

Basic Design "At Home With Flowers"

UNIT 4 Fruits & Vegetables class notes, page 1

**What to
bring to
class**
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I. Attributes

- Tease the eye and tempt the palate
- Appeal in the pocketbook because it can be used as food later
- Offers a wide variety of forms and textures to work with
- Seasonal interpretation possible.



II. Choosing from a variety of available forms

- many shapes and textures
- choose fresh, free from blemishes, slightly green lasts longer
- test for firmness
- avoid cutting
- determine lasting quality of specimens
- your design may be either fruit or vegetable, or a combination. Best effect is usually when you stick with one or the other.
- may be combined with flowers and/or foliage
- combination of materials must be harmonious

- For Height: carrots, corn, cucumbers, sweet peppers, horseradish root, parsnips, red or green bananas, yellow squash and zucchini.

- Clusters: smaller fruit and vegetables - brussels sprouts, cranberries, cherry or kidney beans, garlic, grapes, kumquats, limes, mushrooms, nuts, okra, radishes.



III. Planning an arrangement

- Mainstays: cabbage, eggplant, pineapple, small pumpkins and large squashes.
 1. have good form, color and lasting qualities
 2. basic to designs because of their size and interesting shapes
 3. provide a foundation for fastening other materials
 4. establish height and focus
- Round-medium-sized group: apples, artichokes, avocado, beets, bell peppers, coconut, kohlrabi, mangos, papaya, pears, persimmons, pomegranates, squash, turnips, red and yellow onions.

Cluster elements can be strung on wire or bunched and used

- to cascade over the lip of a container to soften the edge

- to rest on a base as transition to the design

- to fill spaces left by uneven shapes.



Remember: Each shape has a particular function - cylindrical for height, round for weight and center of interest. Any vegetable that combines two shapes (turnip) is good for transition.



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Oranges, lemons, yellow bananas and grapefruit may be difficult to use because of their bold colors. Leafy materials wilt easily at room temperatures. Plums, peaches, strawberries, cherries and tomatoes are hard to wire and mash easily.

IV. Condition

- select those in top condition, slightly under ripe
- dust free
- the "bloom" is usually attractive (ie. the greyish coating seen on grapes, plums)
- wash, wipe clean and buff with a soft cloth
- do not use oil or polish

V. Containers

- Footed compotes, reed mats, wooden slabs, crocks, basin, trays, casseroles, celery and vegetable dishes, baskets, cornucopias, scales, ornamental boxes.
- Choose what is appropriate for the location in which it is to be placed and for the type of materials you will be putting into it.



MECHANICS - What to Bring

1. Chicken wire, needlepoint holder
2. Florist picks, bamboo skewers, stakes with V at one end, strong toothpicks, dowels.
 - a. Useful for holding fruit in position. Press half of a skewer into one piece of fruit and half into another. Push the fruit together. It is not harmed as it is by using wire that may rust.
 - b. Heavy fruit such as pineapple may be held in place by 2 or 3 pieces of dowel stuck into its base and then into floral foam or a needlepoint.
3. Ice pick
4. Pliers
5. Wire
6. Orchid tubes

tape onto longer sticks and use to position flowers or foliage higher up in the design when stem is too short. Easily filled with water while in design by using a syringe.
7. Small containers to hold water for flowers or foliage.
8. Stem wrap for bunching small fruits or nuts
9. Floral wire for bunching



Needlepoint holder



orchid or water tubes



stem wrap



wired pick

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See photos of the [2005 Fruits/Vegetables class](#)

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VII. Helpful Hints

Planned simplicity is the aim of the designer.

- Design may be line, line-mass, or mass design. If used as a mass, be sure it is full, but not crowded. It's effectiveness should depend upon quantities of plant materials, grouping of kinds and colors and a properly formed center of interest.
- Combine fruits and/or vegetables with flowers and foliage.
- Bold flowers combine with rugged fruits and vegetables.
- Delicate flowers combine with refined fruits and vegetables.
- Either the flowers/foliage or fruits/vegetables must dominate - they must not be equal in amount. Use the one that does not dominate as the center of interest in your design.

Texture is important in relating the plant material to the container. It helps determine the style of the design - formal or casual. It furnishes accent or contrast. The skin determines the textural characteristics - shiny, downy, nubby, crisp, rough, etc. The design can be dull unless it has strong textural contrasts.

Depth

Overlapping leaves, some objects partially hidden, nuts, fruits, gently curving, tendrils are some components to help achieve depth. Dark and light values help achieve depth.

To secure **Harmony and Rhythm**, regulate color pattern carefully. Avoid spottiness. Repetition of the general color scheme is essential for rhythm. Hues should be varied but compatible.



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Two designs will be practiced.

One design may be in a container, but the other must have a flat surface such as:

- straw plate or tray
- marble base
- silver tray
- board
- cake compote
- flat bed tray

One design will have a "featured item", such as a straw plate standing, a ceramic rabbit, dog, figurine, an interesting sculpture or a wooden carved object.

The featured item will tell you what plant material to use. For instance:

- Straw plate - black-eyed Susan, grasses, squash, gourds, pumpkins, etc.
- Island statue - tropical plants, bananas, kiwi, mango, etc.
- Oriental statue - simple asymmetrical plant material, mums, bamboo, plums, cherries, cabbage.

The other design will also be on a flat surface but will have a large fruit or vegetable as the main item to work around (cabbage, pineapple, broccoli, coconut, pumpkin, artichoke, cauliflower or cantaloupe).

Remember:

1. This kind of design uses spiked forms, round forms and filler forms (grapes, Brussels sprouts, cherries, string beans, apricots, blackberries, blueberries).
2. Bring toothpicks, wire, floral picks, water picks, cupholders/needlepoints, floral foam.
3. As we critique this class, some fruits and vegetables may be shared with others as we rearrange to accomplish the principles of design.
4. The flat surface helps us take everything to the front of the class safely.
5. The tools of design - Elements. They still apply to this kind of design!

**Principles
of Design**
Balance
Rhythm
Dominance
Contrast
Proportion
Scale

**Elements
of Design**
Line
Color
Light
Texture
Pattern
Form
Size
Space

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Review of Suggested Materials for Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and Vegetables

Apples - red, green, yellow
Artichokes
Bananas
Cucumbers
Gourds
Grapes - red or green
Indian Corn
Limes
Long green beans
Tomatoes (solid)

Fresh Plant Material

Alstromeria
Aspidistra
Aucuba
Boxwood
Carnations
Euonymous
Holly
Hydrangeas
Ivy leaves

Dried Plant Material

Acorns
Grasses
Okra pods
Moss

Carrots
Pumpkins
Nuts
Oranges
Peppers - banana, red, green
Pineapple
Radishes
Squash - yellow, green

Liatris
Loquat leaves
Magnolia leaves
Mullien
Mums
Pachysandra
Sedum
Photinia
Statice

Pine cones
Siberian Iris pods
Wheat
Yarrow

Containers

Bases

- glass
- metal
- trays
- wooden

Baskets

Compotes

Cornucopias

Pincups, needlepoints

Bring a Featured Object!

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