



Garden Clippings



Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 18

Tips on Floral Arrangements

A History of Cut Flowers

The discovery of a Neanderthal burial site in Iraq with pollen from ornamental flowers such as grape hyacinth and hollyhock has pushed the history of the use of cut flowers back to about 50,000 BC.

No further evidence of cut flowers exists from that time until the first and second millennia BC, when Egyptians wore flower garlands on their heads and placed water lilies and lotus blossoms in bowls.

Ancient Greeks and Romans used colourful fresh flowers to decorate their homes and to make garlands for religious ceremonies and festivals.

Colour

Colour can dramatically affect the appeal of an arrangement because colours have an effect on human emotion. Warm colours such as reds and yellows may be agitating for some, and cool colours such as blues and purples can be soothing and restful.

Scale

Scale refers to the proportion of the flower arrangement in relation to the vase or to the room it is in. An arrangement too large for the size of the vase or the room looks visually awkward. In contrast, an undersized arrangement can look lost in a large space. The goal is to achieve a balance between the arrangement and the setting.

Fruit

Fruits and vegetables such as apples, grapes and eggplants can be incorporated into a floral arrangement because they can add a different texture and variety. They can also add vibrant colours and character, helping to create an unusual arrangement.

Focal Point

It is a good idea to create a focal area to emphasize the dominant feature in the arrangement. Usually, the focal flowers rest at or near the bottom of the design, and the smaller, finer materials are positioned upward from the focal area.

Vases

Endless possibilities of containers for floral arrangements exist: platters, tall cylinders, urns and virtually any ceramic and plastic containers. However, the degree of formality of the container in relation to the setting and the occasion matters. Also the size, shape, colour and texture of the container must be compatible with the flowers.

One Blossom

One small blossom in a simple container can be just as beautiful as a floral arrangement because the eye focuses on only a single flower. The effect is to create an intimate setting.

A floral arrangement doesn't always have to be big; in some cases, less is more.

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