

Twelve Tips for Purchasing & Looking After Cut Foliage

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| <p>1 Foliage needs clean fresh water in clean containers.</p> | <p>2 Remove any leaves that are below the rim of the container.</p> |
| <p>3 Remove leaves from any part of the stem that is inserted in foam.</p> | <p>4 Strong individual leaves, such as <i>Galax</i> and <i>Hedera</i> (ivy), can be washed, shaken and placed in plastic bags without water in the vegetable compartment of the fridge, where they will stay fresh for several weeks or even longer!</p> |
| <p>5 If stems are thick and woody use secateurs as they will give a cleaner cut.</p> | <p>6 Care for your foliage — it is just as important as the flowers.</p> |
| <p>7 Evergreen foliage is often dirty. Fill a bowl with warm water and a dash of soap, then wash and rinse the foliage.</p> | <p>8 Don't place any grey foliage under water. The 'grey' is formed by millions of tiny hairs which get waterlogged if submerged.</p> |
| <p>9 Spraying leaf shine on foliage and berries removes dirt and gives a polish but beware being heavy-handed. Anything more than a light touch will leave the leaf looking and feeling greasy.</p> | <p>10 For woody stems, try making an upward slit to expose more tissue for the absorption of water.</p> |
| <p>11 If removing leaves from the stem do not pull them off but remove with scissors or a knife.</p> | <p>12 Leaves that have needles or a thick, waxy or shiny epidermis (outer layer) will last longer as water evaporation will take place at a slower pace.</p> |