

To condition lisianthus for a wedding bouquet, trim the stems, remove leaves that would sit underwater, and let the flowers drink in a clean container of fresh water. Keep them cool and out of direct sun until you are ready to arrange them.

Start with fresh stems

Choose lisianthus with firm stems and healthy leaves. Open flowers should have smooth petals without brown or wet patches. Some buds may stay closed, so pick stems with enough open flowers to give the bouquet the look you want.

Unpack the flowers as soon as you can. Gently remove any protective wrapping so the blooms have room to settle. Lisianthus stems often branch near the top, so take care not to snap the smaller stems as you separate them.

If the flowers have been out of water during transport, give them time to drink before judging how they look. A drooping stem may recover after a few hours in fresh water, although damaged petals will not repair themselves.

Prepare the water and stems

Wash a bucket or vase with soap, rinse it well, and fill it with fresh, cool water. If you use flower food, follow the packet directions for the amount of water. A clean container and fresh solution help keep the water suitable for the cut stems.

Strip off any leaves that would fall below the waterline. Leave the higher foliage in place if you want it in the bouquet. Wet leaves decay in the water and can make it dirty.

Using clean, sharp floral snips or a knife, cut a small piece off the bottom of each stem at an angle. Avoid crushing the ends. Put the stems straight into the prepared water after cutting.

Give the flowers time to drink

Stand the stems loosely in the bucket so the flower heads are not pressed together. Leave them in a cool place for several hours, or overnight if your schedule allows. This gives the stems time to take up water before you handle them for the bouquet.

Keep the bucket away from direct sun, heaters, and warm rooms. Also keep the flowers away from ripening fruit, which releases ethylene gas that can shorten the life of cut flowers.

Check the water level during this rest. Top it up if needed, and replace it if it looks cloudy. If you change the water, wash the container and recut the stems before putting them back.

Assemble the bouquet

Bring the conditioned lisianthus to your work surface with the other bouquet flowers. Handle the blooms by their stems rather than their petals, which can bruise. Remove any damaged flowers or leaves as you work.

Build the bouquet without squeezing the stems too tightly. Lisianthus branches can catch on one another, so place them carefully rather than pulling them through a finished arrangement. Trim the stem ends to a comfortable length once the bouquet is tied.

Keep it fresh until the ceremony

Place the finished bouquet in a clean vase with a little fresh water, keeping any ribbon or fabric above the waterline. Store it somewhere cool and shaded until it is needed.

Before carrying the bouquet, lift it from the vase and gently dry the stem ends. Keep it out of heat and direct sun as much as practical, and return it to water during breaks in the day.

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