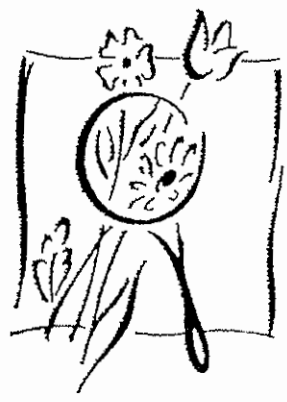
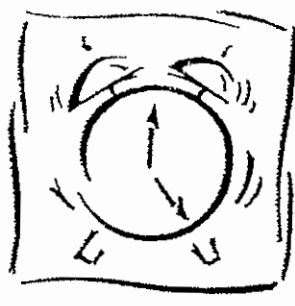


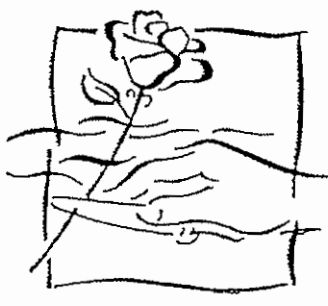
Follow These 10 Steps to Successful Fresh Flower Care



Source the freshest flowers available - you usually get what you pay for! The old saying "garbage in, garbage out" is very true. Know what you're buying! All varieties are not the same...a rose is not a rose is not a rose!



Process flowers immediately upon arrival. Process the most expensive and "problem flowers" first, like roses and gerbera daisies. Remove foliage below the water level to prevent rotting.



Cut all flowers under water. This is often called "life insurance" for flowers. It can help ensure hydration for the "watch it wilt" flowers like gerbera daisies, bouvardia and some rose varieties. It can also save many minutes in conditioning time.



Pretreat flowers with a hydration solution

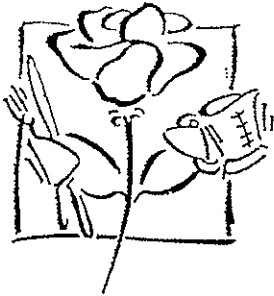
To help ensure maximum hydration and a free flowing stem, pretreat your flowers with a long term (*i.e.*, Floralife's Hydraflor®/100) or instant hydration solution like Floralife's Hydraflor® Quick Dip. This can be especially helpful with field grown crops and is a must for roses and gerbera daisies to help prevent "bent necks."



Place flowers in a flower food solution

Flowers need to be nourished with fresh flower food to maximize their enjoyment for the customer. Flower foods generally contain:

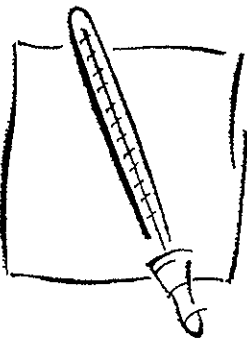
1. An acid to lower the pH of the solution. Flowers like a pH of 3-4.5 depending on water quality.
2. Ingredients to keep the stems vascular bundle free flowing.
3. An energy source (*sugar*) to nourish the flowers.



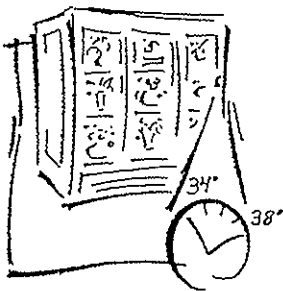
It is important to measure the flower food correctly to maximize results.

There are three easy ways to achieve this:

- a. Mark gallon levels on the side of your stock buckets
- b. Use a sink proportioner
- c. Take the guesswork and labor out of this step and utilize a Dosatron® dispensing unit



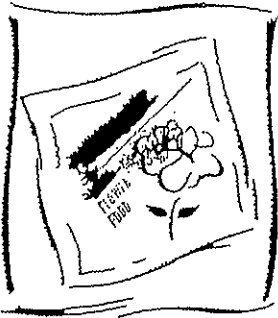
Let flowers stand at room temperature for 1-2 hours. This is important so flowers can hydrate completely before being refrigerated. If you are concerned about roses opening too quickly, let them stand at room temperature for just one half hour or less and refrigerate.



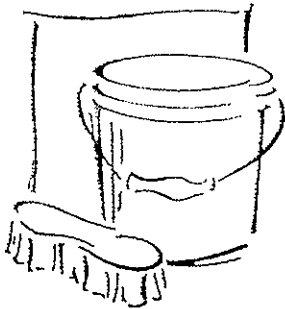
Place in a 34° - 38°F cooler with 80-90% humidity. This is crucial so you don't sacrifice shelf life for vase life. For example: Flowers kept at 50° F will deteriorate 2 to 3 times faster than those kept at 37° F. Tropicals should be kept at 55°F or at room temperature if a 55° cooler is not available.

