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yard/garden radio briefs

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Enjoy July Flowers

July is a month to enjoy cutting flowers for bouquets and arrangements for home, friends and flower shows. Later in the month many annual flowers begin a profuse display, with China asters, bachelor buttons, celosias, gallardias, marigolds, snapdragons and zinnias furnishing abundant cut flowers for indoor decoration.

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Bouquet Tip

(0:20)

Flowers for bouquets should be cut as early as possible in the morning, when the air is cool and the plants are full of moisture. Late afternoons, if soil is not too dry and plants not wilted, is another good time to pick blooms and cut green foliage. Use a sharp knife or shears to make a slanting cut and take a pail of water to the garden with you so that blooms are put into water immediately.

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Hardening Flowers

(0:30)

Hardening flowers several hours or overnight will make them last longer. Use warm water and immerse the stems deep into the pail. Keep them in a cool place until time to put them into vases, bowls or other containers. Be sure that any container is as clean as a plate for the table. A floral preservative will help to keep the water fresh and the flowers in good condition. If you have no floral preservative to add, be sure to change the water every day and cut the stems a little to discourage wilting. Do not allow any leaves to remain on stems under the water level. Submerged foliage deteriorates quickly to spoil the appearance and the odor of the bouquet.

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