

1929

EC1165 Revised 1929 Flower Arrangements

Rizpah A. Douglass

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

Douglass, Rizpah A., "EC1165 Revised 1929 Flower Arrangements" (1929). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 2463.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/2463>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

62-59173

AGRI

85
E7

#1165R

Revised

1929

out of print

Nebraska

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

Extension
Circular
1165

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

File Copy



Figure 1

The skillful handling of flowers is a restful and interesting avocation with unlimited resources. Because they add greatly to the charm of a room, it is well to consider a few principles to guide us in making them appear at their best.

Flower Containers

Vases are merely containers for the flowers, therefore, we will want to choose them with care. A vase in which the design is over emphasized will detract from the beauty of the flowers. Vases with a slight decoration may add to the beauty of the flowers if the design follows the structural lines of the vase.

Plain neutral colors in vases are best because they serve as a background and give a base or weight to the flowers. Colors suitable for vases are putty color or other earth colors, wood brown, soft dull blue, grayed green, dulled rose, ivory and black.

It does not take a great outlay of money to have a number of vases that serve the purpose nicely. Watch the stores for inexpensive dishes of good proportion and color. Some mixing bowls, olive, pickle and ginger jars have possibilities. Many pickle bottles may be painted a flat coat of color that will make them attractive flower containers. See pages 2 and 3.

Materials Needed for Making Vases at Home

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Flat bristle brush, 1 inch wide. | Newspaper. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint flat white paint. | Old rags. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ pint gray enamel. | Old bottles, pickle jars, vases, etc. |
| 1 pint turpentine. | 1 tube permanent blue. |
| Small mixing dishes. | 1 tube chrome yellow No. 2. |
| | 1 tube scarlet vermillion. |



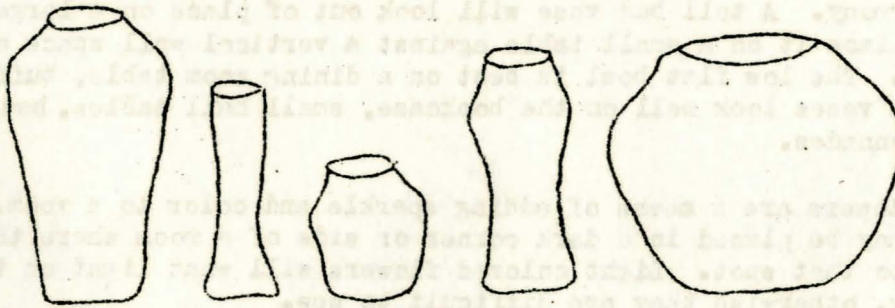
Poorly Shaped Vases

Method

1. Squeeze out the same amount of red, yellow and blue, each in a separate pan, about one-half of the smaller tubes. Moisten with 2 t. turpentine, mix until smooth.
2. When painting over glass or crockery, we will want to paint the first coat a flat white. This will stick to the surface and cover up the glass, for enamel will not stick to a smooth surface.
3. Next we will mix the color desired and paint the number of coats needed. Do not put on a decoration. Strive for a pleasing color which serves to enhance the beauty of the flowers.

Proportions for Mixing Colors

| Color Desired | Colors used to obtain color | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Putty color or tan | 2 t. gray enamel | 2 t. white |
| | 1 t. yellow | 1 t. blue |
| | 2 t. red | |
| Grayed green | 1 t. gray | $\frac{1}{4}$ t. red |
| | 1 t. blue | |
| | $\frac{1}{2}$ t. yellow | |
| Dulled blue | 1 t. gray | Trace of red |
| | $\frac{1}{2}$ t. blue | Trace of yellow |
| | $\frac{1}{8}$ t. green | |
| Dulled rose | 1 t. white | $\frac{1}{2}$ t. blue |
| | $1\frac{1}{2}$ t. gray | 9 drops of yellow |
| | 2 t. red | |
| Grayed old rose | To 2 t. of the rose mixed above, add 1 t. gray enamel. | |
| Ivory | To 2 t. of the tan, add 5 t. white or as many as needed to get as light as desired. | |



Good Shaped Vases

Relation of Flower and Vase

The natural growth of the flowers suggests the type of vase to be used. Short stemmed flowers need to be placed in a low bowl and tall flowers in a tall vase. If a low bowl is used for tall flowers, be sure the bowl is broad enough to appear balanced.

The texture of the flowers and vase will want to harmonize. Delicate flowers such as sweet peas, baby's breath and roses look well in glass vases. The more sturdy flowers may be placed in the glazed pottery or enameled dishes, then the coarser flowers in the rough surface vases.

Arrangement in the Bowl

There are three considerations when arranging flowers which are: rhythm, balance, and combination of flowers.

