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How to Buy the Best Blooms for Mom *FlowerMD.com Offers Do's and Don'ts for Dads*

As Dads head out with little ones in tow searching for the perfect Mother's Day bouquet, a few friendly flower tips may help make Mom's day extra special. To present Mom with the best in beautiful blooms, www.FLOWRMD.com offers advice on selecting the freshest flowers as well as a guide to flower varieties with a new flower encyclopedia featuring more than 100 listings.



"From the time they are toddlers, kids love to present their Moms with flowers," said Flower Doctor, Bridget Behe, Ph.D. "With a little help from Dad and FlowerMD.com, Mom can enjoy her Mother's Day blooms for days to come."

According to Dr. Behe, buying the best blooms doesn't have to be a tough task. The following simple Do's and Don'ts can make the flower-buying experience for a breeze for Mother's Day and throughout the year.

Do - Pick Petals like Produce

Dr. Behe recommends using the same steps used in buying fresh produce to help with selecting the freshest blooms. Flowers should have the same qualities as a fresh head of lettuce: crisp, hydrated leaves and petals. Other tips include:

DO: Clue-in to Color – Just like fruits and vegetables, flowers should have good, vibrant color. Spots or discoloration can be a sign of disease problems.

DO: Use Your Nose– Smell the water...it should smell fresh and clean.

DO: Skip the Slime – Slimy salad ingredients would be skipped, so forego slimy stems on flowers. Stems should be crisp, clean and without breakage.

DO: Cool 'em Off – Dads and kids may be tempted to hide flowers from Mom until the special day. Avoid hiding places like the car or heated closet. Be sure to store bouquets in a dry, cool place and in water.

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Don't – Ignore Care & Handling

Give Mom's flowers some extra care to help prolong the enjoyment period. Here are some tips to help get fresh cut flower arrangements off to a good start:

DON'T: Slice with Scissors – Be sure to re-cut stems by removing one to two inches with a clean, sharp knife or floral clippers while under warm water; immediately place into the vase or container

DON'T: Forget the Food – Commercial flower food solution is a must. Follow the mixing instructions on the flower food packet. Most packets should be mixed with either a pint or a quart of water. Flower foods should not be diluted with more water than is specified.

DON'T: Leave Leaves – If the leaves on the stems will fall below the water line in the container/vase, remove. Leaves in water will promote bacterial microbial growth that may limit water uptake by the flower and shorten life

Dr. Bridget Behe

Throughout the year, Dr. Behe hosts a question and answer section on www.FLOWRMD.com called "Ask Bridget" where she has helped remedy thousands of flower-care dilemmas. She draws from her experience as a professor in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University where she teaches horticulture courses. She also is a member of the OFA, an association of floriculture professionals, the Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association and is a Michigan Certified Florist.

The Flower Promotion Organization

The Flower Promotion Organization, an alliance of United States and Colombian fresh-cut flower growers, is dedicated to providing consumers with fresh-cut flower education and design inspiration.

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