

Grow Your Own
FLOWERS
for **BOUQUETS**
in **CONTAINERS, RAISED BEDS**
and **GARDENS**



melindamyers.com



Plan for year-round color and interest in the landscape and vase. Here are just a few ideas to get you started. Once you start collecting flowers from your gardens, you will find many more treasures already growing in or that can be added to your landscape.

LOW MAINTENANCE CUT FLOWER GARDEN

CUTTING AND CONDITIONING THE FLOWERS

- Cut in the morning and immediately place in a bucket of water
- Let them stand in a cool place, out of direct sunlight, in tepid water for several hours
 - Preferably overnight
- Recut the stems on 45° angle when making arrangements
 - Prevents stems from sitting flat on bottom of the vase so more of the surface area is exposed and can more readily absorb the water
- Use floral preservative to extend their vase life
- Make sure cut ends are covered with water
- Avoid submerging foliage in the water
- Change water often to keep flowers looking good for as long as possible
- Debra Prince of Slow Flowers recommends securing the arrangement when placing in the vase
 - This makes it easier to lift and recut the stems as needed when changing water

HARVESTING FLOWERS FOR DRYING

CUT FLOWERS THROUGH THE SEASON

SPRING FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN - BULBS

Daffodils, tulips, hyacinths (very fragrant), grape hyacinths (fragrant), alliums (fresh or dried)

- **Daffodils**
 - Harvest when buds show color and are perpendicular to the stem
 - Since they exude sap that blocks water uptake in other flowers you need to:
 - ◆ Arrange in their own vase
 - ◆ Soak them for 1 to 4 hours in their own vase before adding to arrangement
- **Tulips**
 - Continue to grow after cut - accommodate this in your arrangements
 - Harvest when flowers showing about 50% of their color
 - Wrap stems in brown paper and set in several inches of cool water for 12 to 18 hours

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SPRING FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN - FORCED & FLOWERING STEMS

- Place the branches in cool water, about 60°F, in a brightly lit location
 - Mist the stems as often as possible and keep the cut ends in water
 - The buds should start swelling and flowers start to appear in several weeks
 - Split the ends of the stem for better water uptake before adding to the arrangement
 - ◆ Make 1/2 to 1" cut up bottom of the stem
 - **Forsythia** - Northern gardeners select those that are flower bud hardy
 - Happy Centennial, Meadowlark, New Hampshire Gold, Northern Gold, Northern Sun, Sunrise
 - **Pussy Willow** (*Salix discolor*), native, (*Salix caprea*), non-native commonly grown and sold as Pussy Willow
 - For longer vase life, display in a container without water
 - ◆ Display in warm area with lots of light to speed flower expansion
 - ◆ Display in cool location without light to slow the process
 - Place in water for the flowers and leaves to emerge
 - **Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*)
 - **Flowering Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*), trending wedding flower
 - **Magnolia** - foliage and flowers
 - Harvest as buds begin to open
 - Some scorch end of stem in 2" of boiling water for 10 seconds
 - **Daphne** - fragrant, foliage and flowers
 - **Viburnum** - flowers, foliage and fruit
 - **Flowering Quince** (*Chaenomeles*), flowers and fruit
 - **Crabapple** (*Malus*), flowers and fruit
 - **Lilacs** (*Syringa*), flowers and fruit
 - Harvest and place immediately in water while in garden
 - Remove leaves and place in bucket of cool water for at least an hour
 - Cut stem vertically 1 to 2" and twist
 - Place in cool, dark place for 1 to 2 hours before arranging
- ### SPRING PERENNIALS
- **Columbine** (*Aquilegia*)
 - **Siberian Bugloss** (*Brunnera*)
 - **Bleeding Heart** (*Dicentra*)
 - **Siberian and Bearded Iris** (*Iris*)
 - **Peony** (*Paeonia*)
 - Harvest when buds show some color
 - Buds should be soft, like a marshmallow so they will open soon
 - Last 5 to 10 days
 - **Preserving Peonies**
 - ◆ Harvest and remove leaves
 - ◆ Wrap in plastic
 - ◆ Store horizontally for up to 3 months in cool location (like the fridge)
 - ◆ Remove from cold storage, cut the stem, place in tepid water and cool area
 - ◆ Once hydrated, should flower for a week
 - **Lady's Mantle** (*Alchemilla mollis*), foliage and flowers



