



Gerbera

(Gerbera spp.)



Origins

Large, disc-shaped flowers carried atop long, fuzzy, leafless stems are hallmarks of the gerbera, a bloom native to South Africa and Asia, now cultivated by tissue culture. Gerberas are members of the Compositae family. These flowers are available in many colors, with light- or dark-colored centers, and in standard or micro sizes. Spider forms of gerberas are also offered.

Availability and Vase Life

Gerberas are available year-round from domestic and international sources. With proper care, gerberas can enjoy a vase life of 4-14 days.

Care and Handling

Any container used with these flowers should first be sanitized, as the frequently hollow-stemmed gerbera is especially susceptible to bacteria. Gerberas are also sensitive to fluoride, so use non-fluoridated water when processing gerberas if possible. Cut gerberas' stems under water before placing them in a clean container holding a properly prepared fresh flower-food solution.

Design Uses

Gerberas are versatile blooms that are often used as mass flowers in designs. They're also popular in monocultivar bouquets, particular when one seeks a retro '60s look.



Information courtesy of Extra Touch Florist Association, www.etfassociation.org
Images courtesy of Colombia Flower Council, California Cut Flower Commission, and FPO.

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