

# The Cutting Garden

A Mid-Summer Posie Pick

Picks by Barbara & Floral arranging by Liz



The earth laughs in flowers.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Flowers are food, sunshine and medicine for the soul. Luther Burbank

# Garden Tour



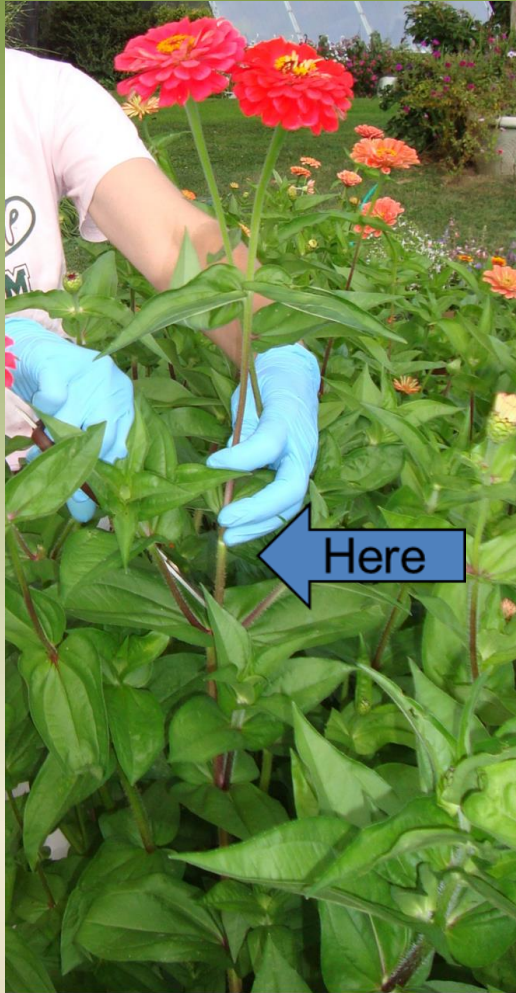
# The Cutting Process

How to cut, when to cut,  
conditioning



# The Cut

- Sharp, clean tools that do not crush the stem end (blocks water uptake)
- **WHEN** to cut....morning/evening....Advantages to **BOTH**. Wilt quickly if cut mid day which is when plants lose most water
- Take water source with you in a clean/sterile container
- Best Cuts are flowers that have just opened/unfurling or partially unfurled. Include buds and attractive foilage.
- When possible, cut just above a side branch on which another flower is forming.
- Make a clean cut, do not crush or bruise the stems. Strip off lower leaves and plunge in tepid water **ASAP**.
- **In most cases, never cut more than half the stem AND cut so that you stimulate NEW blooms..... Unless thinning.....**
- All cut flowers not created equally....some will last longer than others!
- Woody plants/shrubs: Young tender take up water better. Cut the stems at a diagonal, and then split the tip in two (to give it more surface to take in water).



**Side Branch Cutting Example** Above: Zinnia, Ageratum, Blue Horizon, Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate  
Others: Dill, Black Eye Susan, Shasta, Tall Phlox, Salvias (Victoria), Dahlias



## One and Done's

Above: Crocosmia, Liatris, Allium, Lisianthus

Others: Glads, Pro Cut Sunflowers, Asiatic or Oriental Lilies,  
Allium, Liatris (Loose Strife or any plant you want to "weed" out)

# Why Condition Cut

- After cutting, place in a conditioner that includes a few drops of bleach or biocide/sterilizing agent to kill the bacteria before they can get a start
- Promotes water uptake, kills bacteria, and allows flower to recover from the shock of being cut !
- **Keep your vases as clean as your teacups!.... Bacteria attack the stem and destroy its ability to carry water (putrefaction)**
- AGAIN: Clean, sanitary tools = most important
- After making bouquets - - snip the stems at least ½ inch or more at an angle to assure capillaries are still open and send water to the blossom.
- Place in cool location OUT of direct sunlight, change water every day
- All good things come to an end – stem no longer takes up water, blossom wilts, dries out



