

SWGMC Dahlia Vase Life and Use Guide

August 16, 2020



The co-op will continue to conduct dahlia trials throughout the summer and add data to this chart as it comes available. In order to achieve optimal vase life, dahlias should be special ordered rather than purchased off the market floor. So far, our trials have shown that most varieties will achieve 1-3 days of increased vase life with use of a commercial floral preservative. Higher vase life numbers below were generally achieved with floral preservative. Cut dahlias are sensitive to heat and dry air and will wither quickly if exposed to wind and/or direct sunlight. Vase life will be significantly reduced in warmer temperatures.

| WHITE/CREAM | Color | Type | Vase Life at 68°F | Suitable for Events | Suitable for Weeklies | Notes |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Bride to Be | Pure White | Waterlily | 5-7 days | Yes | No | |
| Hollyhill Diamond | White | Semi-cactus | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Blush/cream tones disappear as flower develops |
| L'Anresse | White | Ball | 7-8 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Maarten de Zwaan | White | Waterlily | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Opens fully from tight stage in floral preservative |
| Orsett Beauty | Pure White | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Opens fully from tight stage in floral preservative |
| Ryecroft Jan | White/Ivory | Ball | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Small World | White | Pompon | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended for long term use |
| Vanilla | Cream | Decorative | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Keeps creamy color as it ages |
| BLUSH/ PEACH | | | | | | |
| Café au Lait | Blush/peach/pink | Dinner Plate | 4-5 days | Yes | No | Definitely for event and short term use only |
| Ferncliff Copper | Peach | Decorative | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended |
| Henriette | Peach | Cactus | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Hillcrest Suffusion | Peach | Ball | 9-11 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Nicholas | Peach | Decorative | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. |
| Silver Years | Blush | Waterlily | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Best performance comes from harvest at more open stage |
| Sweet Nathalie | Blush | Decorative | 7 days | Yes | Yes | Same results in water and preservative |
| Wine Eyed Jill | Creamy Peach/Burgundy | Ball | 5-7 days | Yes | Maybe | Develops yellow streaking on petals as flowers age |
| PINK | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-----|-------|---|
| Caitlin's Joy | Pink | Ball | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| Lady Kate | Light Pink | Waterlily | 6-7 days | Yes | Maybe | |
| Mambo | Raspberry Pink | Anenome | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| Mingus Toni | Pink w/ Red Stripes | Decorative | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| Pink Sylvia | Medium Pink | Ball | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative necessary for long term use |
| CORAL | | | | | | |
| American Dawn | Tawny Coral w/ purple tones | Decorative | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. |
| Burlesca | Pink/Peach/Coral | Small Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. |
| Cornel Bronze | Bronze-coral | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Daisy Duke | Coral | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested very tight. Floral preservative recommended to help flowers open. |
| Isabel | Coral-pink | Ball | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested very tight. Floral preservative recommended to help flowers open. |
| Jomanda | Peach-coral | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Jowey Frambo | Coral-pink | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Color lightens and changes to coral as flowers age |
| Miss Brandy | Coral w/ Burgundy edges | Decorative | 7-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended for long term use |
| Robin Hood | Coral | Ball | 5-7 days | Yes | No | Floral preservative recommended |
| Sebastian | Coral | Ball | 4-6 days | Yes | No | Floral preservative recommended |
| ORANGE | | | | | | |
| Amber Queen | Orange | Pompon | 3-5 days | Yes | No | |
| Bantling | Orange | Pompon | 3-5 days | Yes | No | |
| Brown Sugar | Burnt Orange | Ball | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| French Cancan | Orange/Raspberry | Decorative | 4-6 days | Yes | No | |
| Jowey Linda | Orange | Ball | 10-12 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Maarn | Orange | Ball | 5-6 days | Yes | No | Color softens with age |

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|------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|-----|-------|---|
| Zsa Zsa | Hot Orange | Decorative | 8-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| YELLOW/GOLD | | | | | | |
| Blyton Golden Girl | Bright Yellow | Ball | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Blyton Softer Gleam | Toasted Gold | Ball | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Clearview Daniel | Bright Yellow | Ball | 8-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Ginger Snap | Gold | Waterlily | 7-8 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Golden Sceptor | Yellow-gold | Small Ball | 4-6 days | Yes | No | |
| Yellow Heaven | Pale Yellow | Small Ball | 6-7 days | Yes | Maybe | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. |
| RED | | | | | | |
| Anne Cornelia | Cherry Red | Waterlily | 8-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Cornell | Dark Red | Ball | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| Garden Wonder | Medium Red | Decorative | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Irene | Scarlet Red | Waterlily | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Yellow centers become prominent as flowers age |
| Nescio | | | | | | |
| Red Corona | Medium Red | Cactus | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended. Yellow centers become prominent as flowers age. |
| Viking | Medium Red | Pompon | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended for long term use |
| BURGUNDY | | | | | | |
| Black Diamond | Red-black | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Hollyhill Black Beauty | Purple-black | Semi-Cactus | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Jessie G | Burgundy/Wine | Ball | 6-7 days | Yes | Maybe | |
| Karma Choc | Red-black | Waterlily | 7 days | Yes | Yes | Opens from tight stage; same results in water and preservative |
| Masterton George | Deep Red | Ball | 5-6 days | Yes | No | |
| Naomi | Plum-burgundy | Waterlily | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Opens from tight stage; same results in water and preservative |
| Natal | Burgundy | Small Ball | 5-6 days | Yes | No | |
| Rockstar | | | | Yes | | |

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|------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----|-------|---|
| Sam Hopkins | Red-burgundy | Decorative | 8-9 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Tam-Tam | Red-burgundy | Pompon | 7-8 days | Yes | Yes | Floral preservative recommended for long term use |
| PURPLE | | | | | | |
| Addison June | Purple | Ball | 7-8 days | Yes | Yes | |
| Cryfield Harmony | Magenta-purple | Ball | 6-8 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| Ivanetti | Wine-purple | Ball | 7-9 days | Yes | Yes | Must be harvested at tighter stages for optimal vase life. Floral preservative recommended. |
| LAVENDER | | | | | | |
| Genova | White/lavender | Ball | 6-7 days | Yes | Maybe | Shatters prematurely if harvested at open stage |
| Last Dance | White/lavender | Ball | 9-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| NOVELTY/BICOLOR | | | | | | |
| Checkers | Red/white | Ball | 9-10 days | Yes | Yes | Very dependable |
| Princess Elizabeth | Salmon/Yellow | Decorative | 4-6 days | Yes | No | |