

Lavant Horticultural Society

12 BASIC TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

1. Always cut plant material on the diagonal to maximise the area for water take up and use a SHARP implement.
2. Never have leaves in water, strip the stems, to prevent bacterial growth.
3. Don't let your container or props dominate.
4. Always cover your mechanics (e.g. chicken wire, oasis, string).
5. Plan how the flowers will get water over time (e.g. leave space at the back for watering).
6. Let the flowers have the space to shine and individually look their best.
7. Ensure the arrangement is stable and there is no chance of it falling over (e.g. tape the oasis into the container, put weight at the bottom, tie in the chicken wire).
8. Make sure the arrangement looks balanced (big flowers at the base of a tall arrangement or the centre of a round one).
9. Think about texture as well as colour when choosing materials.
10. Mix the shapes of your flowers and foliage (e.g. not all round).
11. Cream or blush often works better in a mixed colour arrangement than white.
12. Generally, materials look better when included in odd numbers, but lots of modern arrangements buck that and just add what looks good!

Many thanks to Sarah Newman for this advice.

See also the [NAFAS list of plant materials](#) that can be incorporated into a flower arrangement.

Please note that such plant materials CANNOT be used in class 52, NOR in class 54.

Class 55 is the only class where you can use accessories – items of materials that would not normally be acceptable that are used to help tell the story of the arrangement, as it were.