Maintaining high humidity is important to reduce water loss which can cause water stress.

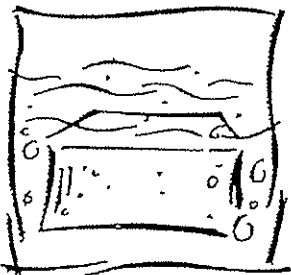
Proper refrigeration can also reduce damage caused by ethylene gas.



Give a fresh flower food packet (10 grams) with each purchase - this will help educate the consumer on proper care and handling.



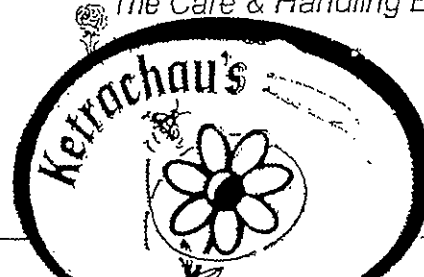
Clean buckets, coolers, etc. with Floralife's D.C.D.™ cleaning solution. This will help keep the stems free flowing and help inhibit problems caused by bacteria. You don't want to drink out of a dirty glass - your flowers don't either! One gallon of D.C.D. makes 128 gallons of use solution. D.C.D. also has a residual effect of keeping the bucket clean days after treatment.



Properly soak floral foam in a fresh flower food solution before using. This can help counteract the negative by-products inherent to all floral foams. Also, flowers need to be hydrated and nourished in foam just as they do in a glass vase.

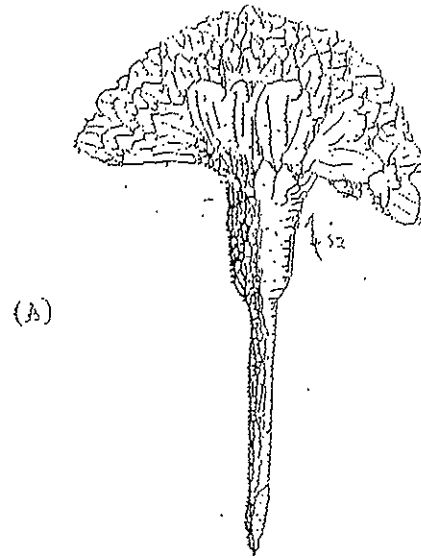
By adopting a system of professional fresh flower care, you can help maximize your clientele's enjoyment of their fresh flower purchase and add \$\$ to your bottom line by reducing shrinkage.

