



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
Historic Garden Week

SUGGESTED PLANT MATERIAL LIST AND FLOWER
ARRANGING TIPS

Created by Garden Club of Virginia's Committee Chairmen for Artistic Design (Meredith Lauter), Horticulture (Heidi James) and Conservation (Allison Clock) Chairmen with the Chair of the Working Committee on Invasive Plants (Carla Passarello) and former Horticulture Chairman (Wendy Walker)

The impact of the Garden Club of Virginia's signature fundraiser, **Historic Garden Week, cannot be overstated.** Proceeds raised directly support vital restoration projects throughout the Commonwealth. Maintaining the integrity of gardens such as those at Monticello, Poplar Forest, Bacon's Castle, and myriad others and providing fellowships preserves historic landscapes for future generations to enjoy.

Moreover, this beloved springtime event is an important economic driver in the 30 communities where tours take place, with a cumulative economic impact of \$12.5 million annually. Perhaps most significantly, Historic Garden Week is the only coordinated event that all 48 GCV clubs actively participate in each year. When GCV members combine their efforts, amazing things happen.

GCV members provide not only their time and talents but also share the bounty of their own gardens for Historic Garden Week, supplying floral material to enhance the homes on tour. We hope this comprehensive list of plants will be useful to tour teams and flower arrangers in preparing for Historic Garden Week.

"From the Artistic Design perspective, we've included the GCV Principles & Elements of Design and grouped floral materials into functional categories," explains Meredith Lauter, Artistic Design Committee Chair. "From a Horticulture and Conservation standpoint, we've designated those advantageous to plant – preferred by pollinators – and those to avoid planting, which are considered invasive," she adds. "Growing in your garden or on your balcony, beneficial plants will bring you beauty and satisfaction, feed our pollinators, and ultimately, strengthen and renew our entire planet."

GCV's Working Committee on Invasive Plants uses the Virginia Invasive Plant List available from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Several invasive plant species that have found their way into HGW arrangements are also designated on this list. "Some of these are okay to use in arranging, but purposeful planting should be discouraged. In other words, if you already have the plant in your landscaping, go ahead and use it, but don't add it to your garden," cautions Carla Passarello, whose expertise is invasive plants. Barberry, Nandina and Privet are good examples of invasives that abound but should be kept in check.



GCV PRINCIPLES & ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Principles of Design:

1. Balance
2. Dominance
3. Contrast
4. Rhythm
5. Proportion
6. Scale

These principles are the ways in which the tools are used to achieve beauty, expression, and distinction. The principles are the "how."

Elements of Design:

1. Light
2. Space
3. Line
4. Form
5. Size
6. Pattern
7. Texture
8. Color

All forms of art, including floral design, use tools and techniques to achieve their goals. The Elements of Design – are the visual tools. In other words, they are the "what."



**GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA**

For complete definitions of the Principles of Design and the Elements of Design, visit: https://www.gcvirginia.org/warehouse/fm/documents/FlowerShowResources/Principals_Elements.pdf



LINE

A line in floral arranging is a visual path that leads the eye through the design and establishes the structural framework of the design. It carries the rhythm through the design. Plants that help create line include:

Woody Branches

	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Curly Willow	X			X	
Eleagnus (Russian Olive)	X			X	
Harry Lauder Walking Stick	X			X	
Pussy willow		X			

Blooming Branches

Blueberry		X	X		
Buckeye					
Carolina Jessamine	X	X			
Deutzia		X			
Diervilla		X			
Forsythia		X			
Fruit (apple, pear)		X			
Golden Rain Tree		X			
Horse Chestnut		X			
Laburnum (Golden Chain Tree)		X			
Lady Banks' Rose		X			
Lilac		X			
Mock Orange		X			
Nine Bark		X			
Paulownia (Princess Tree)		X			
Quince		X			
Redbud		X			
Scotch Broom		X			
Smoke Tree (Purple) (Cotinus)		X	X	X	
Spirea		X			
Viburnum		X			
Weigelia					

Leafy Branches

Acuba	X				
Barberry	X				
Gingko		X	X	X	X
Japanese maple	X				
Leucotia	X				
Lorapetalum	X				
Magnolia	X				
Nandina	X				
Oak Leaf Hydrangea		X	X	X	
Photinia					
Pittosporum, especially variegated	X				
Poet's Laurel (Ruscus)	X				
Plum	X				



FORM

In flower arranging, form refers to the contour of two-and three-dimensional material. It applies to individual components within the design as well as the contour of the design as a whole. Varying the shape of components can add interest and distinction to the design. Plants that build form include:

