



Floral design can be so much fun. It's a great creative outlet and the results can be gorgeous. Take some time to gather your supplies and enjoy!

SELECT A CONTAINER

Be creative. Look around the house and see what you find. An old wooden box, a pewter cake stand, your grandmother's china, a flea market find, a beautiful fruit compote, would all make lovely containers for a floral arrangement.

GATHER SUPPLIES

- Oasis to help keep flowers fresh
- Floral scissors
- A bucket
- Floral preservative
- Moss-spanish or green to cover the mechanics
- Floral U Pins to keep the moss on the arrangement
- floral tape and wire depending on the flowers
- frog floral stand depending on the container

PREPARE A PLACE

Prepare a place to enjoy your floral arranging. On the back porch, the deck, outside, the kitchen table, somewhere you can make a mess, maybe get some fresh air & enjoy the view.



A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR FLOWERS

Source - A local farm might be an excellent place for some flowers. They are usually reasonably priced, locally grown and true to the season and to the area.

The season and the message - For this arrangement, it was a unique time of year, and both the design and the styled shoot reflect that. It was late September, deep into summer, with gorgeous hints of fall. The flowers were chosen accordingly.

Think about flower size, color, texture, how they work together, and what message they convey.

PICK A FEW LARGE FLOWERS TO CENTER THE DESIGN.



This arrangement uses:

- Flowering Kale feels like autumn
- Cockscomb deep burgundy, red, pink
- Dianthus spiky, green, interesting

Consider

CHOOSE SMALLER FLOWERS TO BALANCE OUT LARGER ONES.

This arrangement uses:

- Stock a gorgeous flower with a country & summer feel
- Astilbe a pink, feathery flower that is very airy and light.
- Viburnum a delicate, lacy, pale green flower that feels a bit sophisticated.

COLORS

When choosing colors, it's really a matter of personal preference and the feel you are trying to convey. Take a few, put them together in a small bouquet and see what you like. Don't be afraid to try different combinations. You might be surprised at what you like the best. The flowers here were selected to coordinate with the rest of the styled shoot, which had blackberries and raspberries (late summer) with pomegranates, and figs (autumn).

Pick something that goes with your container and the look you are trying to convey. So, if you want something rustic, then snapdragons would be great. If you are going for a more modern and sophisticated look, try some orchids.



TEXTURE

Don't forget about texture. Adding berries, fruit, herbs, curly willow, lambs ear, dusty miller can add a new dimension to your floral design.

Prepare



- Once you have your flowers, prepare a large bucket of water and floral preservative.
- Do fresh cuts for all your stems so the flowers can soak in the nutrients.
- Soak oasis foam in water so the flowers stay fresh longer.
- Secure the oasis in or on your chosen container. If needed, use a frog floral stand and some two sided floral adhesive.

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Composition

Of course, there is more than one way to approach this. Don't be afraid to take it out and try again a different way. These are only guidelines, but if you get stuck, they are good to fall back on.



- The basic rules of composition are similar to those of photography. So, concepts such as the rule of thirds, use of odd numbered groupings, diagonal lines and S curves can all play a role in floral design.
- A decent guideline is that the height of the arrangement is about two times as high as the height of the container.
- Odd numbers tend to be more pleasing to the eye.
- S curves and diagonal lines add motion to the design.

Arrange

CENTER

In this case, because the Flowering Kale was so large and the Cockscomb so bold, this arrangement started with an odd number of the Kale to center the design.

An odd number of Cockscomb were then used to fill in around the Kale.

HEIGHT AND WIDTH

You could just as easily have started with establishing the height and width of the arrangement with the stock flowers, and filled in from there.



FLOW

Once the center, the height, and the width are established, decide what kind of flow you want the arrangement to have. Here, the stock serves to establish the basic height and width of the design, while a basic S curve and diagonal lines give the flowers some movement.

FILLER

The seeded eucalyptus fills in the rest. The seeded eucalyptus is a great filler, as it looks both wild, abundant, earthy and elegant all at once.

COVER MECHANICS

Cover your mechanics with moss. Make sure any oasis, floral tape, etc. are covered with the moss. Clip the moss in with floral U Pins.