The Care & Handling Experts

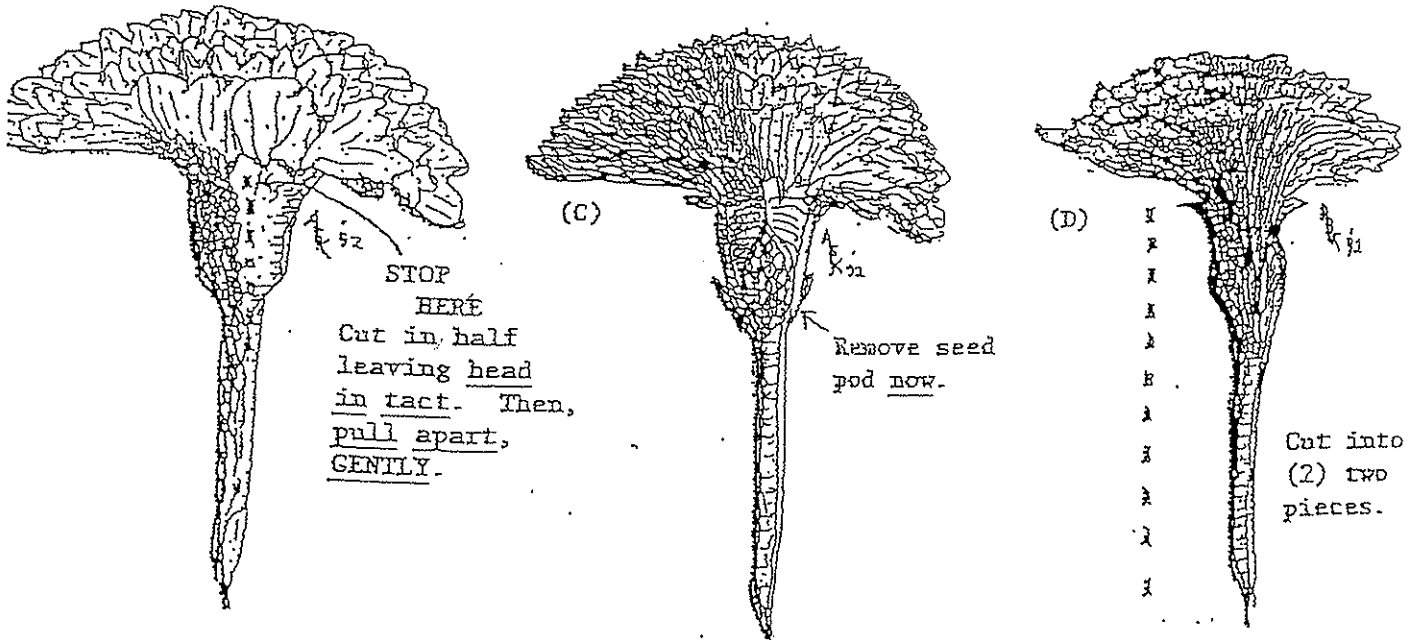


FEATHERING CARNATIONS

Step 1: Lay carnation as shown on table.



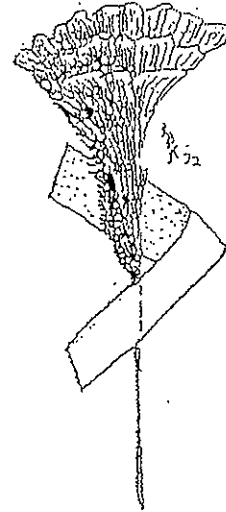
Step 2: Take a sharp knife and cut the flower into two pieces, leaving the sheath in tact. Cut as the dotted line shows: Each cut leaving a small part of the *sheath.



Note: When wiring these delicate petals together, you are less likely to cut the floret with the sheath mixed in because of the thickness of it.

FEATHERING CARNATIONS, CONTINUED

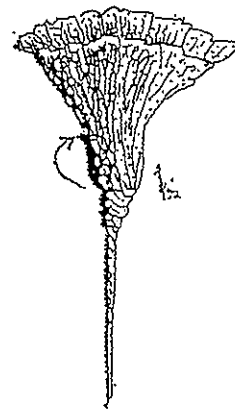
Step 3: Beginners should now tape each little bundle together with a small piece of floral tape. Reason: Makes the *feathers more manageable.



Note: If you will roll the stem slightly in one direction while holding the end still, you can decrease the bulk of the bundle and make taping easier.

Example:

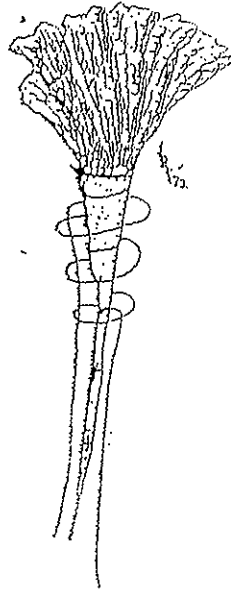
TWIST ONE TO ONE-HALF TURN.
BE CAREFUL, THIS IS VERY TENDER.



NOW TAPE TO SECURE.

FEATHERING CARNATIONS, CONTINUED

Step 4: (Now that you have neat bundles that are “feathers”, you can proceed to the finishing steps.) Take a fine wire, about 24 gauge and wire the piece as you would a normal small carnation for hand work.



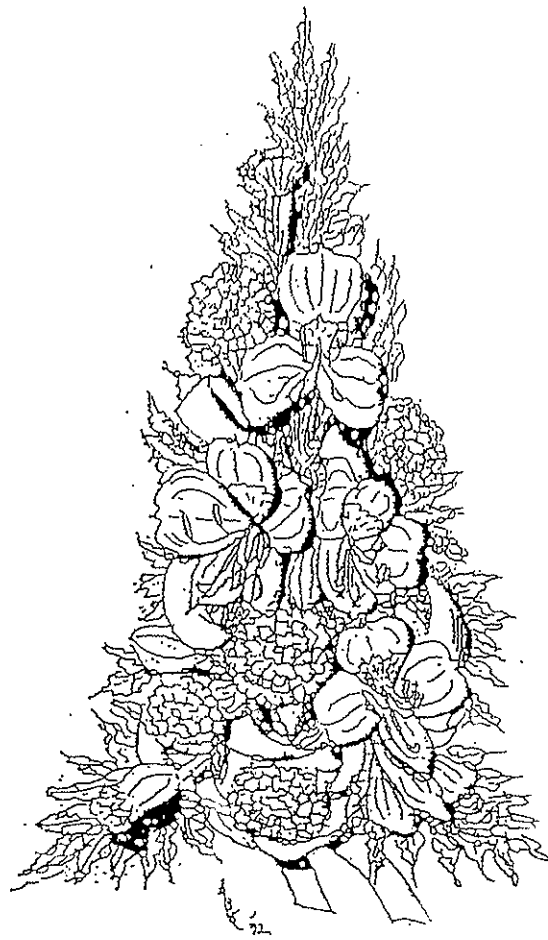
Step 5: To finish, tape neatly.

