GARDENING FOR FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

with

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LEARN ABOUT CUT GARDENING

Forget about everything you've ever learned about creating an award-winning landscape and follow along as we dive into the world of fresh-cut flower gardening and bouquet composition.
Welcome

It started out as a one-time thing. Charlotte brought in a bouquet and we were all quite taken with it. The following week, she brought another, and then another, and then another. She’d make a new bouquet to freshen up her office every week and each Monday we’d filter in to learn about the plants in it.

After a few weeks, we started to wonder if others would be interested in learning about how to garden with flower arranging in mind. Thus, Charlotte’s desk was formed.

Sit back and relax as we dive into the many bouquets that have graced Charlotte’s desk over the past couple of years and learn about the plants used. Who knows, maybe you’ll end up a cut gardener by the end of this too.

#ProPlantTip

Read these tips for helpful information on the various parts of cut gardening straight from our plant experts and Charlotte herself!
CONTENTS

03
CUT GARDENING BASICS
Long-lasting blooms of varied color, texture and size...not only add beauty outdoors but can be brought indoors as well!

06
SPRING SELECTIONS
The first breath of spring brings relief after a long winter. Plant early-season blooms in your cut flower garden for indoor color.

10
SUMMER ASSORTMENTS
Tropical colors and bold heat-hardy blossoms, mid-season cut flower gardens add beauty to your summer gatherings!

14
FALL GROUPINGS
Harvest colors, grass plumes and late-season flowers, the autumn cut flower garden ushers in the end of the season resolutely.

18
WINTER ARRANGEMENTS
Dried botanicals, seed pods and evergreens boughs both end and begin the winter growing season in the cutting garden!

NatureHills.com | page 02
Love the idea of fresh-cut flowers on the kitchen counter or dining room table but aren't sure where to start? We have some helpful tips for growing a cut garden from scratch.
What comes before the vase? A garden, of course!

Before grabbing the shovel and buying the plants, it's a good idea to have a plan. Consider drawing out how you'd like your garden to look on a piece of paper.

If the goal is to create bouquets, then the aesthetic of the garden itself isn't as important as the functionality. Plant in easy-to-access rows so you're able to easily cut stems without trampling anything.

Do you want to be able to make flower arrangements all year? Make sure to plan your garden so that different plants are blooming at different times.

#ProPlantTips

- Measure and assess the space - how much sun does it get? What kind of soil does it have?
- Plan with functionality in mind - rows are a cut gardener's best friend
- Choose plants strategically for year-round blooms
- Consider the care requirements of each plant
- Always add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch to flower beds
Great Cut Flower Garden Options

Starting a garden from scratch can be daunting. There are enough choices to confuse even the most experienced gardeners. We've put together some options we've had good luck with ourselves. If you want a starting point, we have you covered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROSES:</th>
<th>HYDRANGEAS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Congeniality™ Rose</td>
<td>Annabelle Hydrangea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peachy Knock Out® Rose</td>
<td>Endless Summer® Hydrangeas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Sunblaze® Rose</td>
<td>Tilt-A-Swirl® Hydrangea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Face Rose</td>
<td>Vanilla Strawberry™ Hydrangea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy Elegance® Kashmir Rose</td>
<td>Limelight Hydrangea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LILACS:</th>
<th>DOGWOOD SHRUBS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Purple Lilac</td>
<td>Ivory Halo Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensation Lilac</td>
<td>Bailey Red Twigged Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common White Lilac</td>
<td>Arctic Fire® Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Kim Lilac</td>
<td>Yellow Twig Dogwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomerang® Dark Purple Lilac</td>
<td>Red Osier Dogwood</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEONIES:</th>
<th>FALL PLANTED BULBS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Bernhardt Peony</td>
<td>Globemaster Allium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Rosenfield Peony</td>
<td>Rasta Parrot Tulip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festiva Maxima Peony</td>
<td>Carnegie Hyacinth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsieur Jules Elie Peony</td>
<td>Cornish King Daffodil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartzella Itoh Peony</td>
<td>Helmar Tulip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORNAMENTALS:</th>
<th>ANNUALS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass</td>
<td>Zinnias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flame Grass</td>
<td>Cosmos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Miss Maiden Grass</td>
<td>Coleus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Grass</td>
<td>Gladiolus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corkscrew Rush Spirals</td>
<td>Marigold</td>
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CHAPTER 2

SPRING SELECTIONS

Peony, Daffodils and Tulips - spring bulbs and ephemerals are among the most fragrant blooms begging to perfume your spring vases and bouquets!
1. Miss Congeniality™ Rose  
Zones: 5-10 | Full Sun | 3' x 3' | Fragrant

2. Husker Red Penstemon  
Zones: 3-8 | Full Sun | 3' x 1' | Native

3. Monsieur Jules Elie Peony  
Zones: 3-8 | Full Sun | 3' x 3' | Cold Hardy

4. Peachy Knock Out® Rose  
Zones: 4-10 | Full Sun | 3' x 4' | Disease Resistant

5. Walker's Low Catmint  
Zones: 4-9 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 2' x 3'
#ProPlantTip
Spring bulbs and blooms shrink once the heat of summer arrives. Provide a mulched bed and larger plants nearby for ephemerals to hide beneath once the sun grows stronger.