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*, the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook 2nd Edition* released 2022, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and *Instant Video, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone* DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

COOL SEASON ANNUALS

- Stock (*Matthiola incana*)
- Sweet Peas (*Lathyrus*)
- Pansies (*Viola*)
 - Creative way to display
- Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*)
 - Harvest when bottom 1/3 of buds are open, middle showing color and top 1/3 closed

SUMMER BOUQUETS

SUMMER BLOOMING BULBS PLANTED IN SPRING

- Gladiolus
 - Plant corms every 2 weeks until late June for extended harvest
 - Harvest when bottom 1/3 of flowers is open, mid 1/3 showing color and top closed
 - Support flowers with nearby plants, stakes, lattice on legs...
- Hardy Lilies (*Lilium*), sold as bulbs in the fall, precooled bulbs in spring and potted for sale at the garden center
 - Asiatic (hardiest) and Oriental (fragrant) bred for cut flower market
 - Martagons are more shade tolerant
 - Grow in nursery pots and containers
 - ♦ 3 or more bulbs in 2 to 3 gallon pots - more bulbs in larger container
 - ♦ Water - check daily
 - ♦ Wild Valley Wool Pellets to reduce watering and improve plant growth
 - ♦ Fertilizer - per label directions as needed throughout the summer
 - ♦ Treat as annuals, so no need to overwinter or sink pot in ground for winter

- Dahlias, variety of flower color, shape and sizes
 - Harvest early in the morning for freshness and to avoid napping bees
 - Harvest when half or fully open (they tend not to open otherwise)
 - Back petals should be firm, not soft and limp and stay attached when rubbing your hand over the back of the flower
 - Some set dahlias in warm (160 to 180°F) water with preservative for one hour
 - Others dip stems in boiling water for 7 to 10 seconds, then cool water for a few hours
 - Managing Dahlias for Maximum Blooms
- Cannas - flowers are short lived, but foliage is longer lasting

SUMMER BOUQUETS ANNUALS

- Ageratum
 - Tall cultivars, like Blue Horizon, for bouquets and compact types for small vases
- Lisianthus (*Eustoma*), delicate, long lasting cut flower in white, pinks, rose and purples
- Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*), fresh and dried
- Ping Pong, Truffula shown
- Zinnia and Marigold (*Tagetes*), can be started from seed directly in the garden
 - Cut when flowers are fully open
 - Queeny Lime Orange, Zowie Yellow Flame shown
- Strawflower (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*), Suntory's Granvia has much larger flowers (shown)

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- **Sunflower** (*Helianthus*), shorter, repeat bloomers Sunfinity and All-America Selection Concert Bell (a bouquet on each stem)
- **Cosmos** - can be started from seed directly in the garden, does reseed
- **Celosia** - plume, wheat and crested forms
 - Great dried or fresh
 - Asian Garden, Fresh Look shown
- **Tall Verbena** (*Verbena bonariensis*), reseeds readily
 - AAS winner Vanity shown (30" and deeper purple)
- **Mexican Sunflower** (*Tithonia rotundifolia*)
 - Fiesta Del Sol, compact variety
 - Flower stems may need support with wire
- **Amaranth** (*Amaranthus*)
 - Heat and drought tolerant
 - Dreadlocks, Elephant Ears shown

SUMMER, FALL & WINTER PERENNIALS

- **Coral Bells** (*Heuchera*)
 - Harvest when 70% of buds open for 4 to 6 days of vase life
 - Harvest when only 1 to 2 buds on auxiliary stems are open, but must provide floral preservative for buds to continue to open and for longer vase life
- **Salvia** - annual and perennial
- **Mealycup** (*Salvia farinacea*), look similar to lavender
 - Perennial AAS winner Blue By You
 - ◆ Blooms earlier
 - ◆ Heat tolerant
 - ◆ Hardy Zones 4b to 9a

