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By [Brady Halls](#) | 8 months ago



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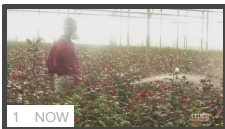
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Aussie flower growers warn about overseas imports



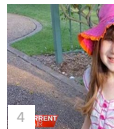
Aussie flower growers warn about overseas imports



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Most of us buy a bunch of flowers from time to time, and very few of us give a thought to where they are from.

Blossoms in Australia aren't labelled country of origin, one of the very few items that don't require identification.

And when we buy those flowers we believe they are fresh, clean and smell beautifully natural.



Aussie flower growers warn about chemicals sprayed on flowers from overseas. (A Current Affair)

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Australian flower growers say they are anything but.

"They are put into a bucket of Roundup, that Roundup residue is on the stems," one told *A Current Affair*.

"They are still using chemicals overseas that have been banned here in Australia for decades," another said.

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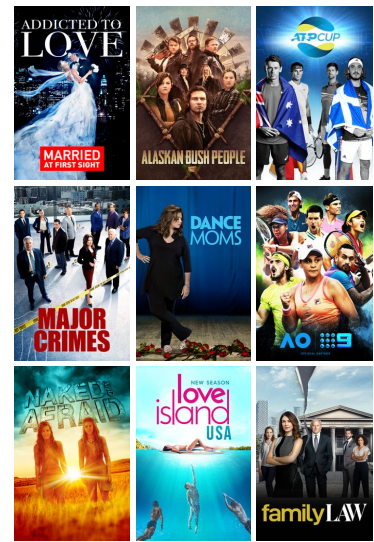
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Wayne Inglis is the President of the NSW Flower Association. (A Current Affair)

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Most of us don't realise it but many flowers for sale in this country are imported, and overseas growers mainly from developing nations don't observe the same strict guidelines that Australian growers must abide by.

"They are fumigated with methyl bromide. Methyl bromide is a carcinogenic. It actually permeates what is being fumigated and then slowly gets released back into the atmosphere so when people get roses from Kenya the first thing

they do is smell them ... what they are smelling is methyl bromide," Wayne Inglis President of the NSW Flower Association said.

"When they bring them in from overseas you have no idea what they are using," Vicki Dominello, who grows Lilies on the **NSW Central Coast** for market, said.



Vicki Dominello grows Lilies on the NSW Central Coast for market. (A Current Affair)

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Flower shop owner Dhani D'Arcy buys and sells only Australian grown flowers and warns her customers of the dangers.

"I have the opportunity to tell them about the dangers, the risks to the environment, the risk to their own health bringing flowers into their own home and putting on the dining room table," she said.

Aside from chemicals there is another problem Aussie flower growers want to point out and you may know what they're talking about.

"Imported flowers take seven days for them to land here after they have been picked, but they have only another seven days to go. But if you bought Australian roses you could get maybe a fortnight out of them," Mr Inglis said.



Aldo sells Australian chrysanthemums. (A Current Affair)

It's the same line from Aldo who sells Australian chrysanthemums.

"We guarantee two to three weeks vase life. The foreign ones you'd be lucky to get a week, four, five days," Aldo said.

As Vicki said, "you get what you pay for".

Which explains why some of those cheap bunches we buy in the **supermarket**,

service station or corner store wilt after a few days.

So local growers are lobbying the Federal **government** for flower labelling, to once and for all let consumers know the dangers in some imported flowers and the reason why your blossoms may be dying after just a few days.



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