1. Wild Columbine
Zones: 3-8 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 2' x 1'
So many color combinations to choose from, Columbine are graceful dangling perennial flowers.

2. Rasta Parrot Tulip
Zones: 3-8 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 2' x 6"
Tulips come in all shapes, forms and colors to add big bold, fragrant interest to the spring table bouquet.

3. Twilite Prairieblues™ False Indigo
Zones: 4-8 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 4' x 2'
A fast-growing native perennial wildflower that brings height, color and structure to the vase.
Cutleaf Lilac
A unique Lilac adds perfume to your life indoors and out! Thrives further south than other lilacs.

Bloomerang® Dark Purple Lilac
Deeply-hued reblooming Lilacs for double the delight! Add to bouquets in the spring and again in the fall.

Origami Red & White Columbine
Bold bi-color Columbines are vivid focal point flowers. They look gorgeous in the garden and even better in a vase.

Globemaster Allium
Like purple fireworks, Allium brings starry interest and texture to the bulb garden and floral arrangement. Many Alliums will naturalize and come back year after year. Plus, deer tend to leave them alone.

Purrsian Blue Catmint
Low-growing aromatic herbs, Catmints are airy butterfly magnets and vase filler! Pick a couple of leaves off the stem and enjoy as the smell of fresh mint livens up any room it's in.
SUMMER ASSORTMENTS

Once the summer heat kicks in, the garden explodes in color! Big ray flowers, vibrant flowering shrubs, and perennials of all shapes and colors beckon to be snipped for bouquets! Just be sure to leave a few for your pollinators!
#ProPlantTips

Keep your blooms returning in defiance of the summer sun with regular waterings, a 3-4 inch layer of arborist mulch chips, and diligent deadheading to encourage return blooms.

1. Mascara Asiatic Lily
   Zones: 3-8 | Full Sun | 3' x 4'
   Returning bigger and better each year, Lily bulbs are natural focal point flowers.

2. Trumpet Creeper Vine
   Zones: 4-9 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 2' x 4'
   Vigorous Vines produce many clusters of these trumpet-shaped blooms!

3. Pink Double Knock Out® Rose
   Zones: 5-9 | Full Sun | 3' x 4'
   Blooming constantly all summer, Knock Out® Roses fill vases and gardens.

4. Strawberry Seduction Yarrow
   Zones: 4-8 | Full Sun | 2' x 2'
   Spicy scented colorful perennials that make a great front row planting!
Pink Zinnia
Easy-care annuals offered in many colors. Often started from seeds in spring.

Prince Charles Clematis
Perennial vines that can be trained to grow up or left to trail naturally down.

Queen Annie's Lace
Gorgeous lacy blooms, this biennial carrot family member adds gorgeous filler to bouquets. Use the same way you'd use baby's breath for a fraction of the garden space.

White Cosmos
Prolific annual blooms add interest to wildflower bouquets. Cosmos come in many colors and are often started from seeds in the spring.

Junior Walker™ Catmint
Low-growing floriferous herbs are with lovely filler flowers. Junior is smaller in size than the original Walker™ Catmint.
1. Arizona Red Shades Blanket Flower  
Zones: 3-10 | Full Sun | 1' x 1' | Drought-Tolerant  
Perennial blooms in deep red shades all summer!

2. Rocket City Daylily  
Zones: 3-9 | Full Sun | 3' x 2' | Rabbit Resistant  
Flowers repeatedly all summer long always looking fresh!

3. Horseradish Foliage  
Annual | Full Sun | 1' x 1' | Edible Roots  
Spicy edible roots and lush greenery make this a duel purpose plant.

4. Orange Zinnia  
Annual | Full Sun | 3' x 4' | Low-Maintenance Color  
Zinnia are easy to grow colorful annuals that love the sun!
CHAPTER 4

FALL GROUPINGS

Harvest colors of yellow, orange, russet and red. Like a sunset that embodies the setting of the growing season itself. These rich, warm hues help counter the chill brought on by the autumn nights air.
1. **Peachy Knock Out® Rose**  
Zones: 4-10 | Full Sun | 3’ x 3’

Like other Knock Out® Roses, Peachy blooms from spring until the first frost, is disease resistant and easy to maintain.