Note: As you get used to this method, you may choose to not tape until the last step.

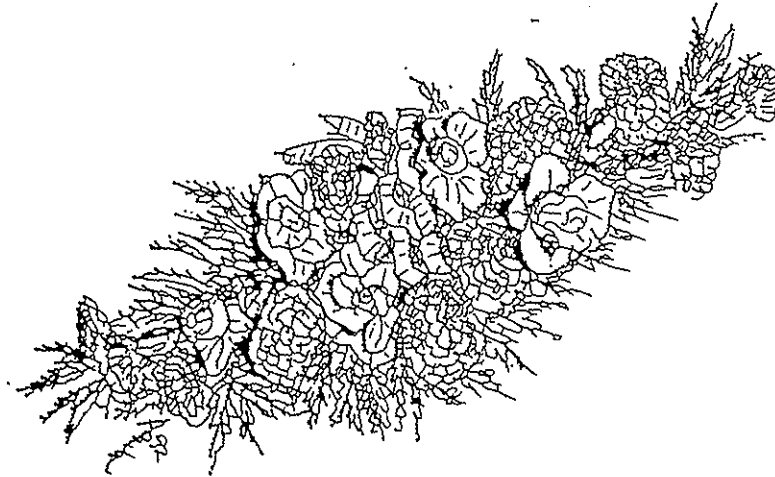
**TRIANGLE CORSAGE
OF
DAISY POMS**



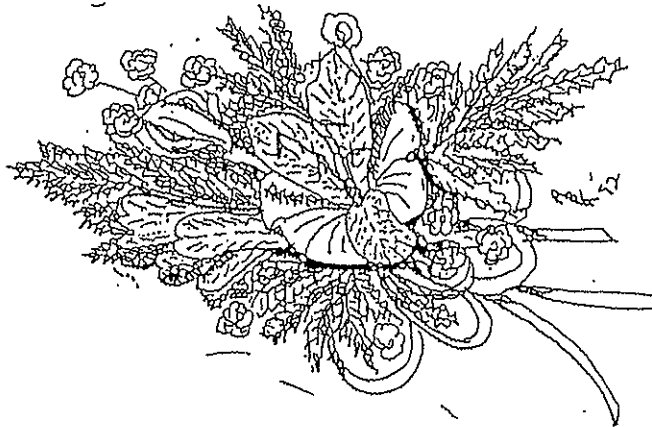
TRIANGLE CORSAGE
OF
ALSTROEMELIA
AND
MINI CARNATIONS



DOUBLE CORSAGE



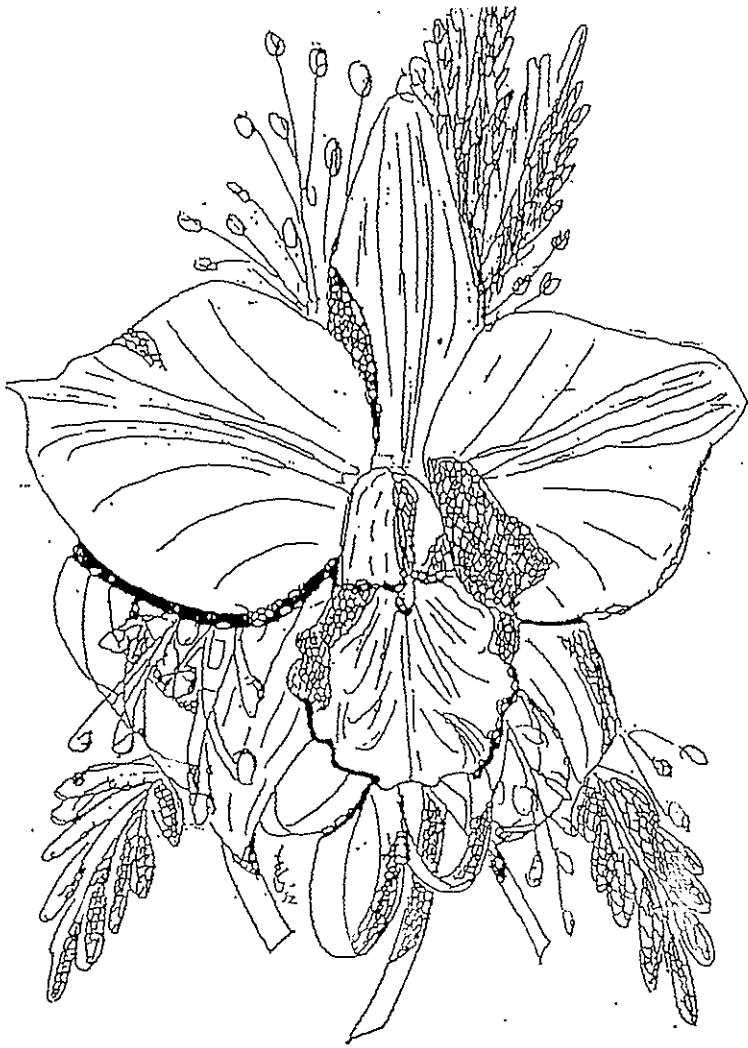
CRESCENT CORSAGE



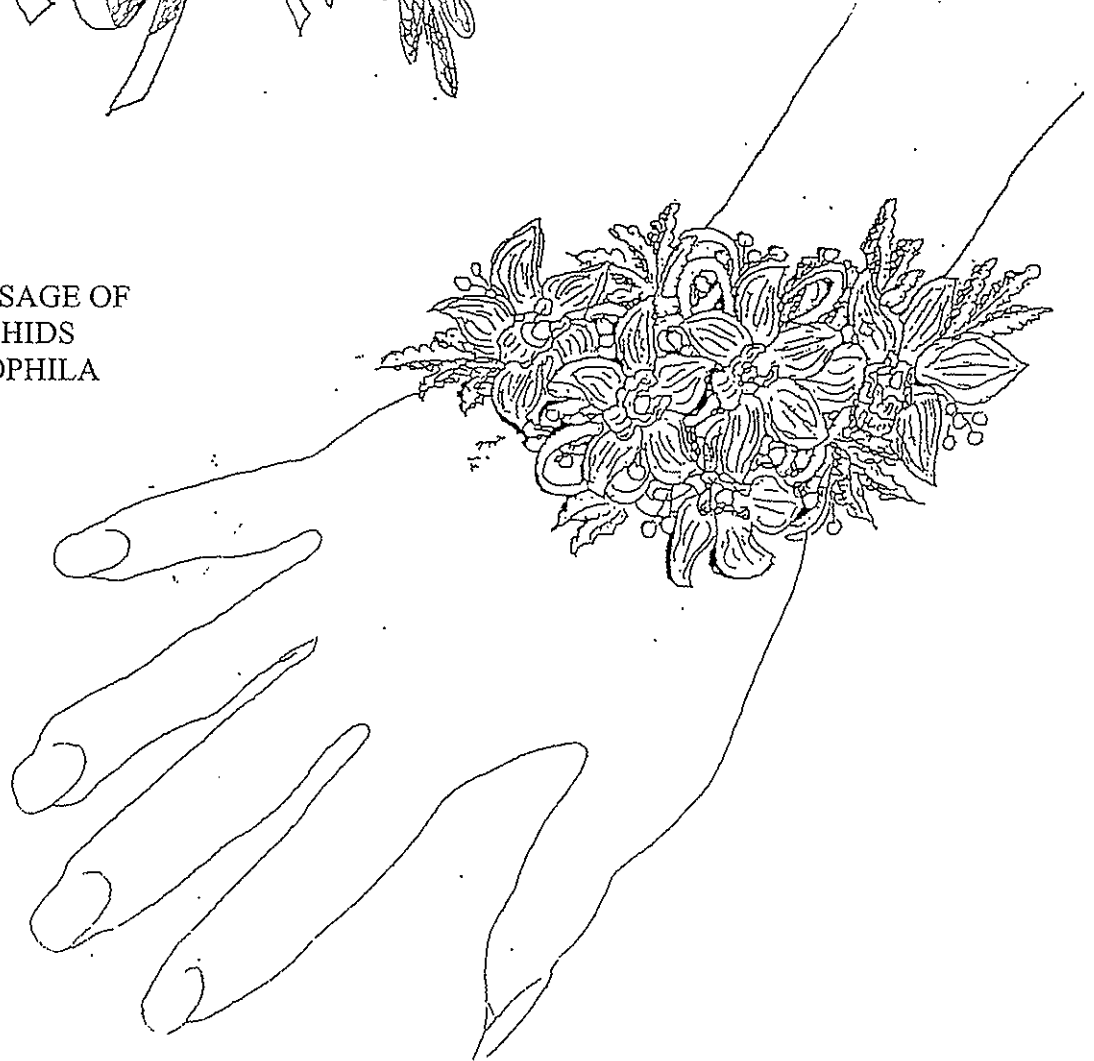
TEAGIRL CORSAGE

This corsage is designed for serving "girls" at parties, weddings, etc., normally the volume dictates size. As an inexpensive pin-on only a minimum of flowers are used. Usually only one, two, or three flowers, a bit of greenery and a bit of filler of some type are used.

SINGLE FLOWER CORSAGE



WRIST CORSAGE OF
SPRAY ORCHIDS
AND GYPSOPHILA



CORSAGES AND BRIDAL BOUQUETS

- Use correct gauge wire. 24 – 30
- Taping
 - Stretch tape
 - Avoid bulk
- Do the requested design.
- Use appropriate ribbon. +3
- Foliage should not overshadow flowers
- Place flowers according to size and color.
- Make sure all construction is hidden.
- Size should be in proportion to style and shape.
