



** This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/extending-valentine-roses>

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Tips to extend the life of Valentine's Day roses

K-State horticulture expert shares guidelines to keep roses fresh

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Many people receive Valentine's Day gifts from loved ones, especially roses, but the holiday's favorite flower often declines shortly after Feb. 14. Kansas State University horticulture expert Cynthia Domenghini offers guidelines to extend the life of floral arrangements and loose stems.

"For floral arrangements, keep the vase filled or floral foam soaked with water," Domenghini said. "Add fresh water daily and if the water turns cloudy, replace it immediately."

Domenghini suggests recutting loose stems every time water is replaced by removing 1-2 inches with a sharp knife to allow the stem to continue drawing water.

"Keep flowers in a cool spot (65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit), away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, directly under ceiling fans, or near radiators," Domenghini said.

For loose stems, begin by filling a clean, deep vase with water and add the flower food obtained from your florist.

"Remove leaves that will be below the waterline. Leaves in water will promote bacterial growth," Domenghini said, "Stems should be cut immediately before putting them in water."

If you cannot get flowers in a food solution right away, keep them cool, Domenghini added.

Domenghini and her colleagues in K-State's Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources produce a [weekly Horticulture Newsletter](#) with tips for maintaining home landscapes and gardens.

Interested persons can subscribe to the newsletter, as well as send their garden and yard-related questions to hortsupport@ksu.edu, or contact your [local K-State Research and Extension office](#).

FOR PRINT PUBLICATIONS: Links used in this story

K-State Horticulture Newsletter, <https://hnr.k-state.edu/extension/horticulture-resource-center/horticulture-newsletter>

K-State Research and Extension local offices, <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/statewide-locations.html>

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