



Super Floral Retailing has created this page for the education of store-level employees. To download a reprintable PDF, please go to www.superfloralretailing.com and select "Current Issue."

eremurus



Eremurus stenophyllus
Foxtail lily, Desert candle, King's spear

BOTANICAL NAME

Eremurus spp.
(AIR-ah-MUR-us or er-EM-u-RUS)

COMMON NAMES

Foxtail lily, Desert candle, King's spear

DESCRIPTION

Eremurus are tuberous-root plants that grow from 2 to 8 feet tall and spread about 3 feet wide. Their spikelike racemes have dense clusters of small, star-shaped flowers. They have long, straplike green leaves that grow in basal rosette-shaped clumps

and die when the plants are in bloom, so foliage is rarely present with cut flowers.

COLORS

The flowers are available in hues of yellow, white, pink, rose, orange, apricot and copper.

VASE LIFE

With proper care, *Eremurus* can last from 10 to 14 days.

AVAILABILITY

In general, *Eremurus* are in good supply from March through August.

notable species

■ *Eremurus bungei* (syn. *E. stenophyllus*) - This is one of the most commonly grown species for the cut-flower industry, and it is also one of the smallest of the *Eremurus* species; stem lengths range from 2 to 3 feet. Flowers are bright golden yellow.

■ *E. x isabellinus* 'Shelford' and 'Ruitter' hybrids - These stems grow to about 4 feet tall. The colors include gorgeous hues of pink, salmon, yellow, apricot, orange and white. Certain cultivars display striking bicolor combinations.



Photo courtesy of the Flower Council of Holland

E. stenophyllus
Foxtail lily, Desert candle, King's spear

fun facts

WHAT'S IN A NAME "Eremurus" is from the Greek words "eremia" meaning "desert" and "oura" meaning "tail."

FAMILY *Eremurus* are members of the *Liliaceae* family. Common relatives include lilies, tulips, *Fritillarias* and lilies-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*).

HOME SWEET HOME These hardy perennials are native to central and western Asia, particularly Afghanistan and Pakistan.

vase-life extenders

REFRIGERATION *Eremurus* can be held in floral refrigerators at 34 F to 38 F.

WATER Check the water level daily, and add warm flower-food solution as needed. Remove any damaged or dying florets. Recut the stems every two to three days to ensure effective water uptake.

ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY *Eremurus* are sensitive to ethylene gas. Check with your supplier to make sure your flowers have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower level or during transportation. Signs of exposure to ethylene gas include shattering (florets falling) and premature color fading.

DISPLAY LOCATIONS Advise customers to display their flowers in cool locations, out of

direct sunlight and away from heat sources.

HANDLE WITH CARE Take care not to break the elegant but brittle tips of the flowers.



Photo courtesy of the Flower Council of Holland

Eremurus 'Cleopatra'
Foxtail lily, Desert candle, King's spear

of note

DESIGN TIPS Spikes flattened in shipping can be fluffed up by rolling the stems back and forth several times between the hands before hydrating.

quality checklist

BLOOMS Purchase *Eremurus* when the lower one-third of florets on the spikes have opened and the upper buds are showing color. Watch for spikes that may be crushed or bruised. **sfr**

Some information provided by:
The Chain of Life Network®
www.chainoflifeflowernetwork.org
Flowers and Plants Association, www.flowers.org.uk
Van Engelen Inc., www.vanengelen.com

Reach "Cut Flower of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at sbfloral@aol.com or (415) 239-3140.