

## An Alternate Method of Refrigeration

Daffodils are rarely ready to cut the day before your show. So, when you're taking your walks around the garden in the weeks before the show, keep an eye out for likely candidates. Don't wait until the night before the show to cut your entries. You can start cutting about 2-3 weeks before the show, and refrigerate your blooms.

Cut red cups soon after they open, as the sun is likely to burn the cups, affecting the color. Whites and others can be left a day or two, as they grow larger as they mature. Choose blooms without nicks or tears in the petals. If a major storm is coming, cut the blooms before they are damaged. Write the name of the flower on the stem with a ball point pen. That way when you get them out of the fridge, you'll know the name.

Put them in a plastic bag, without water, and lay the bag on a shelf in the refrigerator. You can use any kind of plastic bag—the ones from the grocery store, the one the newspaper comes in, whatever.









If the bag isn't long enough to cover the stems, put another bag over the stem end. Then the day before the show, get them out and cut off a small piece of the stem and put them in water. Even if they look wilted, put them in water to revive. If you know you're going to be traveling to the show, use a box that will fit on your refrigerator shelf, line it with plastic, then lay the flowers in the box. Start at one end, then repeat from the other end. Make a little "pillow roll" of tissue paper to put under each row of blooms. Put the entire box into a big plastic bag (garbage bag size).



This box had been in the refrigerator for 2 plus weeks before the show.

Miniatures don't like the dry treatment; they need to go in a small bottle of water with a plastic bag over the entire thing, as our refrigerators tend to dry things out.







I can see you're skeptical. ☺ But it works. I've been doing it for years. I was cutting blooms several weeks before the show date to take to the Minnesota convention (2019). However, I had to cancel because of illness. But my good friend, Tom Stettner, was driving to Minnesota and agreed to take my flowers. He picked them up around noon on Tuesday and got to Minnesota on Wednesday evening. He immediately re-cut the stems and put them in water. He told me that some were completely wilted, but many revived. (Not only were these flowers refrigerated without water for several weeks, but had travelled 30 or more hours dry and without refrigeration.) Tom sent me this photo after many had revived.



Tom had to be in Minnesota a day before the show to teach in the judging school, so the flowers waited in his room until Thursday evening to be staged. The ribbons arrived today: Miniature Rose Ribbon, 4 blue ribbons, 4 red ribbons, and 2 white ribbons. Trust me, it works.

So give it a try. What have you got to lose?