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Harvest Cues of Key Peony
Varieties and Methodology
of Conducting Vase Life
Studies





Objectives

- Complete vase life trials on as many varieties of peony
- Determine important harvest cues that yield optimal vase life
- Compile findings into educational document
 - Harvest Crew Training/Certification
 - Ensure results are available to Alaskan growers

Results

Cultivar	Avg. Vase Life	Stage	Color	Firmness	Sepal	Petals
Sarah Bernhardt	8-9 days	2-2.5	2	2	Popped	Lifted
Festiva Maxima	4-5 days	2	2-3	2-3	Popped	Lifted
Red Charm	4-5 days	2	3	3-4	Popped	Lifted
Duchess de Nemours	5 days	2	1-2	2 and tight	Popped	Lifted
Bowl of Cream	7-8 days	2-2.5	0-1	1	Popped	Lifted

Bowl of Cream



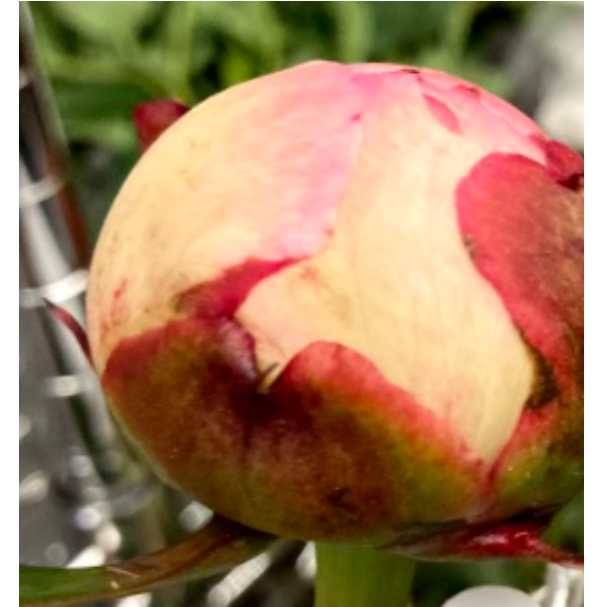
Red Charm



Duchess de Nemours



Sarah Bernhardt



Harvested Buds



Conducting your own Vase Life Studies

- Adapted from Dr. Pat Holloway's protocol
- **Consistency is key**
- Part 1: Cutting and Storing Stems
 - Choose the stems you want to test
 - Try not to collect all stems from same plant
 - Cut, label, and store them all under the same conditions
 - i.e. at the same temperature for the same length of time
 - Best to use merchandise tags for labelling (label with the date picked and the variety)



Conducting your own Vase Life Studies

- Part 2: Post-storage
 - Trim stems another 2 inches
 - Keep stems in vases filled with regular water
 - Ensure that stems are receiving plenty of sunlight and that all stems receive roughly the same amount of light
 - Keep stems as close to room temperature as possible



Conducting your own Vase Life Studies

- Part 3: Recording bud opening, full bloom (FB), and petal fall (PF) or wilt (W)
 - Record the date the bud begins to open up (first day of vase life)
 - Full bloom: when you see the large guard petals are as perpendicular as possible to the stem
 - Check each stem everyday to see if it has fully bloomed
 - Record the date of the full bloom
 - Then continue to check the stem until it reaches petal fall or wilt
 - This is the point where a consumer would throw the stem away
 - i.e. the end of its vase life
 - You can gently flick each stem everyday to check for petal fall



Thank You



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- Chile Root
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Alaska Beauty
Peony Co-op

