

"Flower Photo Shoot" Tips

Porter County 4-H Photography Project

1. Camera settings
 - ✓ Highest resolution
 - ✓ Point & Shoot Digital—set on “flower”
 - ✓ Digital SLR—may need to set on “macro” or else zoom in
 - ✓ Turn off the flash
2. Choose flower
 - ✓ Consider shape, color, contrast, lines
 - ✓ Do odd numbers—one, three, etc.
 - ✓ Mist with water to brighten the color of the flower
3. Select background
 - ✓ Make it as plain as possible—or get so close that there is no background
 - ✓ Draped black cloth or black foam board could be used as background
 - ✓ Use short depth of field to blur background
 - ✓ Smooth or simple pattern—not busy
 - ✓ Contrasting or complimentary color
4. Select setting and props
 - ✓ Use your artistic abilities to enhance the subject
 - ✓ Pedestals
 - ✓ Table covers, doilies
5. Arrange
 - ✓ Try several arrangements
 - ✓ Try a variety of flowers
6. Work with lighting
 - ✓ May shoot flowers in a shady spot outdoors or in full sun
 - ✓ May light a spot (with spotlights or lamps) in the corner of a room or
 - ✓ use natural light from a window
 - ✓ Side light is most effective for bringing out texture, dimension and depth
 - ✓ Avoid flash
7. Choose shooting angles
 - ✓ Try a variety of viewpoints (above, below, side, front, etc.)
8. Off center or use rule of thirds
 - ✓ Be sure to lock the focus
9. Fill the frame (little or no foreground)
 - ✓ Get up close and fill the frame with your subject

Samples on the next page:



Short depth of field produces blurred background.



Green grass makes a great backdrop.



The iris is slightly off-center with the leaves creating leading lines to the subject.



Keep it colorful. Have odd number of flowers.



Spritz with water for added sparkle in sunlight.



Shadows can add interest. (They often detract from the subject.)