2. **Zinnia**  
Annual | Full Sun | 2’ x 3’

So many colors and styles to choose from with these easy-to-grow annual flowers. Plant in well-drained soil with medium moisture.

3. **Cosmos**  
Annual | Full Sun | 2’ x 3’

Add toothy-petalled interest to your bouquets with these bee-friendly annuals. Try other colors!
1. Orange Zinnia  
Annual | Full Sun | 2' x 2' | Pollinator-Friendly

2. Autumn Gold Willowleaf Sunflower  
Zones: 5-9 | Full Sun | 2' x 2' | Compact Perennial

3. Little Devil™ Ninebark  
Zones: 3-7 | Full Sun | 3' x 3' | Fine-Textured Purple Foliage

4. White Zinnia  
Annual | Full Sun | 2' x 2' | Brightly Colored Annual

5. Arizona Apricot Blanket Flower  
Zones: 3-10 | Full Sun | 1' x 1' | Adaptable to Many Climates

6. Sunjoy® Gold Pillar Barberry  
Zones: 4-8 | Full Sun | 3' x 2' | Upright Columnar

7. Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass  
Zones: 4-9 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 4' x 2' | Year-Round Interest
#ProPlantTip
Fall plants need ample water and mulch to help them sleep the winter away. Prune annuals and perennials back to the for a clean start in the spring.

1. **Common Sage Leaves**  
   Zones: 5-9 | Full Sun | 2’ x 2’  
   A flavorful and aromatic culinary herb, and a soothing green for bouquets as well!

2. **Zinnia**  
   Annual | Full Sun, Part Shade | 2’ x 2’  
   These tough annuals bloom from summer until frost with diligent deadheading!

3. **Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass**  
   Zones: 4-9 | Full Sun, Part Shade | 4’ x 2’  
   Inside and out, ornamental grass plumes add texture and interest all fall and winter!

4. **Happy Face Hearts® Potentilla**  
   Zones: 2-7 | Full Sun | 2’ x 2’  
   Not just rugged shrubs, Cinquefoils have cheerful flowers and interesting greenery.
CHAPTER 5

WINTER ARRANGEMENTS

The tan and brown of the winter landscape are the bones of the sleeping garden. These dried botanicals naturally pair with winterberries, grass plumes, seedpods and boughs of evergreen.
1. Sweet Sunblaze® Rose
Zones: 5-11 | Full Sun | 2' x 2'
Roses are meant for drying! Dry as soon as they are fully open, or use dried petals in potpourri!

2. Alternanthera hybrid
Annual | Full Sun, Part Shade | 1' x 2'
Bushy annual accents in the growing season, root stems in water for winter greenery & houseplants.

3. Silver Feather Maiden Grass
Zones: 4-9 | Full Sun | 6' x 4'
The airy fluffy plumes of Ornamental grasses complement any fresh or dried bouquet!

4. Coleus
Annual | Full Shade | 2' x 3'
Another colorful and easy to grow annual accent that happily roots in water for winter color!

#ProPlantTip
Snip your specimens at their prime, bunch and hang in a well ventilated area. Lasting years in good care to fill your vases, wreaths and swag décor.
Purple Majesty Millet
A warm-season ornamental grass with bold structure that holds its color well. Adds dark color to dried arrangements.

Indian Grass
Fine-texture grass seeds for light and airy bouquet additions. Leave uncut in the garden until needed as winter garden interest.

Little Miss Maiden Grass
Treat grass seed heads with care to keep their airy plumes looking their best. Great winter pollinator habitats.

About Face Rose
Don’t let rose blooms open too much or the petals will fall easily once dried. Cut and dry before blooms naturally deadhead themselves.

Flame Grass
Tired of the botanical tan? Try spray painting your grass seedheads once they're cut to make them stand out and last longer!
Dried Flower and Greenery 101

1. Choose plants that aren't high in water content.
2. Harvest at peak bloom and peak color
3. Strip off excess leaves and trim stems
4. Bunch in small clusters and hang in a dark well-ventilated area - or - dry in a dehydrator or desiccant product available at craft stores.
5. Spray with dried flower preservatives or lightly with spray paint of your color choice.
6. Carefully arrange your dried bounty in a vase or styrofoam-filled basket or hot glue in place on a wreath or swag. Anywhere you need some dried décor and color.

#ProPlantTip
Too many blooms? Press the extras in a book for dried décor you can hang in a frame!
THANKS FOR READING

Becoming a cut flower gardener is easy once you have the down. Use the templates Charlotte's shown here or create your own.

Browse the flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials at NatureHills.com for even more inspiration.

Until next time, happy planting!

SHOP FLOWERS