Balance. This may be obtained by placing the taller flowers in the center of the vase, then place the more conspicuous flowers around these. Arrange the flowers loosely, letting them follow their own graceful lines. Over-crowding and obvious symmetry are the two most common faults found in arranging flowers. Balance means repose, so try to get a feeling of balance without having exact symmetry.

Rhythm. The eye should travel from one part of a bouquet to another, if it stops the rhythm is poor. If the eye moves along easily the rhythm is good. This may be accomplished in the stem of the flowers or by repeating a bright color in various parts of the bouquet. The stems of the flowers will want to be at various heights. Flowers at the same height become uninteresting. Compare figures 3 and 9.

Flower Combinations. Only a limited number of flowers should be put into one bouquet. A single combination either in one or many colors gives a pleasing effect. Bouquets containing more than three kinds of flowers are usually unsatisfactory. When the bouquet is made of mixed flowers, let one color predominate. Use white and green foliage to tone down the colors and act as a harmonizer between the colors. Some pleasing flowers that may be used together are:

- Snapdragon, bachelor buttons, blanket flower
- Orange gladiolus, reddish brown zinnia
- Larkspur, and daisies
- Bachelor buttons and golden glow
- Yellow orange and red zinnias and white daisies
- Tulips and pussy willows
- Roses and pussy willows

Placing of Flowers in the Room

The size of the bouquet and the size of the surrounding objects will want to be in harmony. A tall bud vase will look out of place on a large dining room table, but place it on a small table against a vertical wall space and it becomes interesting. The low flat bowl is best on a dining room table, buffet or library table. Tall vases look well on the bookcase, small hall tables, bedside tables or between colonnades.

Flowers are a means of adding sparkle and color to a room. Bright colored flowers may be placed in a dark corner or side of a room where they will seem to draw light to that spot. Light colored flowers will want light on them to bring out their beauty, otherwise they are difficult to see.

Winter Bouquets

It is not necessary to go without some decorations in winter. Tall grasses dried, will keep their beauty and shape for a long time if they are not put into water. Pussy willows may be kept from one season to the next if placed in a jar without water, and will serve to brighten up a room. Sumac in the fall adds a bright note of color. It is not necessary for us to spend money on flowers, look for the beauty in the common things about us, for frequently weeds and wild flowers are beautiful in color and in line. Flowering bulbs may be obtained easily and there are many varieties of seed pods and berries that stay beautiful thruout the winter. Some of the common ones are barberry, baby's breath, statice, bitter sweet, Japanese lanterns, poppy heads, everlasting flowers, teasel and hydrangea. There is such a wealth of weeds and grasses that last over the winter that it is not necessary to make up the less attractive paper flower or to paint weeds for they stay beautiful in their natural state. Figure 1 shows bitter sweet and Chinese lanterns used together in an attractive winter bouquet.

Poor Flower Arrangements

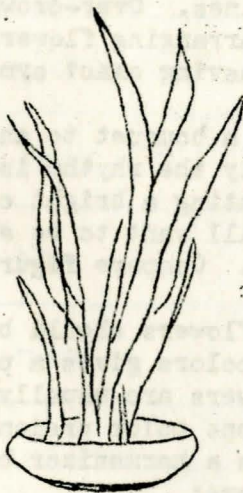


Fig. 2
Too Tall



Fig. 3
Same height



Fig. 4

Good Flower Arrangements

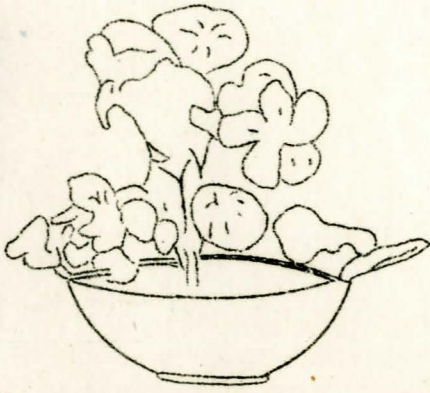


Fig. 5

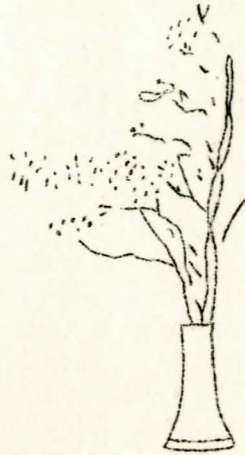


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

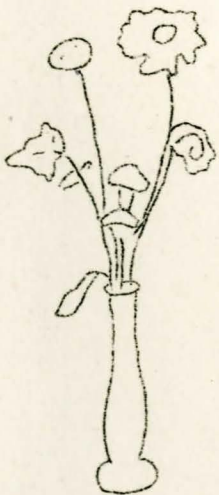


Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

(Prepared by Rizpah Douglass)