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roses they should be conditioned over night. When cutting roses, take water with you and as you cut, put them immediately into the water. Remember to cut the stems at an angle.

Once you have the roses indoors the stems should be recut underwater to make sure no air bubbles have formed that prevent the uptake of water. Stems should be cut again before being placed in a design. If you are using oasis, remember to recut stems each time they are removed from the oasis. Properly conditioned roses will hold well past the time when they are judged.

Rose arrangements are works of art and each element in the design should be carefully chosen to compliment the other.

Listed below are roses that I have used with success. Remember that this list changes depending upon the area of the country in which you live.

**Modern and Oriental Designs**

*(Most have interesting stamens with clear and true color to their petals.)*

- Dainty Bess
- White Wings
- Altissimo
- Poulsen's Pearl
- My Sunshine
- Serendipity

**Traditional Designs**

*(All have strong exhibition form)*

- Moonstone
- Elizabeth Taylor
- Maid of Honor
- Olympiad
- Veteran's Honor
- St. Patrick
- Gold Medal

When you're out cutting roses, look for roses with good substance without blemishes from insects or weather damage.



ARS Photo Contest entries 2008

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## Line and Filler Material All Arrangers Should Grow

**By Kreg B. Hill**  
ARS Arrangement and Horticulture Judge  
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One of the key components, besides our gorgeous roses, required to create an excellent rose arrangement is the use of line and filler material. Almost all arrangements need additional plant material to develop the design and complement the rose blooms. We all have problems finding enough space for all the rose bushes let alone room for trees, shrubs and perennials. When I select plantings for my garden I always keep in mind, may this be utilized in arrangements? I like to grow all my own plant materials for my arrangements and only occasionally purchase exotic dried/treated materials from commercial florist.

My favorite trees or shrubs are the willows (*Salix*). At the top of the list is the Corkscrew Willow (*Salix mastsudana*



Corkscrew Willow

*"Tortuosa") and the Fantail Willow (Salix sachalinensis "Sekka"). I have grown Corkscrew Willow that must have been thirty feet tall and I whacked away at it constantly. The Fantail Willow is more like a large shrub and has imbricated stems that are flattened and recurved with age. Pussy Willows are also well suited for arrangements. There are many varieties from which to choose. All willows are excellent freshly cut, do not need to be hardened off and dry extremely well. The leaves may remain or may be removed from the stems when using fresh willows.*

For a perennial,

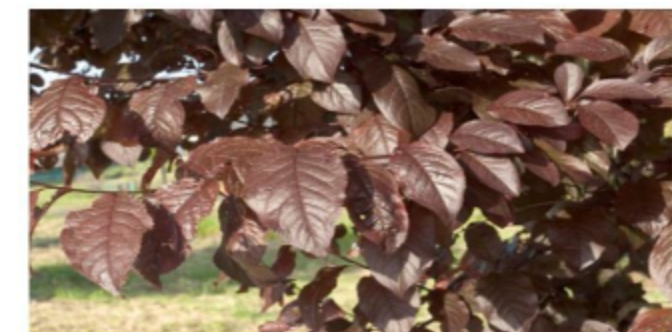
everyone needs to have a couple of pots of Horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*). Horsetail is a rushlike plant left over from the dinosaur age. Slender and hollow, 2-4 feet, stems are bright green with black-and-ash-colored rings at the joints. Horsetail may be bundled, bent and used in many different ways. It's a very versatile plant, but is very invasive and needs to be kept in a container. I have seen Horsetail roots travel five feet under a sidewalk then sprout on the other side. There is a miniature Horsetail (*Equisetum scirpolides*) that is only 6-8 inches tall and is very useful in miniature arrangements.



