

Making Valentine's Roses Last Longer

Rachael Boyle
Phillips-Rooks District Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources

There are important guidelines to follow to help extend the life of roses. Keep the vase filled – or the floral foam soaked – with warm water. Add fresh, warm water daily. If the water turns cloudy, replace it immediately. If possible, recut stems by removing 1 to 2 inches with a sharp knife, under water. Keep flowers in a cool spot (62 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit). Place the flowers away from direct sunlight, ceiling fans, heating and cooling vents, and radiators.

If a rose starts to wilt, remove it from the arrangement. Recut the stem under water. Submerge the entire rose in warm water. The rose should revive in 1 to 2 hours.

If you receive loose stem roses, and can't get them in water right away, keep them in a cool place. Then as soon as possible, fill a clean, deep vase with water and add flower food obtained from a florist. Remove leaves that will be below the water line. Leaves in water will promote bacterial growth. Recut stems under water with a sharp knife and place the flowers in the vase solution you've prepared.

For more information, please contact the local K-State Research and Extension Office.

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