



Flower Growing in Wyoming

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A little about me...

- I have ALWAYS loved flowers
- Took some online classes and learned more than I ever thought I could.
- Started officially growing 2 years ago. Just played with flowers before that.
- ½ acre completely devoted to growing cut flowers and vegetables
- I use EVERYTHING that grows, including some weeds and grasses that I did not plant, in my arrangements.
- Have successfully built a seasonal business of selling market bouquets with a few random designs thrown in like Tea Cup Tuesdays!
- Have put together a few weddings and am officially growing for specific weddings in 2020



What grows well here



- Wyoming growing zones range from 3a-6a but most of Wyoming fall into 4b-5a.
- There is really so much that can grow here, even if can only be an annual.
- Shrubs that will work for a perennial show are Nanking Cherries, any species of Crab Apple, Lilacs, Ninebark, Honeysuckle, Juniper, Spirea, Mock Orange, Plum
 - Shrubs are a great way to add in depth and dimension to not only bouquets but to your growing area as well.
- Peonies are also a great “shrub” addition. They only flower early, as do the trees but the greenery they provide for the rest of the season is perfect for bouquets.
- Add roses & hydrangea to the mix

Annuals versus Perennials

- Annuals are a plant you have to plant every year.
- Perennials have long lives. They live for years!



Perfect Perennials

- ❖ Iris
- ❖ Daffodils
- ❖ Tulips
- ❖ Clematis
- ❖ Penstemon
- ❖ Blanket Flower
- ❖ Shasta Daisy
- ❖ Potentilla (Cinquefoils)
 - ❖ Dianthus
 - ❖ Coneflower
 - ❖ Hollyhock
- ❖ Black Eyed Susan
 - ❖ Bee Balm
 - ❖ Salvia (Sage)



Amazing Annuals

- ▶ Bachelor Buttons
- ▶ Bells of Ireland
- ▶ Bupleurum
- ▶ Delphinium
 - ▶ Dill
- ▶ Foxglove
- ▶ Larkspur
- ▶ Love in a Mist
- ▶ Pincushion Flower
 - ▶ Poppies
- ▶ Marigolds
- ▶ Snapdragons
- ▶ Strawflower
- ▶ Sweet Pea
- ▶ Sunflower



Growing

- ▶ DO NOT GIVE UP! Mother Nature is mean but can be short lived.
- ▶ Take your time! Stop and smell those posies
- ▶ Water in the evening. Cut in the morning. Give those beauties a shot of compost tea or fertilizer about once a week.
- ▶ Make sure to build trellises and give support to the taller, heavier flowers. Sweet peas and other vines need trellised. Dahlias need support.



Harvesting

- Take buckets, small, medium and large, and fill with cool water
- Cut everything that is ready! Some take some time to learn. Others are totally obvious.
- Be sure to look around your garden too! Again, weeds and grasses that are growing elsewhere can add huge impacts to bouquets. Think crested wheat grass and clovers.
- Bolted lettuce, herbs and asparagus fern are also fun additions
- Make sure to store the cut flowers in a cool, dark place if not arranging right away
- Some varieties require further maintenance like boiling to be able to sustain





Arranging Market Bouquets

- ▶ This is the fun part! It's pretty simple too!
 - ▶ Make sure the stems are fully hydrated
 - ▶ You have to clean the stems
 - ▶ Represent a number of different categories in your arrangement
 - ▶ Focals – larger, in season blooms
 - ▶ Spikes – height!
 - ▶ Disks – smaller round flowers
 - ▶ Filler – greens
 - ▶ Air – these are random small flowers that are “flowy” or super compact. Think bachelor buttons, flax and hyacinth bean
 - ▶ Make sure your buckets/vases are clean!
- ▶ Key to these bouquets is efficiency!

Selling your flowers



- Presentation is KEY!
 - Selling in the vases or by the sleeve
 - Always have different sizes available and be flexible!
 - Pricing can be tricky but go with your gut on these market bouquets. If it doesn't feel right, it's probably not!
 - Offer ways for folks to contact you, like business cards. Marketing yourself is HUGE!

Resources

- ▶ Floret Flowers – blog and advice, seeds - www.floretflowers.com
- ▶ Johnny's Seeds – growing/selling supplies, seeds - www.johnnysseeds.com
- ▶ Imagine That, LLC – stickers, business cards – 307-621-7001
- ▶ Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds – seeds – www.rareseeds.com
- ▶ University of Wyoming Extension – Publications, offices, master gardeners
- ▶ Amanda Hulet – Bloomin Fresh Farm – www.bloominfreshfarm.com – 307-620-2898