Horsetail

Most arrangers have a collection of basic flat black containers of different shapes and sizes that are either used alone or grouped together. If I am using a dark container, bringing the dark color up into the design is very important. The best fresh plant materials I have found for this are some plums and chokecherries (*Prunus*). Purple leaf plums are small and compact, very decorative and disease free. I recommend *Prunus cerasifera*, either "Thundercloud" or "Krauter Vesuvius". The red-leaved chokecherry "Schubert" (*Prunus virginiana*) is a colorful large shrub/small tree that has leaves that open green and turn a color fast, deep-red purple as the leaves mature. Before a show, I have often gone out into the yard, cut a bunch of branches and placed

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Prunus "Thundercloud"

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them in a bucket filled with water. The cut branches keep their substance without the leaves wilting for almost a week.

When using pink roses nothing complements the roses better than gray/green foliage. Common sage (Savlia officinalis) or the lavenders, English



French Lavender

(Lavandula angustifolia) or French (Lavandula dentata), not only provide attractive foliage but provide an aromatic scent to an arrangement. Although it is not in the Scale of Points, the Judges may be influenced by a very fragrant entry. The Artemisas such as Dusty Miller (Artemisa stellerana), Silver King (Atresmisa ludoviciana albula) and Silver Mound (Artemisa schmidtiana) are very hardy, easy to grow perennials and do well as cut plant material. Perennials maintain their freshness longer if they are hardened-off before using. I cut perennials in the early morning or late evening, place the cut stems in a water filled bucket and keep them in a cool, not sunlit location.

My old adobe house is situated in the North Valley of Albuquerque near the Rio Grande. We have an old acequia (irrigation ditch) and flood irrigate my yard with river water. Living in the high desert, inexpensive plentiful water is a real luxury. The ditch provides an excellent place to grow cattails (Typha). My favorite is the narrow-leaved variety (Typha angustifolia) which has a light brown spike that is usually in two segments. The common variety (Typha latifolia) has a very dark brown spike and



Typha

much wider leaves. Too many dark brown spikes easily become almost dominate within a design and may obscure your roses. The softness of the light brown hue plus the narrower leaves are more desirable for arrangement

usage. Cattail leaves are exquisite line material and maintain their rigidity for a long period of time. I have been growing Hoppe (Typha minima) which is a miniature variety in a pot. Lots of foliage has been grown, but I have been unsuccessful coercing the plant to produce spikes. The spikes are dried easily and I spray them with a cheap hairspray to keep them from shattering. Cattails adapt themselves for any style; traditional, modern or oriental manner.

Sea Lavender (Limonium latifolia) (Statice) is another easy to grow perennial that produces a three-foot haze of bluish, white, or pink flowers. There are the annual statices (Limonium bonduellii and Limonium sinuatum) that are easy to grow from seeds. The annual statice re-seeded themselves all over the yard to a point they were almost like a weed. I avoid anything that self seeds. Baby's Breath (Gypsophila paniculata) is another very adaptable perennial that may be used either fresh or dried. For useful fresh foliage from the irises, the iris pallida has distinctive variegated leaves. I found the most useful to be the spuria irises. The spuria's swordlike leaves are much narrower, straighter, stronger and longer (up to three feet) than the leaves of the tall bearded irises. The spurias bloom later than the tall bearded, and are blooming simultaneously as our local rose show. Spuria blooms are good companions to mix with the roses. Another exciting variegated foliage is Zebra Grass (Miscanthus sinensis "Zebrinus"). Zebra Grass grows in a large clump and matures to a height of about 3 feet.



Statice

Princess of Arrangements entries require roses with rose foliage only. Some of my favorite rose varieties to use as line material are the following: Rosa sericea pteracantha (Wingthorn Rose) has fern-like foliage and the stems have large, wing-like prickles that are deep red and semi-transparent when young. The bushes are under three feet and must be constantly pruned to produce the new attractive growth. There is a variegated leaf rose, Rosa variegata. This eye

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Wingthorn Rose

Any of the Eglanteria roses such as Rosa eglanteria, “Lady Penzance” or “Lord Penzance” have vigorous dark and fragrant (Apple Scented) foliage. Just walk through your rose garden and take a good look at all the different foliage you are already growing.