Round Flowers — Bold

	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Allium					
Clematis		X			
Coneflower (Echinacea)			X	X	
🐝 Fennel		X	X	X	
Gerbera		X	X	X	
Hydrangea		X	X		
Penta		X	X		
Pieris Japonica		X	X		
Rhodendron		X			
Roses		X	X	X	
Roses — Kerria		X	X	X	
Roses — David Austin		X	X	X	
Roses — Garden Roses		X	X	X	
Peony		X			
Tree Peony		X			
🐝 Rudbeckia		X	X	X	
🐝 Sedum			X	X	
Tulip					
Queen Anne's Lace			X		

Round Flowers — Delicate

Ageratum		X	X		
🐝 Alstroemeria		X	X		
Anemone		X	X		
🐝 Asclepias (Milkweed/Butterfly weed)			X	X	
🐝 Aster					
Astrantia		X	X		
Bee balm (Monarda)			X	X	
Columbine		X			
Coneflower pods (without petals)		X	X	X	
🐝 Coreopsis		X	X		
🐝 Cornflower			X		
🐝 Cowslip (Primula) or whole plant for Pot et Fleur		X			
🐝 Craspedia (Billy Balls)					
Crocus		X			
Dahlia			X		
🐝 Daisy		X	X		
Daphne		X			
Echeveria (Succulent)	X				
🐝 Echinacea (Coneflower)		X	X	X	
Forget-me-nots		X			
🐝 Gaillardia			X		
Gomphrena		X	X		
Hellebore		X	X		
Lily		X	X		
Lisianthus		X	X		
🐝 Oregano		X	X	X	
Pearlbush					
🐝 Phlox			X	X	
Pom Mum (Chrysanthemum)			X	X	
Ranunculus		X	X	X	
🐝 Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan)			X	X	



Round Flowers — Delicate cont.

	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
✂ Scabiosa, especially Black Scabiosa (<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i> 'Black')		X	X	X	
Spurge (<i>Euphorbia</i>)		X	X	X	
Sweet Pea		X	X		
Tulip		X			
Tweedia		X	X		
✂ Virginia Bluebells		X			
Wax Flower					
✂ Yarrow		X	X	X	
✂ Zinnia		X	X	X	

Spike Flowers — Bold

Brassica (Kale flower)		X	X		
Crocsmia (<i>Montbressia</i>)			X	X	
Delphinium			X		
Dock			X	X	
Eremurus (<i>Foxtail Lily</i>)			X		
Foxglove+					
Ginger			X		
Gladiola		X	X		
Hyacinth		X			
Larkspur		X	X		
Liatris		X	X		
Montbressia (<i>Crocsmia</i>)			X	X	
Ornithogalum (<i>Star of Bethlehem</i>)			X	X	
✂ Salvia (<i>perennial salvia</i>)		X	X	X	
Snapdragon		X	X		
Solomon's Seal		X			
Stock		X	X		
✂ Sunflower			X	X	

Spike Flowers — Delicate

Astilbe		X			
✂ Baptisia		X	X		
✂ Borage		X	X		
Coral Bells (<i>Heuchera</i>)		X			
Grape Hyacinth (<i>Muscari</i>)		X	X		
✂ Lavender		X			
Lily of the Valley+		X	X		
✂ Nepeta (<i>Catmint</i>)		X	X		
✂ Penstemon		X			
Scilla (<i>Siberian Squill</i>)		X	X		
Solidago (<i>Goldenrod</i>)				X	
✂ Veronica		X	X	X	



DISTINCTION

According to GCV's Principles & Elements of Design, distinction is achieved by "marked superiority in all respects." The following plants can command 16 out of 100 points when an artistic floral design exhibit is judged for distinction:

Flowers

Amaranthus					
Anthurium		X	X		
Birds of Paradise (<i>Strelitzia</i>)					
Bleeding Heart (<i>Dicentra</i>)		X			
Calla lily		X			
Celosia (<i>Coxcomb</i>)			X	X	
Clematis seed florets		X	X		


Flowers Cont.

	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Columbine		X			
Coneflower pods (without petals)		X	X	X	
Daffodil		X			
Echeveria (succulent)					
Eryngium (Thistle)			X	X	
Ginger		X	X		
Gloriosa lily			X		
Heliconia					
Iris		X			
Leucadendron					
Lotus Flowers					
Lotus Pods					
Lycoris					
Protea					
Berries/Fruits					
Brunia					
Bittersweet					
Castor Pods		X			
Clematis Pods		X	X		
Eucalyptus					
Fruits (blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, wild strawberries)	X				
Hawthorne		X	X	X	
Ligustrum					
Nandina berries			X	X	X
Pepper Berry				X	X
Persimmon				X	
Pomegranate			X		
Pokeweed+		X	X	X	
Rose Hips				X	X
Snowberry					X
Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)					X
Leaves					
Arum		X	X		
Begonia		X	X		
Brassica (Kale flower or leaves)		X	X		
Fatsia	X				
Fiddle Leaf Fig	X				
Heuchera		X	X		
Lamb's Ears (Stachys)		X	X		
Palm leaves			X		
Pennycress					
Monstera					
Mint		X	X	X	
Solomon's Seal (curved)		X	X		
Stachys (Lamb's Ears)		X	X		
Vegetables: Beets, Turnips, Dragon fruit, Artichoke, Romanesco					