- **Speedwell** (*Veronica*), Icicle, Royal Candles shown, both stand upright throughout the season
- **Phlox**, cut when flowers fully open
 - Glamour Girl shown, vibrant color and disease resistant
- **Astilbe** - fresh and dried
 - Needs moist soil and shade
- **Hosta** - blooms and foliage
 - Shown with astilbe
 - In arrangement with Gloriosa Lily (*Gloriosa superba*)
- **Shasta Daisies** (*Leucanthemum x superbum*)
 - AAS winner Sweet Daisy Birdy
 - ◆ 5" long lasting blooms
 - ◆ Hardy to Zone 3
 - ◆ Tidy habit
- **Yarrow** - fresh and dried
 - *Achillea filipendulina* 'Coronation Gold' (shown) and other non aggressive hybrids
 - *Achillea millefolium* 'Red Velvet' (shown) may need to divide regularly to control spread
- **Milkweed** (*Asclepias*), flowers and pods
 - Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
 - Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- **Balloon Plant** (*Gomphocarpus*), flowers and pods, painted pods for holidays
- **Lavender** (*Lavendula*), fresh and dried, fragrant
 - Hidcote, Munstead, and Phenomenal are hardier
- **Coreopsis verticillata** 'Zagreb' shown, compact variety, better overwintering in heavy soils
- **Daylily** (*Hemerocallis*), fresh and dried, fragrant
 - Hidcote, Munstead,

UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

March 11th

University of Illinois Master Gardener's Home, Lawn and Garden Day
[More Information](#)

March 15th Webinar

Create an Oasis On a Deck, Patio or Balcony

March 18th

Spring into Gardening
[More Information](#)

March 22nd Webinar

In a Pot, You Can Grow a Lot!

March 25th

2023 Outagamie Co. Master Gardener Association Garden Conference
[More Information](#)

March 29th Webinar

Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Gardening Success

April 5th Webinar

What's New - Discover New & Unique Plants!

- **Daylily** (*Hemerocallis*)
 - Individual flowers last a day
 - Flower stem has many buds and flowers
 - Set just the flower on tables for party and discard in morning
- **Rudbeckia**, flowers and seed heads, Little Goldstar and American Gold Rush are both leaf spot resistant
- **Gayfeather** (*Liatris*), flowers
- **Coneflower** (*Echinacea*), flowers and seed heads
 - AAS Pixie Meadowbrite and Sombrero Salsa Red (shown) are both winter hardy
- **Mums** (*Chrysanthemum*, *Dendranthum*)
 - Cut when flowers are fully open
 - Mammoth Mum is Zone 4 hardy
 - ◆ Large plant and flower display
 - ◆ No pruning for compact growth needed
- **Asters** (various botanical names), flowers
- **Goldenrod** (*Solidago*), fresh and dried
 - Little Lemon (shown) has earlier bloom
 - Showy, Ohio and Fireworks are less aggressive
- **Ornamental Grasses** - foliage, flowers and seed heads

SUMMER AND BEYOND SHRUBS

- **Rose** (*Rosa*), flowers and rose hips
 - Reviving Wilted Cut Flower Roses
 - ◆ Recut stem and submerge the whole rose stem, leaves and flower in water for 30 minutes
 - ◆ Cut stem and place in clean water and vase
 - Preserving Roses for Winter Enjoyment
 - ◆ Harvest roses in full bud stage and just showing a bit of color
 - ◆ Remove leaves and submerge in water for 45 to 60 minutes
 - ◆ Place stems in a plastic bin filled with wet sand, tightly packed up to the bud
 - ◆ Store in a cool (40°F / 5°C) location
 - ◆ Remove the stems from storage as needed
 - ◆ Recut stem and place in hot water (just below boiling) until it cools

