

Check location carefully

Choosing the right location for your new home is as important as choosing the right builder.

Be objective in your evaluation of different neighborhoods' physical locations, character and development regulations. When making your neighborhood selection, make sure you feel comfortable overall, and decide if any location-related compromises are necessary in finding the home that meets your needs.

Here are some of the questions you will want to answer before you choose your neighborhood:

■ Take into consideration how close you are to the things you will want

and need. Are medical facilities and shopping nearby?

■ Is being close to public transportation important?

■ If there are two wage earners, will the location you choose be close to both of your jobs? Would you want to be close to a city, or would you be willing to have a longer commute and be farther away from the city?

■ Do you want a home with a yard, or an environment with a lot of people?

■ If you have children, or are planning to have children, are the area schools good? Are day-care facilities accessible?

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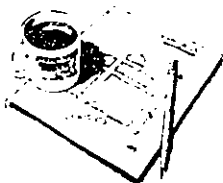
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Test your flower IQ

1. The word "horticulture," a Latin word, means:

- a. grower of crops
- b. plant cultivator
- c. lover of plants
- d. garden cultivation

2. Which is the florist's "long-stemmed rose?"

- a. floribunda
- b. grandiflora
- c. hybrid tea rose
- d. vine rose

3. Anemone is an ancient Greek name meaning:

- a. windflower
- b. cloud
- c. medicinal plant
- d. an enemy

4. Narcissus is

- a. a flowering bulb plant
- b. a Greek god enamored of himself
- c. a symbol of vanity
- d. all of the above

5. What is the most widely planted flowering shrub?

- a. rose
- b. camellia
- c. azalea
- d. rhododendron

6. Freesia is a

- a. a chilling temperature
- b. a fragrant South African flower
- c. a country in Europe
- d. a tall hedge

7. Baron Walter Saint Paul Illaire

- a. explored the Aegean Sea

b. discovered the African violet
c. was a German monk
d. is a peace negotiator

8. The orange blossom

- a. is a Chinese good luck symbol
- b. a fragrant symbol of fertility used by brides
- c. a fragrant blossom from which the common fruit develops
- d. all of the above

9. A good flower preservative will (2 correct answers)

- a. dry flowers
- b. provide food energy to fresh cut flowers
- c. make plastic flowers
- d. keep waterborne bacteria under control and extend the life of the flowers

10. Most annuals should be planted outdoors

- a. as soon as the soil can be tilled in the spring
- b. as soon as danger of frost is passed
- c. in early June
- d. after spring shrubs have bloomed

Answers:

(1.D;2.C;3.A;4.D;5.A;6.B;7.B;

8.D;9.B & D;10.B)

(This quiz was prepared by the Professional Allied Florist Association of Metropolitan Detroit. Test your knowledge, come visit the floral and garden displays at the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at Cobo Center).

Here's how to keep delicate cut roses longer and fresher

Roses, the American National Flower since 1986, are a joy in the garden or in the home.

They are fragile, delicate and carry strong emotional messages of love, concern and caring. So how can we keep those beauties fresh after they come into our homes?

Roses delivered from a professional florist should have been given a specially formulated floral food and bactericide to ensure longer enjoyment. You can add to the vase life by following these simple suggestions:

■ Prepare a clean, deep vase with fresh lukewarm water, dissolve the small packet of floral food which the florist will have included.

■ Remove any leaves that may decay under water. Try not to cut or injure the green bark, since air can enter through these injuries and clog the stems.

■ Hold the stems under water in a sink and cut about 1-inch off each stem with a sharp knife.

■ Immediately after the stem is cut place your roses in the solution in the vase.

■ Display your fresh cut rose arrangements in a cool place out of direct sunlight and drafts.

■ Roses are thirsty flowers, it is im-

portant to check daily to see if the vase is full. Add more floral preservative solution often.

If you are one of those green-thumb growers who enjoys roses from your outdoor garden, try cutting early in the morning while the stems are full of natural moisture. Promptly bring the roses indoors and prepare as above with a fresh cut and floral food treatment. You may want to let them stand in a cool dark place for about 2 hours to 'condition' them while they take up the floral preservative solution. Then, you can arrange them as you like.

They are beauties, whether purchased from a local professional florist or enjoyed from your garden. Appreciate the rose often, it is America's best known and loved flower!

Roses are available year around from Professional Allied Florist Association shops. Roses are grown in Michigan and throughout the United States. Increasingly larger numbers of roses are being shipped in from Central and South America.

The Professional Allied Florist Association is a 40 year old association located in Southeastern Michigan and dedicated to the promotion and daily enjoyment of fresh flowers.