Ethylene Sensitive Flowers

All wounded plants produce harmful ethylene gas and cut flowers are wounded plants. That poses a problem when considering the storage of harvested floral crops. Exposure to ethylene gas makes flowers drop their leaves and petals prematurely, open their buds early and shorten their post harvest life. Use the guidelines below to help determine which flowers may need special care and protection from ethylene. Also, keep these ethylene-sensitive flowers away from high ethylene production produce and the many synthetic sources of the gas.

The following flowers have been determined to be particularly sensitive to ethylene gas.

- Achilea (Yarrow)
- Aconitum (Monkshood)
- Agapanthus (African Lily)
- Alchemilla
- Allium
- Anemone (Windflower)
- Alstroemeria
- (Peruvian Lily)
- Anethum
- Antirrhinum (Snapdragon)
- Aquilegia (Columbine)
- Asclepias
- (Butterfly Flower)
- Astrantia (Masterwort)
- Bouvardia (Bouvardia)
- Brodiaea (Triteleia)
- Campanula (Bellflower)
- Carnation
- Chamelaucium (Waxflower)
- Centaurea (Cornflower)
- Chelone (Snakehead)
- Clarkia (Godetia)
- Crososmia (Montbretia)
- Cymbidium
- (Cymbidium Orchid)
- Daucus
- (Quees Anne’s Lace)
- Dendrobium
- Delphinium (Larkspur)
- Dianthus (Sweet William)
- Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)
- Digitalis (Foxglove)
- Doronicum
- (Leopard’s Bane)
- Eremurus
- (Desert Candle)
- Eustoma (Lisianthus)
- Gladiolus (Gladiola)
- Godetia
- Gyposophila
- (Baby’s Breath)
- Ixias
- Kniphofia (Torch Lily)
- Lathyrus
- Lilium (Lily)
- Lisianthus
- Lavatera (Tree Mallow)
- Lysimachia (Loosestrife)
- Matthiola (Stock)
- Monbretia
- Phlox
- Physostegia
- (False Dragonhead)
- Ranunculus (Buttercup)
- Rosa (Rose)
- Rudbeckia (Coneflower)
- Saponaria (Soapwort)
- Scabiosa
- (Pincushion flower)
- Silene (Catchfly)
- Trachelium (Throatwort)
- Triteleia
- Trollius (Globeflower)
- Veronica (Speedwell)

Source: The Society of American Florists Flower and Plant Care Manual