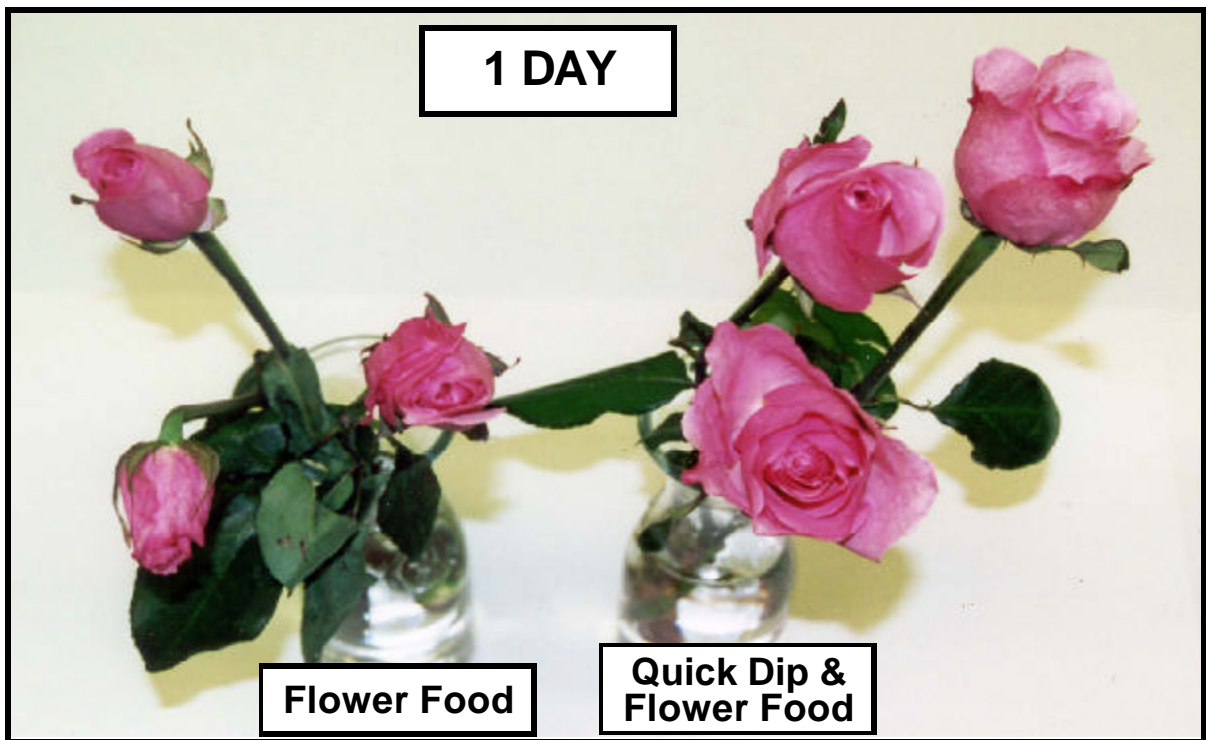
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## Why Use a Hydration Solution?

A rose is over 90% water, most of which is lost from the flower through the leaves. Because of this, emphasis is placed on maximum uptake by means of the cut stem. When water uptake is greater than water loss, the extra water contributes to turgidity of the stem, leaves and petals. When the opposite occurs, we see this as wilting or 'bent neck' of roses.

Water uptake occurs exclusively through fine tubes in the stem. These tubes provide water to all other parts of the flower. There are several things which can block these tubes, including contamination, natural compounds made by the plant to seal wounds and air. When the rose is cut from the plant, all three of these come into play. Thus, overcoming these blockages becomes the first step in hydrating a flower.

Air exhaust, dissolution of natural products and reduction of contamination are the purposes of a hydrating solution. A hydrating solution such as Floralife® Hydraflor/100 or Floralife® Quick Dip® provides a low pH, sugar-free solution to maximize water uptake for dry shipped flowers. Sugar has been shown to decrease water flow through the stem, so it's important to hydrate roses (until they are crisp) before feeding them with flower food.



Dry shipped roses cut and put into flower food vs. Floralife® Quick Dip® and flower food.

### Conclusion

Hydrate any flowers susceptible to bent neck (roses, gerbera, sunflower, etc.) before placing them in a flower food solution.