

Dry Wrapped Roses

By Jim Zimmerman

Roses that are dry wrapped and stored in the refrigerator will stay nearly fresh like for a month or more. Some substance loss will occur, but the overall beauty of the bloom, stem and foliage will be maintained.

The process is simple and easy to perform. The stem is cut at the desired length when the bloom is one half open and the substance is at its peak. Therefore the preferred cutting time is early morning before the sun becomes very hot or late evening.

After the rose has been cut, the next step is to seal the severed cane with a glue gun, candle wax or similar substance and loosely tie a twelve inch long string around the cane, just above the sealed area.

It is time to put the entire rose, stem and all into a clear plastic rose cone or lightweight PVC pipe and let the string hang out the bottom. Tape the string to the outside wall of the container as this will hold the bloom in place and keep the petals from crushing. The bloom must be a little bit shy from the edge of the container. Seal both ends with stretch film like *Saran Wrap*. Put the container with the rose inside into the refrigerator with the bloom facing DOWN. The dry wrapped rose will last longer if the temperature in the refrigerator is close to 33 degrees, but a warmer temperature will only shorten the life of the rose while it is resting in the cold. *Zip Lock* plastic bags work well for mini roses.

When the rose is removed from the refrigerator it may look as if the substance is gone. Remove the rose from the container and cut off the sealed end and place the stem and foliage in water up to the peduncle. Only the bloom will be dry. It will take several hours for the bloom to re-hydrate completely. The time will vary depending on the variety and the length of time the rose was dry wrapped.

Not every rose will dry wrap successfully for a long time. Begin with Veteran's Honor, Louise Estes, Moonstone, St. Patrick or Raphaela as they accept dry wrapping well or try your skill on a miniature roses.