- Cut excess wire as you work our corsage so the corsage will be light.
- Place two corsage pins on the stem in a place that will not injure anyone, preferable in line with the stem with the point not protruding.
- The size of the corsage depends on the size of the person wearing it.
- Smaller corsages are worn in daytime, larger ones in the evening.
- Simple corsages for career women are worn with tailored clothing.
- Gardenias turn brown at the touch and bruise easily. IN working with gardenias, keep a bowl of ice water and dip fingers while working with the flowers. This helps to prevent bruising and having flowers turn brown.
- Some flowers use in corsages:
 - Carnations – roses
 - Miniature carnations – miniature roses
 - Cattleya orchids
 - Cymbidium orchids
 - Gardenias
 - Camellias
 - Daisies
 - Glamellias

CORSAGES AND BRIDAL BOUQUETS, continued

- Flowers – Wedding Work
 - Lilies of the Valley
 - Cymbidium and cattleya orchids
 - Stephanotis
 - Gardenias
 - Roses
 - Glamellias (formed by issuing gladiola petals, “sewing” them together to resemble camllias)

- #1 ½ ribbon is usually called shower ribbon. It is very effective in small corsages, providing a lighter feeling.

- #3 ribbon is usually used in making the corsages. Use a “blending” color instead of a contrasting color.

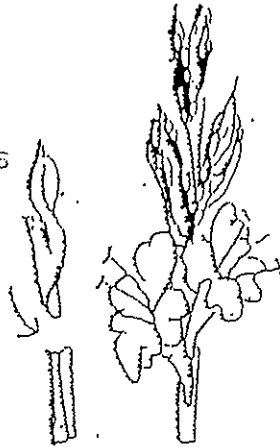
- #3 ribbon is also used to ribbon wrap the bride’s bouquet handle.

- In booking a wedding, try to get a first and second choice of flowers for bouquets. Be sure you follow the rules set up by the church in doing the decorations. Some churches do not allow lit candles in the aisles or may have other “do-nots” in their set-ups.

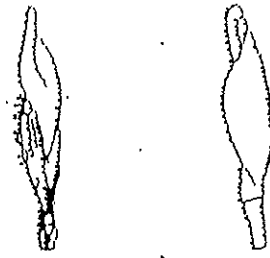
- Parents may ask you to do a write-up for the local paper describing flowers used. Be sure all flowers are spelled correctly.

GLAMELIA

STEP 1
Remove florets
from the stem
(Separate sizes
of Florets)



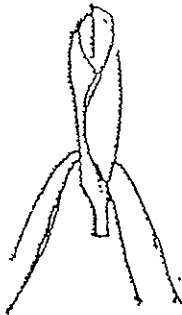
STEP 2



Remove Green Covering

STEP 3

Using a fine
wire such as
#24 or #26,
hair pin floret
twice, as shown



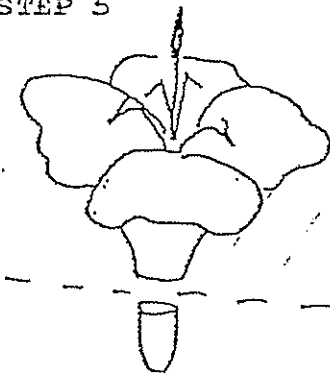
STEP 4

Snug wire to form
a stem. Do not
twist wire as
this will cut the
stem.



