

# Rye Driftwood Garden Club

Due to Covid-19, the Rye Driftwood Garden Club is currently not holding meetings. Please check our website at [www.ryenhqardenclub.org](http://www.ryenhqardenclub.org) for more information. In the meantime, we hope you find this article on making homemade floral arrangements helpful.

## BRING YOUR FLOWER GARDEN INDOORS THIS SUMMER

By Amy Capasso

*"I MUST HAVE FLOWERS, ALWAYS, AND ALWAYS" Claude Monet*

Walking through a flower garden that you've cultivated can bring lots of joy! All those vibrant colors and fragrant smells are so rewarding. One fun perk to growing flowers is the ability to bring some of that beauty inside and create an arrangement.

While there are many types of flowers you can use, here are some popular suggestions for cutting: *iris, peony, lily, coneflower, salvia, dahlia, zinnia, snapdragon, sunflower, daisy, lilac branches, dianthus, hydrangea, dogwood stems, hyacinth, daffodil, hosta leaves, yarrow, eucalyptus, lemon leaf, tulip, viburnum, dusty miller, lily-of-the-valley, delphinium, veronica, lisianthus, and bachelor's buttons.*

When you are ready to put something together, there are a few simple tricks to gathering flowers that will keep them as fresh as possible. You will need a vase or container, some flower food, sharp scissors or snips, and a handy bucket in which to place flower stems immediately after cutting.

- Harvest your flowers as early in the day as possible while the air is cool and they are likely to be hydrated.
- Choose mostly stems that are just before their peak for maximum enjoyment. Maybe cut a few at peak and at the bud stage to sprinkle into your design for interest.
- Make sure you cut the stem at an angle and just above a set of leaves.
- Bring all your gathered flowers and greens inside for prepping.
- Fill your container about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of cool water and add flower food. If you do not have any flower food, you can easily make your own (similar to the packets you

get with store-bought bouquets). One popular method is to add a teaspoon of both apple cider vinegar and granulated sugar to the water then stir to dissolve.

- Prepare each stem by removing any leaves that will be below the water level in your container. This helps to cut down on contaminants and give a longer life to your flowers.
- Trim each stem to the preferred size by making another angular cut before placing them inside. This will increase the surface area allowing the flowers to absorb more water. Try trimming flowers into different lengths to add a shape to your arrangement.
- Mix in cut greens and flowering branches to add some depth to your design.
- Go beyond your typical vase and get creative with your vessel. Use a favorite bowl, pretty glass bottle, or perhaps a festive canister.
- Change the water and food and trim the stems a little bit every couple of days to keep the flowers fresh.

Harvesting flowers from your garden to make a bouquet or centerpiece will not only give you something pretty to enjoy inside but may also encourage more blooms in your garden.

Enjoy your beautiful arrangement. Happy cutting!





