

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

Flowers And Plants: A Simple Splurge For Saluting Mom

(NAPSA)—This Mother's Day, there may be few better ways to show Mom how much you appreciate her than by giving her flowers and plants.

Which ones? According to a recent survey, Mom's favorite plants include gardenias, hydrangeas, mini-roses and gerbera daisies. Forty-four percent of floral purchases at Mother's Day are plants. Topping the list of favorite blooms are garden-inspired flowers such as roses, lilies and lisanthus.

Here's advice from 1-800-FLOWERS.COM on how to care for these beautiful blooms:

- To arrange the flowers, fill a deep vase with luke-warm water and mix in the floral preservative provided by the florist.
- Remove all leaves that would fall below the waterline in the final arrangement as they can promote bacterial growth.
- To extend the life of the flowers, use a knife or shears to cut an inch from the bottom of the stem while holding it under water. Cutting stems under water enables them to draw in water, instead of air.
- Keep cut flowers and arrangements looking fresh by adding warm water to the vase everyday. Always keep the vase full and change the water every three to



**LOOK LIKE A BLOOMING GENIUS:
Give flowers and plants on
Mother's Day.**

four days.

- For maximum longevity, recut the stems every time you change the water.

- Appliances such as televisions give off heat, causing flowers to dehydrate. Place vases in a cool spot away from direct sunlight and heating or cooling vents.

Following these simple guidelines will help Mom get the most out of her flowers.

For beautiful Mother's Day arrangements and other gifts, you can click on 1800flowers.com on the Web.