

HANDY HINTS FOR NEW FLOWER ARRANGERS

Flowers Shop bought or from your garden.

Suggestions: say, 3 varieties, 9 flowers: 3 flowers with smooth petals, 3 flowers with rough petals & 3 flowers with pointed petals

Leaves and Twigs

Try to match with your flowers with Texture, Shape and Colour

Collect enough to cover oasis

Flowers & leaves last longer if they are conditioned.

The optimum time to pick your flowers is early morning when they have filled with water overnight and are at their most turgid- this will vastly improve the look and life of the cut flower.

When cutting your flowers take a bucket of water with you into the garden strip off any unwanted leaves and put the cut stems straight into water. **Pick, Strip, Plop!** This prevents your flowers dehydrating and wilting. Remember you have cut them from their life source!

Next step is to place your flowers into deep water with flower food for at least 6 hours prior to arranging in oasis - this again increases flower life and prevents wilting in the finished arrangement.

Cutting the bottom of your stem on the diagonal will increase the amount of water the stem can take up and enable you to push in into the oasis more easily.

To prevent the leaves flopping on woody stems such as shrubs, cut the shrubs to the desired length and steep them in boiling water for 20 seconds then immediately into cold water.

Oasis

Buy from Florist or garden centre

Do Not Use Old Oasis blocks

Must not be seen by Judges - from any angle, even back of the finished arrangement

Containers

Oasis dishes, Candlesticks, Baskets, Shells, Vases, etc. etc.

If on show, try to match colour with your flowers

General rule with arrangements, larger flowers should be placed near the centre of an arrangement with shorter stems and the smaller flowers with longer stems.

Do not overcrowd arrangement with flowers and leaves.

"Leave room for the bees and butterflies to fly through"

Check the width of your finished arrangement against the schedule. Good Luck!