From sturdy statice to wispy caspia, limoniums cover a wide range of moods and colors.

**Chasing the blues**

Blue and purple come first to mind when we think of statice or limonium, but breeders have also brought to market varieties in other hues, including white, pink, and yellow. Diamond statice (Limonium sinuatum), a newer and medium-sized addition to the limonium group, is currently available in white, blue, yellow, pink, silver, and golden colors. These colors are remarkably consistent and uniform, as are other features of Diamond statice, thanks to the fact that varieties in the series are propagated solely by tissue culture.

Although hardy, limoniums are vulnerable to botrytis. They should be removed immediately from shipping boxes to release any buildup of heat and allow air circulation around the flowers. If proper care and handling procedures are not followed, limoniums may be more likely than other flowers to release an unpleasant smell. But that problem would only arise in the case of a florist who uses less than immaculate hygiene and careful mixing of flower foods in the processing of limonium—and that would never happen in your shop, now would it?

### Common Name

**Botanical Name**

- Statice, annual statice, sinuatum
- Limonium sinuatum
- Blue, purple, lavender, pink, yellow, peach, white
- 1-inch colored heads on branched, 12-to-24-inch, feathery stems

- German statice
- Limonium barbeyi
- Gray to off-white
- 1/4-inch flowers on short 4-to-6-inch stems

- Caspia, Misty limonium
- Limonium sinuatum
- Light blue, light pink, lavender
- 1/8-inch flowers profusely adorn 16-to-30-inch stems

### Care tips

- **Purchase** limoniums in full color (70% open, but with a few new florets left to mature). Avoid stems that have yellow or discolored leaves, an indication of improper shipping or holding temperatures.
- **Re-cut** stem ends, removing at least one inch. Place in a tepid floral food solution and let condition at room temperature for one to two hours or overnight. If stems are severely wilted or dehydrated, treat with a cric acid hydration solution following manufacturer’s recommendations.
- **Research** has shown that the proper use of flower foods can increase the vase life of some limoniums by 300 percent!
- **Most sources** recommend treating limoniums with an ethylene inhibitor for longest vase life.
- **Store** limoniums in a 36-degree floral refrigerator at 85 percent humidity. Good air circulation (remove sleeves and bundling) is recommended to prevent botrytis mold from forming on the stems or flowers.
- **Most limoniums** may be air-dried by hanging them upside down in a low-humidity, low-light area. Bundle the stems with rubber bands into small bunches to allow for free air circulation. Drying time should be about one to two weeks, then coat with a moisture barrier sealer.