STEP 5

Snip other
florets to
form tubes.
Remove the
stamen and
pistils.



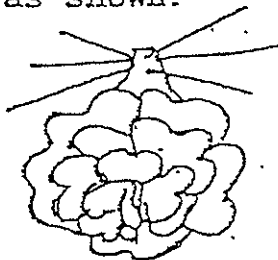
STEP 6

Insert flowers
into one another
to a stack, using
the bud first, as
per the example.



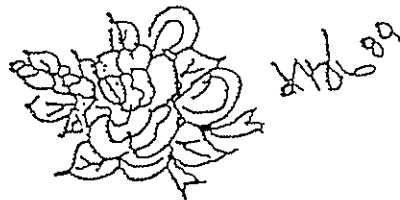
STEP 7

Carefully insert the stack as
shown. Secure the pieces with
hair pin technique wires.
Snug wire in as shown.



STEP 8

Make extra buds for accent.
Compose into corsage.



Composite flowers such as glamellias are unique man-made blossoms not found anywhere in nature. They answer the occasional request for something totally different, a one-of-a-kind look. Created from natural blossoms, glamellias and composite flowers are high-labor designs and should be priced accordingly.

The Glamelia

Flower Suggestions:

- You will need approximately 12 stems of developed gladioli, warmed to room temperature for ease in working with the blossoms. This amount will vary, depending on the size of glamelia being created.

Preparation:

Separate gladioli blossoms into five size categories (Fig 54-1):

- A. Tight bud, showing color
- B. Partially opened bud
- C. Floret just beginning to open
- D. Small open floret
- E. Large open floret

Styling the Bouquet:

- Start with the tight bud (A). Strip off green leaves, but do not remove the end of the flower.
- Select florets, one each of the sizes

listed above. Remove greens from the florets. Hold the blossom with the thumb inside the blossom and the forefinger outside. Use a sharp knife to cut off the end of each blossom, so the stamens drop out, but make sure that the petals of the florets remain joined together.

- Insert the tight bud (A) into the partially opened bud (B) (Fig. 54-2); then insert into the beginning floret (C); into the small floret (D); and finally, into the large floret (E). Insert one wire after each blossom is added.
- Insert at least four thin wires through the completed glamelia, sewing the florets firmly together with wire. Pull the wires down to form the flower stem; tape loosely.
- To enlarge the glamelia:
 - Split gladioli blossoms open at the side, separating the front three petals from the back three petals. Make sure the base of the florets remains intact to hold the petals together.
 - Flip the front three petals over the back three petals, face-to-face, sewing a wire through the petals from side to side. Fold the wire ends down; tape.
 - Add the prepared florets around the

glamelia until the desired size is achieved. If there is difficulty holding the petals together, make small hair-pins out of wire and insert into the glamelia from the side.

- Insert two wires crosswise (Fig. 54-3) for added security. Fold wires down and tape to complete glamelia.
- Design bouquet using several glamelias of varying sizes. Add foliage to accent.
- Back the bouquet with foliage and finish the handle.
- The finished glamelia bouquet (Fig. 54-4).

Glue Techniques for Glamelias

Styling the Bouquet:

- Proceed with the hand-made technique described above through Step 2.
- Using floral adhesive or spray adhesive, coat the bottoms of the flowers and let them stand until the glue is tacky. Piece the glamelia together as described above, eliminating the wires. Continue gluing blossoms until desired size is achieved.
- When desired size is achieved, pierce the glamelia with three wires; tape to form the stem. Back the glamelia with foliage.

