**Bringing the Outdoors In**

Brighten up your home with vases of home grown fresh cut flowers and foliage

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**What makes a good ‘cut flower’?**

- Stem length at least 12”
- Last 7-10 days in a vase
- Produces lots of flowers
- Easy to grow
- Other considerations
  - Fragrance (Lilacs)
  - Allergies

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**Growing cut flowers-site**

- Many blooming plants need 6+ hours of sun
- Protect from wind
- Close source of water
- Good drainage
- May want to have your soil tested for nutrient levels
  - ndsu.edu/soils/services/soil_testing_lab/

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**Growing**

- Make beds with rows
- Harvest from landscape plants

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**Harvesting**

- Best time is early in the day-cool and not water stressed
- Have very sharp knife or shears to cut stems
- Have a container of water with you to place cut stems immediately into water
  
  OR

- Harvest without water and re-cut stems right before putting into water

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**Stage of development**

- Bud Stage-Solitary type flowers that continue to open after harvest

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Lisianthus 'Cinderella Pink'
Stage of development

- Half-open Stage - Spike type flowers
  - Larkspur
  - Gladiolus
  - Snapdragons
  - Grass Plumes

- Fully-open - 'Head' type flowers
  - Marigolds
  - Asters (Callistephus)
  - Sunflowers
  - Zinnia

“What about the bugs?” 😞
- Thrips
- Ants
- Flies
- Spiders
- Mites
- Beetles

Arranging your flowers

- Easiest thing to do - put them into a vase of fresh water

Trick with vases:

- Make a grid with tape

You could also use floral foam in a container
Extending the vase life of flowers

- Keeping flowers as cool as possible will increase their vase life considerably
  - Keep out of direct sun
  - Keep out of drafts from furnace or A/C.
  - Keep away from any appliances that might be giving off heat
- Remove foliage that will be under the water
  - Foliage in the water decays; bacteria will clog stems
- Change water every 2-3 days
- Re-cut stem ends when changing water

Other tips:

- With annual flowers and grasses, the more you harvest the more flowers will be produced so pick often.
- You will have a better selection if you start your own flowers
  - Some good sources for cut flower seeds:
    - Johnny's Selected Seed (johnnyseeds.com)
    - Burpee (burpee.com)
    - Park Seed (parkseed.com)

Annuals

Lisianthus
Scabiosa
Basil foliage
Purple Fountain Grass

Zinnia with Melinis (Pink Paintbrush Grass)
Dahlias with Basil and Red Fountain Grass

Coreopsis with Basil and Fountain Grass

Snapdragons
Gladiolus
Agastache

Statice
Gomphrena

Erigeron
Amaranth
Helichrysum (Straw Flower)

Fountain Grass
Sweet Potato Vines
Cyperus (King Tut, Baby Tut)

Perennials/Woody Plants
In Summary:

• Don't be afraid to bring flowers into your home.
• Keep a journal and take good notes!

Questions?