

Colored Petals

Make colored petals within minutes in the comfort of your home!

You will need:

- 4 Jars of water mixed with food dyes
- Flowering plants with white petals
- Scissors
- Running water

Directions:

- Cut the stems of each flower under running water.
- Place a cut flower stem in each of the colored liquids.
- Which color shows through the petals the best?
- Try placing the flower with cut stem in two colored solutions and see if the petals have a mix of two colors!

Why does it happen?

There are bundles of tubes inside plant stems called 'vascular bundles'. They carry water from the roots to the leaves. Such vascular stems are called xylems. When leaves and petals lose water to the air, the water must be replaced in order to keep the flower fresh and alive. Therefore, the xylems pull the colored liquid through the stems to replace the lost water, therefore coloring the petals through a process called 'transpiration'.