TEXTURE

Texture in a floral arrangement engages the viewer's eye and can provide helpful contrast (a Principle of Design). The use of opposite or unlike elements emphasizes differences and add interest – rough versus smooth, and dull versus shiny – for example. The following plants can help provide texture:

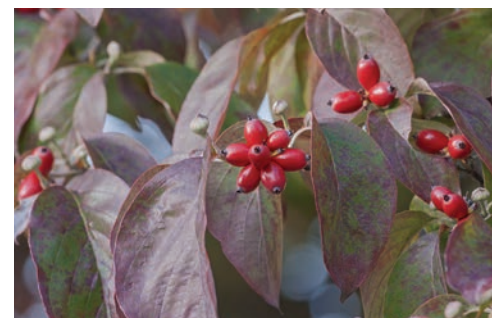
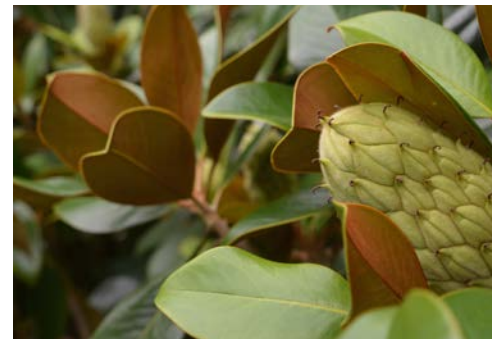
Flowers	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Anthurium					
Brassica					
Brunia					
Celosia (Coxcomb)			X	X	
Clematis seed pods		X	X		
Echeveria (succulent)					
Eryngium (Thistle)					
Eucalyptus berries					
Lamb's Ears (Stachys)		X	X		
Magnolia	X				
 Mint		X	X	X	
Pennycress					
Pieris Japonica		X			
Sage		X	X		
 Scabiosa		X	X		
Rosemar		X			
Stachys (Lamb's Ears)		X	X		
Branches	X				
Branches with Lichen or Moss	X				
Curly Willow (bare or with leaves)	X	X	X	X	
Harry Lauder Walking Stick (bare or leafed)	X	X	X	X	

COLOR

Color is the visual response of the eye to light waves. Warm colors in a design (yellow, red, orange) will seem to move forward while cool colors (blue, green, violet) recede and will seem farther away. An area of cool color will seem smaller than an equal area of warm color. Green is considered a neutral and complements all colors. Gray or silver can be added with the following plants:








Gray/Silver Foliage

Artemisia		X	X	X	
Dusty Miller		X	X	X	
Lamb's Ears (Stachys)		X	X		



RHYTHM

In the Principles & Elements of Design, rhythm is described as “a dominant visual path through a design. It is achieved using gradation and repetition in a linear direction.” The following plants can help create rhythm in a floral arrangement:

Flowers	ALL YEAR	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Amaranthus					
Anemone (repetition of black centers)		X			
Bleeding Heart (Dicentra)		X			
Calla lily		X			
Freesia		X			
Solomon's Seal		X			
Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogalum)		X	X		
Sword fern, especially stripped to leave leaves on tip only		X	X	X	
Amaranthus (really a flower but flowing form)					
 Bittersweet — invasive					
Carolina Jessamine		X	X		
Clematis		X			
Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera)		X	X	X	
 Honeysuckle — invasive		X			
 Ivy		X			
Passiflora — Passion Vine		X	X	X	
Winter Jasmine			X	X	
 Wisteria (Japanese and Chinese)			X		
American Wisteria			X		
Berries/Fruits					
Brunia					
 Bittersweet					
Castor Pods		X			
Clematis Pods		X	X		
Eucalyptus					
Fruits — blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, wild strawberries		X	X		
Hawthorne		X	X	X	
 Ligustrum					
 Nandina berries			X	X	X
Pepper Berry				X	X
Persimmon				X	
Pomegranate			X		
Pokeweed		X	X	X	
Rose Hips				X	X
Snowberry					X
Winterberry (Ilex)					X

+poisonous. Keep pets and children from ingesting.

Photos courtesy of Donna Moulton, Todd Wright, Catriona Tudor Erler, Michelle Dombrowski, Karen Ellsworth, Alex Drewry, Jane Cowles, Bartlett Tree Experts and the Hunting Creek Garden Club

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