

How to *pick-your-own* FLOWERS



1. Make your farm picking vessel.

Take a gallon plastic container (from water, milk, juice, laundry detergent, etc.) and cut the mouth wider, but cut above the handle so it's still functional. Stem length and quantity is determined by this vessel, so please purchase a gallon water jug if you don't have one- glass vessels are not permitted on the farm. Keep your vessel very clean.



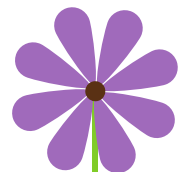
2. Bring your own pruners/clippers.

Regular household scissors are not sufficient. Do not try to rip flower stems off without pruners. The farm has pruners available for sale but for insurance reasons is unable to lend them out. Keep your pruners clean.



3. Fill your vessel with water at the farm.

The spigot is at the end of the gravel path, by the large chalkboard wall. Fill your vessel with a few inches of water before you go out to the field. You will want to cut flowers directly into the water.



4. Cut flowers above a bud or new growth on the stem.

DO NOT cut at the base of the plant or you will kill the flower. Cut above new growth, so as to allow lower buds to bloom for a later harvest. Stem length should be @ 12 inches (or less), approx. the length of your gallon plastic jug container.



6. At home:

Strip off leaves that will fall below the water line and recut stems at an angle. Make sure your vase is very clean, and full of cool, clean water. Keep your bouquet out of heat & direct sunlight. Change water every few days and keep an eye on the water level.



HOMEMADE PRESERVATIVE:

- Vinegar & Sugar: 2 Tbs white vinegar, 2 Tbs sugar, 1 QT water
- Lemon Lime Soda: One part Lemon-Lime Soda (Not Diet- the flowers need the sugar) to equal parts water.
- Exceptions: tulips and daffodils do not like sugar