- **Dogwood** (*Cornus*), flowers, foliage and colorful stems
- **Elderberry** (*Sambucus*), flowers (fragrant) and foliage
- **Hydrangea**
 - Extend vase life of hydrangeas
 - ◆ Soaking flowers (head down) in cold water for 1 hour
 - ◆ Allow to drip dry
 - ◆ Recut the stem and place in warm water overnight
 - ◆ Or, dip cut end in alum before placing in vase
 - Revive in water bath as with wilted roses
 - Or, set cut end in boiling water and leave in place until water cools
- **Rose of Sharon** (*Hibiscus syriacus*), Notwoodone and Blue Satin shown
- **Blue Mist Spirea** (*Caryopteris*), blue flowers and blue-gray foliage
- **American Bittersweet** (*Celastrus scandens*)
 - Need one male for every 1 to 5 female plants for fruit
 - Or, American Revolution cultivar is self-fertile
- **Hypericum** - fruit and foliage
 - Choose stems that are not too woody
 - Leaves should be crisp and standing upright
 - Fruit deeply colored
 - Recut stem and place in lukewarm water with preservative for up to 3 hours
- **Holly** (*Ilex*), foliage and berries
 - Need one compatible male for every 1 to 5 female plants for fruit
 - Evergreen American Holly (*Ilex opaca*), Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- **Curly Willow** (*Salix matsudana*), Tortuosa or Golden Curls
- **Fantail Willow** (*Salix udensis* 'Sekka')
- **Harry Lauder's Walking Stick** (*Corylus avellana* 'Contorta')
- **Birch** (*Betula*), branches and stems

A FEW FOLIAGE PLANTS

- Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*)
 - Zones 9 to 10
 - Can be grown as a houseplant
- New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*), Zones 9 to 11
- Canna (*Canna x generalis*)
 - Zones (7) 8 to 11
 - Overwinter rhizomes indoors in colder climates
- Dusty Miller (*Jacobaea maritima*, formerly *Senecio cineraria*)
- Houseplants - Prayer Plant, Monstera...
- Herbs - Rosemary, Fennel, Dill, Sage, Borage, Lavender
- Shrubs - Ninebark, Elderberry, Viburnum
- Evergreens - Pines, Spruce, Juniper, Yew, Arborvitae, Boxwood

OTHER OPTIONS & ACCENTS

- Amaryllis
 - Cut stems an inch or more above the bulb
 - ◆ Place in warm water
 - ◆ Set in cool place for a few hours or overnight
 - ◆ Recut the stems to desired length for your arrangement
- Poinsettia - quickly sear the cut end to prevent the sticky sap from leaking into the water and end vase life
- Fruit, Succulents, Vegetables
 - Remove roots and stems
 - Secure on skewer and add to arrangement
- Ornaments, Found Items, More...

CONTAINER GARDEN TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Containers with drainage holes or self-watering pots
- Use a quality potting mix
 - Incorporate Wild Valley Wool Pellets
 - ◆ University researched
 - ◆ Reduces watering by up to 25%
- Consider using a slow-release fertilizer at planting
- Water thoroughly as needed

Call 811 at least 3 business days before you put the first shovel in the ground.

In Wisconsin you can also file an online request at **diggershotline.com**. Contact this free service at least three business days in advance of digging. Diggers Hotline in Wisconsin or your underground utility locating service will contact all the appropriate companies. These companies will mark the location of their underground utilities in the designated work area. This reduces the danger and inconvenience of accidentally knocking out power, cable or other utilities while creating a beautiful landscape and productive garden.





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Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS

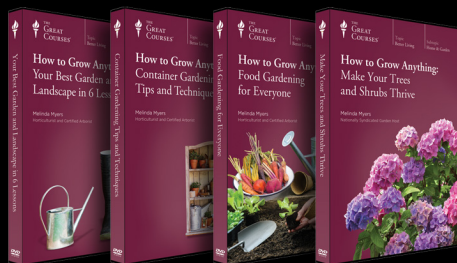
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE

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