# Conditioners

## Basic ingredients:

Water

Sugar

Biocide/Sterilizing agent (bleach)

Acidifier - citric acid (lemon juice or ASA)

## Commercial vs homemade

Commercial: Read directions, most pkts only for 1 qt water

### Homemade Recipe:

1. 24 oz water, 1 tsp vinegar, 1 Tbsp sugar, 1 crushed ASA
2. 20 oz water, 1/3 can lemon-lime soda, few drops lemon jc and bleach

# Annuals



## Benefits

- Relatively easy and inexpensive to grow
- Wide selection of heights, colors and cultivars
- Long season of bloom/Many late bloomers
- Burst of colors over a longer season
- Versatile bright and outgoing flowers
- Predictable in habit
- Cut and Come again

## Drawbacks

- Have to be planted every year
- Not ready as early
- Like perennials, some can be very tricky to start/some varieties must be sown early d/t long growing season
- Some Hybrid seed VERY expensive

# Recommended Annuals

## Direct Sow vs Indoor

- ZINNIA: Benary, Oklahoma, State Fair
- COSMOS: Sensation, Seashell
- BISHOPS FLOWER: Ammi
- SUNFLOWER: Soraya (branching, 4" blooms)
- CELOSIA: Chief or Cramers Amazon
- DAHLIA: Tubers, 2-5 inch blooms (Fall)
- AGERATUM: Blue Horizon, Red Sea
- SALVIA: Victoria
- CLEOME: Queen Mix
- RUDBECKIA: Indian Summer, Cherry Brandy, Prairie Green Eye
- ASCLEPIAS: Butterfly Weed Silky Mix
- Euphorbia: Mountain Snow

Mildew resistant, cut and come again, direct sow

# Perennials



## Benefits

- Return year after year (as long as conditions remain beneficial)
- Pays dividends - plenty to share after a few years
- Each has a Peak Season (early/med/late) Proper planning can result in long season of color and filler to garden

## Drawbacks

- Germination rates less reliable
- Limited varieties in local greenhouses
- Expensive (plant 3-5 in grouping)
- Takes time to establish
- Not as vivid as annuals
- Not cut-and-come-again flowers
- Shorter blooming season (Peak season, then they're DONE!)
- Picking this year diminishes flowering in future years
- Require division so they do not overcrowd

# Recommended Perennials

- Astilbe, Vision in Pink May, June
- Lily, Asiatic June
- Shasta, crazy or Becky June, July
- Rudbeckia, Goldsturm June, July
- Heliopsis, Ballerina June, July
- Crocosmia, Lucifer July
- Liatris, Kobold July, Aug
- Russian Sage July, Aug
- Aster, Alma Putschke, Prof. Kippenburg September

# Others.....

## Fantastic Foilage

Coleus , Alternanthera

Baptisa, Ornamental Grasses

Peony Leaves, Lady's Mantle

## Shrubbery

Young shoots last best, can be finicky. Cut the stems at a diagonal, and then split the tip in two (to give it more surface to take in water).

Hydrangea, privet, weigelia,  
dappled willow, ninebark,  
caryopteris, smoke bush

## Herbs and "Weeds"

### "Herbs"

- Chives, Dill, Basil - Purple Ruffles, Opal, Parsley, Mint

### "Weeds"

- Immature Goldenrod, QA Lace,
- Wild Dill, Joe Pye Weed



# ...All I Needed To Know About Life, I Learned In A Garden

Time began in a garden.

It's OK to be a late bloomer.

Always try to be outstanding in your field.

It's important to branch out.

We've all got our rows to hoe.

Weed out the annoyances in your life.

Some Problems are perennial.

Friendship is a sheltering tree.

An hour in the garden puts life's problems  
in perspective.

Author Unknown

# To close.....

When you have only 2 pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other.

Chinese Proverb





Where flowers bloom, so does hope.

Lady Bird Johnson, Public Roads: Where Flowers Bloom

