



Flowers

Produced by:



— THE LAND —
CONNECTION

Fun Facts:

- In 17th-century Holland, tulip bulbs were more valuable than gold.
- Roses are in the same family as apples, pears, raspberries, almonds, cherries, and plums.
- Almost 60% of fresh-cut flowers grown in the U.S. come from California.

Why choose local flowers:

- Almost 80% of fresh flowers sold in the United States are grown in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Israel. Shipping flowers from those countries to the United States incurs huge transportation, energy, refrigeration, and storage costs, leaving an enormous carbon footprint. These floral materials may carry residue of chemical pesticides or fungicides as well.
- Imported flowers are often cut a week or more before they arrive in a consumer's hands. During this time, quality and vase life decline.
- Many commodity-type flowers have been bred for uniformity, usually losing their natural fragrance in the process. Locally-grown flowers are produced in greater varieties, providing a wide range of colors, forms, and scents (so they smell better).

- Cut at least 1/2 inch off of each flower stem and put in fresh, room temperature water in a very clean container. You can also add a crushed up regular Aspirin to your water to make your flowers last longer.
- Keep away from direct sunlight and drafts, change the water daily, if possible, and remove blooms as they wilt.

Edible Flowers:

- Edible flowers include nasturtium, bachelor's buttons, marigolds, calendula, roses, lavender, bee balm, sorrel, honeysuckle, mint, oregano, thyme, cilantro, dill, squash blossoms, borage, and chives.
- They can be enjoyed fresh in salads, iced tea, or cocktails; or added to butter and baked goods (typically after being dried).

STORAGE:

- Harvest individual blooms or petals and place on dehydrator screens in a single layer. Set dehydrator to 120°F and let it run for several hours. Check progress frequently and remove dried blossoms or petals.
- Strip excess foliage from flowers and cut stems to desired length. Hang flowers upsidedown from a hanger, either individually or rubber-band the stems together. Hang in a dark, dry area with good circulation. Leave flowers for two to three weeks until completely dry. Remove from hangers and spray with unscented hairspray for protection.
- Place fresh blossoms loosely in a ziploc bag with a damp paper towel and blow air into the bag before sealing it so the blossoms don't get crushed. Place the bag in the refrigerator.