

## FLORAL DESIGN

A flower arrangement starts with your choice of flowers and foliage. You don't need to have a lot of flowers to make an arrangement. As few as three flowers can be arranged beautifully if you have a plan to design.

There are three basic shapes of flowers and foliage. (1) Line material or Spikes , (2) Dominant or Round material, (3) and Trailing materials.

**CONTAINERS:** The choice of a container is very important...many choices..pottery using earth tones works well for most designs. Black is often used in designs with an Oriental influence. White may be used if white flowers are included in the design. Decorated containers may be used in the home, but should be used with care in competition.

**MECHANICS:** Are many things—oasis, needlepoint holder, floral clay or anything to support the arrangement, but must be concealed.

**CONDITIONING:** Extremely important...sharp knife or scissors..cut in early morning or late evening. Place in deep warm water immediately. Recut stems under water and store in dark place several hours or overnight. Certain flowers (milky sap) such as poppies, dahlias, should have ends charred before placing in water. Do not store in a refrigerator if any fruit is being stored there as the fruit may give off poisonous gases.

**IMPORTANT MEASUREMENT:** Called the Golden Ratio of Golden Mean is used to determine the height or width of the arrangement. Use a ruler when you first start. After a while you will learn to trust your eye.

The Line material used to establish the shape or structure should be about one to one-half times the bigger dimension of the container. (In a vertical arrangement the height of the tallest stem should be about one and one-half the height of the container. In a horizontal, the arrangement should be one and one-half the width of the container).

**BALANCE:** Visual balance calls for the arrangement to look stable...not top heavy or bottom heavy or one side to appear heavier than the other. An uneven number of flowers can be more interesting and placing the largest near the bottom center of the design gives a feeling of balance or stability. Dark colors also appear to be heavier and this should be considered.

**COIOR:** We all notice color. Well-chosen colors enhance the complete arrangement. Think about color combinations you like and look at pictures or home accessories that please you.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPLES IOF DESIGN OR ELEMENTS OF DESIGN:**

Exhibiting and Judging Handbook--MN. State of Horticulture Society---The Flower Arranging Expert by D.G. Hessayon