Any of the different evergreens such as the Junipers (Juniperus) or Pines (Pinus), are perfect to complement the roses in the Oriental Manner designs. Most local nurseries have a very large selection of both standard and dwarf varieties that flourish well in your area. When using evergreens, be sure to thin the needles and utilize the natural lines of the branches.

Good line and filler materials for arrangements are everywhere. Look in your own yard, neighbor's yards and even growing along the roadside. Stop and take time to look. Cut any interesting vegetation. Experiment with different plants. See if the plant material will remain turgid, for how long and then let the material dry. One of the best parts of arranging is creating new designs. One of the simplest ways to achieve originality is by growing and using a wide array of interesting plant materials.

In 1998 Bill Christensen and I relocated full time to California. We have a house in Palm Springs which is at 300 feet elevation and another in Morongo Valley which is at 3000 feet elevation. They are within 22 miles of each other. So now I have two climatic growing zones. I moved 250 of my rose bushes from Albuquerque plus some of my other plant material to the house in Morongo Valley. Both of our gardens will be on tour, Palm Springs on Saturday and Morongo Valley on Sunday. Please plan to attend the garden tours you will see all my plant material plus my roses! All my arrangement paraphernalia is located in the garage in Morongo Valley - which I will also open for viewing during the Sunday Garden Tour and Lunch. Also be sure to attend the Ikebana Seminar arranged by Lew Shupe, Gary Barlow and Lee Hale. They will also have containers available to purchase at the seminar.

catching, ground brightening vigorous ground cover rose has glossy green leaves splashed with creamy white.

### Supplemental List of Materials

Common Name	Botanical Name
All Gold Scotch Broom	Cytisus scoparius 'All Gold'
Anacacho Orchid Tree	Bauhinia lunarioides 'White'
Bird of Paradise	Strelitzia reginae
Birdsnest Spruce	Picea abies 'Nidiformis'
Bamboo Sasa Pygmaea	Plecioblastus pygmaeus
Black Hill Spruce	Picea glauca 'Densata'
Blue Star Juniper	Juniperus squamata
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa
Canna Tropicana	Canna x generalis 'Tropicana'
Carman's Japanese Rush	Juncus effusus
Cape Rush	Chondropetalum tectorumit
Cast Iron Plant	Aspidistra elatior
Chinese Goddess Bamboo	Bambusa multplex
Coral Fountain	Russelia equisetiformis
Corkscrew Rush	Juncus fliformis 'Sprals'
Cosmopolitan Maiden Grass	Miscanthus sinensis
Desert False Indigo	Amorpha fruticosa
Dwarf Papyrus	Cyperus prolifer Alberta
Spruce	Picea glauca 'Conica'
Scouring Rush	Equisetum scirpoides
Dwarf Umbrella Plant	Cyperus alternifolius gracilis
Egyptian Papyrus	Cyperus papyrus
Giant Equisetum	Equisetum myriochaetum
Golden Rocket Grass	Baumea rubiginosa 'Variegata'
Green Mound Juniper	Juniperus procumbens
Green New Zealand Flax	Phormium tenax
Horsetail Rush	Equisetum hyemale
Japanese Pagoda Tree	Sophora japonica
Kangaroo Paw	Anigozanthos species
Midnight Ginger	Zingiber
Mugo Pine	Pinus mugo pumilio
Northern Sea Oats	Chasmanthium latifolium
New Zealand Flax	Phormium tenax
Pittosporum	Pittosporum tobira
Plum Passion Nandina	Nandina domestica 'Monum'
Quartz Creek Rush	Juncus pacificus
Red Bunny Tails Grass	Pennisetum messacum 'Red Bunny Tails'
San Francisco Scotch Broom	Cytisus scoparius 'San Francisco'
Sienna Sunrise	Nandina domestica 'Monfar'
Slowmound Mugo Pine	Pinus mugo
Snake Willow	Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'
Spanish Broom	Spartium juneum
Twisty Lady	Robinia pseudoacacia 'Lacy Lady'
Umbrella Plant	Cyperus alternifolius
Variegated Rush	Baumea rubiginosa 'Variegata'
Variegated Shell Ginger	Alpina zerumbet
Varigated Pittosporum	Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'
Weeping Brown Sedge	Carex flagellifera
Wheeler's Dwarf Mock	Pittosporum tobira 'Wheeler's Dwarf'
Zebra Grass	Miscanthus sinensis 'Strictus'