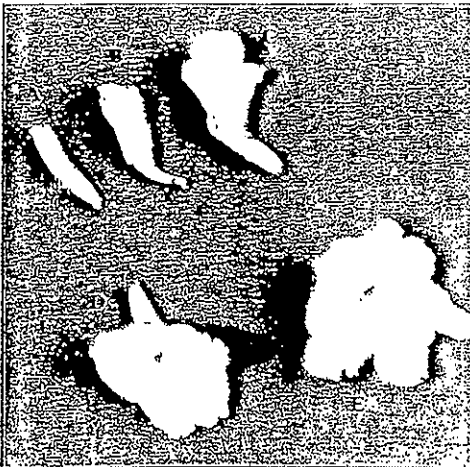


Figure 54-1



Figure 54-2



Figure 54-3



Figure 54-4

WEDDING DESIGN

Handle is incorrectly constructed
Handles contains flower stems
Handle contains greenery stems.
Handles is too long
Handle is too thick
Handle I too short
Handles has exposed wire
Mechanics are not properly concealed
Taping is poorly executed
Taping is very good
Tape needs to be stretched as it is used
Ribbon is not incorporated into the design
Poor construction
Taping is exposed
Focal points is ribbon
Flowers incorrectly wired
Greenery incorrectly wired
Wrong gage wire used on flowers
Wrong gage wire used on greener
Flowers not wired at all
Greenery not wired
Some flowers incorrectly wired
Flowers not spaced in a complimentary manner
Wire is protruding from stems
Too much ribbon/tulle used
Too much filler flowers
Greenery overpowering
Picks used improperly
Poor harmony
Poor focal point
Poor balance
Poor scale
Only principle flower stems should protrude past termination point of handle in the arm bouquet
Principle flower stems must be unwired past termination point of handle of arm bouquet
The handle or termination point must be neatly wrapped an no exposed wire in the arm bouquet

SPRAY OR WREATH

Mechanics are not properly concealed
Ribbon is not incorporated into the design
Flowers are not wood picked properly
Greenery is not steel picked properly
Design will not travel well
Did not use Dixon pins to attach to easel
Dixon pins used improperly
Picks protruding
Poor construction
Flowers that need wiring are not wired
Focal point is ribbon (bow)
Flower incorrectly wired
Greenery incorrectly wired
Wrong gage wire use on flowers
Flowers not wired at all
Some flowers incorrectly wired
Some flowers not spaced in complimentary manner
Too much ribbon used
Too much filler flowers
Greenery overpowering
Picks used improperly
Poor harmony
Poor focal point
Poor balance
Poor scale
Picks not deep enough in Styrofoam

CORSAGE

Mechanics are not properly concealed
Taping is poorly executed
Taping very good
Tape needs to be stretched as it is used
Ribbon is not incorporated in design
Did not use a corsage pin
Corsage pin may injure a person
Poor construction
Corsage stem is bulky
Corsage stem is too short
Corsage stem is too long
Corsage frame not constructed properly
Taping is exposed
Focal point is ribbon
Flowers incorrectly wired
Greenery incorrectly wired
Wrong gauge wire used on flowers
Wrong gauge wire used on greenery
Flowers not wired at all
Greenery not wired
Some flowers incorrectly wired
Flowers not spaced in a complimentary manner
Wire is protruding from the stem
Too much ribbon and/or tulle used
Too much filler flowers
Greenery overpowering
Picks use improperly
Poor harmony
Poor focal point
Poor balance
Poor scale
Wristlet no properly attached

Louisiana State Florists' Association

Using Technology to GROW!

Due to the recent change with the retail florist license testing dates will no longer occur. Instead, you simply need to contact the district office in your area and set up a time to take the test. District offices are listed below.

Alexandria District:

402-A Rainbow Dr.
Pineville, LA 71360
Ph. 318-487-5090 / Fax 318-487-5757

Baton Rouge District:

5825 Florida Blvd, suite 1023
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Ph. 225-952-8102 / FAX: 225-925-7742

Crowley District:

110 S. Western Ave.
Crowley, LA 70526
Ph. 337-788-7529 / Fax 337-788-7573

LDAF Monroe District:

754 Hwy. 80 East
Monroe, LA 71203
Ph. 318-345-7595 / Fax 318-345.1774

New Orleans District:

Room #1034
1100 Robert E. Lee Blvd.
New Orleans, LA. 70124
Tel 504 286-1125
Fax 504 286-1128

Opelousas District:

Louisiana Dept. of Agric. and Forestry
1939 W. Landry, Ste. 101
Opelousas, LA 70570
Ph. 337-948-0230 / Fax 337-948-0229

Shreveport:

Louisiana Dept. of Agric. and Forestry
740 Covington Road
Haughton, LA 71037
Ph. 318-949-3225/ Fax 318-949-6648

For more information contact:

Ansel Rankins
Assistant Director
Louisiana Horticulture Commission
Office of Agricultural & Environmental
Sciences
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and
Forestry
P.O. Box 3596
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3596
(225) 952-8100 PHONE
(225) 925-3760 FAX
arankins@ldaf.state.la.us

Applications are available through the Department of Agriculture. For information concerning classes offered check back with this website often or send inquiries to:

lsfa@lsfaonline.com