

# Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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*Don't be afraid of color. Orange protea complements the neon pink dahlias, peach roses, and pink stock with wisps of asparagus ferns.*

- Build a foundation with foliage, add flowers, wisps and welcome whimsy. Mint, feathery fountain grass, ferns, and climbing vines can spill while organic treasures like acorns, shells, pinecones, feathers, or sliced limes will thrill. Keep turning your vase to view the arrangement on all sides.
- For wide mouth containers, use florist foam as a base, make a grid with clear tape or use curly willow to anchor your flowers.
- Design a dramatic low centerpiece by cutting large flowers very short and arranging in unexpected ways. Combine the heads of roses with succulents or place just the sunny face of big sunflower in a small vase.
- Change water daily or refill water as needed.
- When making bridal bouquets or posies, hold the flowers in one hand and start with the greenery. Thread in new specimens creating a spiral. Keep twisting until the desired look is achieved. Use tape or a rubber band to hold in place and cover with ribbon or fabric.

## **Mechanics of Keeping Bouquets and Posies Fresh**

- As soon as bouquet or posie is complete, put the ends of the bouquet stems in water without allowing any ribbon or trim to get wet.
- Spray the blooms with a light spritz of water.
- Keep bouquet upright in a cool place and if overnight storage is necessary, refrigerate. Make sure to remove fruit from the fridge before placing bouquet inside and warn your friends and family, "Do Not Disturb!"

Start with simple projects to boost confidence. In a clean, empty wine or olive oil bottle, combine three stems of purple sage, razor grass, and native birdseed plumes with a single rose. For certain creations, a container isn't necessary. Mingle dried flowers with living ones, such as purple artichokes with red pyracantha berries and golden liquid amber branches, no water necessary! Pile gourds and pumpkins on a bale of hay for an entryway greeting, or twigs of autumn painted pistache with the aqua and pink fruit attached for a fanciful arch design.

Whether you favor designs that are edgy, opulent, minimalistic, country, urban, or traditional, marry Mother Nature's bounty with your human ability to craft original elegance utilizing her organic elements. Show your love by walking on the wild side to save money, highlight your home with floral focal points, and reserve the bragging rights to "I did this myself!"