# Dried Plant Material In Designs

By **Doug Helberg**, Chairman  
National Arrangement Judges Committee

Those of us who live in the Midwest are familiar with a short growing season. We do not always have fresh plant material to use in our designs. As a consequence we must rely on dried material to use in constructing our designs. With experience one finds favorites among the plants from what's available during our short growing season.

Some of my favorites are okra pods, day lily bloom stalks, annual poppy seed pods and Hosta bloom stalks. I grow the okra plants mostly for the seed pods, although I do like it breaded and deep fried. When dried and stored, okra pods can be painted and used when needed for the special color effects. They have very different and unique curves. They are perfect to use in creating wonderful lines, especially in modern designs. They are also not brittle and can be used and colored many times over and re-used in arrangements.

Day lily bloom stalks also create wonderful lines



Lily stalks painted silver and orange.



Natural Okra used in an arrangement



Black Okra pods add drama.

which add height and length as needed to obtain the lofty effects needed in very tall arrangements. These stalks can be used to easily create those 48 inch high designs. They can also be sprayed with varying colors to advance the color in the design without being overpowering. All in all, they are open and airy, but provide the line needed in most arrangements of this dimension. I personally prefer to use the "ditch lily" over the hybrid as their bloom stalks are finer. Other lily stalks have a more bulky stem with branching. If you can, save some of both types of stalks to use as needed in designs.

Annual poppy seed pods naturally develop interesting curves which add to your designs. No, I do not grow it for medical purposes. I enjoy the double version in pink and now have tried the black color. The blooms usually last only one or two days. The seed pods mature in couple weeks and can be harvested soon thereafter and stored until they're needed. They can also be colored many times over to enhance a design.

Hosta bloom stalks also grow into natural curves. Mine, which grow on the north side of the house, reach for light and always make for interesting lines. I usually do not try to harvest them until the late fall. They dry on the plant very slowly, so do don't get excited waiting for them as they dry late into the season.

Hales Corner, WI  
July 26, 2009

On the second day of the North Central District's Arrangement Judges School, Sandy Dixon and Lee Hale presented a hands-on workshop for attendees who were not taking the exam.

They brought their unique insight into play as everyone participated in an "arrangements critique".



Sandy Dixon and Lee Hale demonstrate different Oriental designs.



At left:  
"You Have New Neighbors to Celebrate: Buffet"  
by Joan Baden

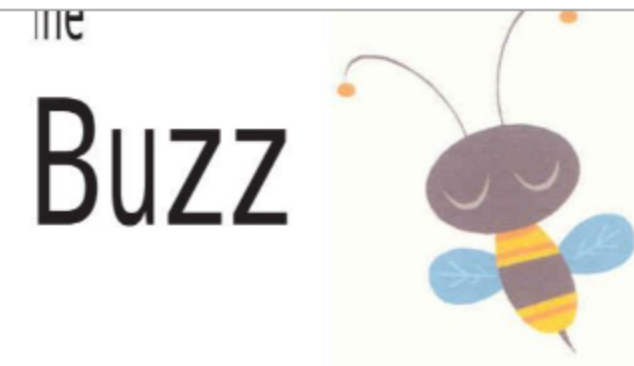


NY District Rose Show  
September 18, 2009

Above:  
"Celebrate the Women's Movement"  
by Lillian Walsh

At left:  
"Little Things in the World,  
Celebrate Uniqueness" by Gene Nato

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**"IKEBANA WORKSHOP"**  
November 15-16, 2009 Post-Palm Springs, CA  
Convention  
Featuring: Lee C. Hale, Dr. Gary Barlow and  
Dr. Lewis Shupe  
Information? [kreg@kreghill.com](mailto:kreg@kreghill.com)