



## BUILDING A BOUQUET FROM YOUR LATE SUMMER GARDEN

*Presented by: Leah Baker*

### THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

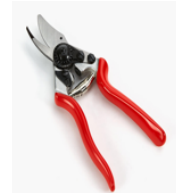
- **Vessel to place flowers in.**

I like to use non-traditional things like a water pitcher, antique silver serving bowl, an old metal bucket, a watering can, or a vintage porcelain urn. You can really use anything around your home or garden as a vessel. The key is if it can't hold water then it has to be large enough to put a glass vase to hold the actual water & florals.

- **Garden Shears:**

I switch between

- Felco #4 shears (good all-purpose pruning & trimming)
- Gardening scissors (good for thinner stemmed plants)



- **Bucket of cold water:**

While cutting your stems from your garden it is key, especially in the heat of the summer, to quickly place the cut stems into a bucket of cold water. Flowers & foliage can quickly wilt by the time you get back inside to arrange.

- **Flower Food:**

This keeps your flowers fresher longer & helps fight the mold.

Here's a simple recipe to make your own right from your own kitchen

- 1 quart water
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon bleach.

The sugar is the food part and the bleach will help to slow fungi and bacteria growth.

### HOW TO CREATE A SUMMER BOUQUET:

Ok! Now that we have all our materials & our florals of choice, let's get arranging!

1. Take a walk in your garden & find what florals & foliage that speak to you! This is the best way to determine what type of arrangement you are inspired to create. Utilizing plants that are about to hit their peak in the season in which you are arranging helps you enjoy the season even more! All the flowers that we will be using today are all late



summer bloomers. Don't forget to have your bucket of cold water & shears & start snipping away!

2. Start placing the biggest florals first (these should be your show stopping stems, the ones that are really going to be your big show blooms). I like to select these stems in different stages of blooming (EG: one stem fully opened, one stem fully closed, one stem partially opened etc.) that way over the course of the arrangements life it will always have blooms. These bigger/thicker stems will act as stabilizers for the rest of the arrangement.
3. Tips: Here's what NOT to do:
  - DON'T cut all your stems the same size. Snip each individual stem as you place them in your vessel for varying heights to increase visual interest.
4. Place your tall or bushy foliage. These should be your foliage items that are more filler rather than blooming stems. That being said instead of just using traditional salal for filler I like using fillers such as: eucalyptus, dusty miller, sage, chocolate mint, dill, basil, rosemary, etc. Making simple arrangements using garden flowers & herbs is not only extremely gratifying, it's a great way to use herbs that might otherwise be wasted. Sometimes herbs grow very fast and it's hard to use them quickly enough.
5. Now it's time to add in the smaller more delicate flowers around the sides. Remember, these aren't your big show bloomers these are smaller bloomers that act more as a base around everything else.
6. Fluff! Now it's time to pull things out again that the sizes don't work for your aesthetic. This is all personal preference; you don't have to adjust anything that you already like the look of. You are also moving around your stems to get a better flow of staggering in your arrangement. Keep an eye out for bare spots in your arrangement, if all sides will be seen ensure that all sides have evenly dispersed flowers & foliage.
7. Upkeep is key! In order to enjoy them for as long as possible, it's important to pamper them a little. Every other day, empty the containers and refill with fresh water. Another trick is to re-snip the ends of all the stems. This will open up the stem again so the fresh water can be absorbed. Don't forget to re-introduce your home-made flower food.

### **Floral arrangement is so fun!**

Some of the best ways to learn more about floral arranging is through books, YouTube, & TV shows.

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

*In Full Flower: Inspired Designs by Floral's New Creatives.* 2017. by Gemma Ingalls, Andrew Ingalls

*On Flowers: Lessons from an Accidental Florist.* 2019. by Amy Merrick

## RECOMMENDED YOU TUBE CHANNELS

Hitomi Gilliam. *The Hitomi Gilliam YouTube Channel*. <https://www.youtube.com/c/HitomiGilliam>

Garden Answer. *Garden Answer* <https://www.youtube.com/c/gardenanswer>

## RECOMMENDED TV SHOWS

The Big Flower Fight. 2020-. *Netflix* app.

Full Bloom. 2020-. *HBOMax* app.

Gardener's World. 1998-. *BBC Two*.

## RECOMMENDED FLORISTS

**Another great way to enjoy beautiful floral arrangements is by shopping local.**  
So instead of buying from places like Trader Joe's, support local independent florists.

Some of my favorite local florists are...

### **Busara Floral**

Website: [busaraflora.com](http://busaraflora.com) Instagram: [@busara.flora](https://www.instagram.com/busara.flora)

### **Fleurs De Moufette**

Website: [fdmflorist.com](http://fdmflorist.com) Instagram: [@fdmflorist](https://www.instagram.com/fdmflorist)

### **Flower Lab**

Website: [seattleflowerlab.com](http://seattleflowerlab.com) Instagram: [@seattleflowerlab](https://www.instagram.com/seattleflowerlab)

### **Analog Floral**

Website: [analogfloral.com](http://analogfloral.com) Instagram: [@analogfloral](https://www.instagram.com/analogfloral)



Enjoy the rest of your summer & be well!

~ Leah