

# NYBG

## Botanical Drawing for Beginners – Materials List

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### Welcome to the first step in Botanical Drawing!

This course will cover:

- an explanation of materials and tools;
  - an introduction to observing and accurately rendering a botanical subject using graphite line drawing;
  - the basics of shading in order to show form;
  - good working practices and habits.
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***PLEASE NOTE: The recommended materials are of a high quality, preferably professional standard. Using school pencils, cheap sharpeners and low quality 'sketch' paper is not going to produce good results.***

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email me.

### **Pencils**

Graphite pencils: 2B B HB H 2H 4H – My favorite brand is Derwent (see below for suppliers) but other brands such as Faber Castell or a good quality brand are ok. The different uses of soft and hard graphite pencils will be explained. Please make sure however that all of your pencils are of the same brand as the tones relate to each other and may vary across different brands.

## Measuring Tool

**A metal divider (or caliper) with points – This is an essential tool for measuring your subject. You do not need one that holds a pencil. The larger plastic ones are not as good. Please make sure you have one for this class!**

## Erasers

Kneaded eraser - You will learn on this course that erasers are not just for taking out mistakes, they are an essential tool used in drawing. A *kneaded* (soft) eraser is essential for this purpose. Kneaded erasers come in different sizes and a small one is fine.

## White hard eraser

Eraser ‘pen’ for taking out detail. The best one is the Tombow Mono Zero refillable eraser (round). A battery operated eraser is ok as well. Also a regular plastic block eraser is useful for erasing larger areas of graphite.

## Pencil sharpener

You will be sharpening constantly as a good sharp point provides the best result so a good battery powered electric sharpener is very useful. However a small metal sharpener would work as long as it is new. I will have an electric one in the class for you to use as well.

## Paper

Choosing paper can be confusing and you will learn about the different weights of paper and the difference between hot press and cold press as well as other terms.

It is essential you have **good quality smooth** paper for this class.

Good brands are: Strathmore 500 (brown cover), Fabriano Artístico hot press 140 lbs /300 gm<sup>2</sup>, Strathmore Bristol Vellum surface, Arches with a smooth not grainy surface. Any size block is ok as long as your paper is 9”x12” or larger.

**NOTE:** Please do not bring paper that says ‘Cold Press’ on it. The grain will be too pronounced for smooth tonal shading.

## Tracing Paper

The **one and only** brand I recommend is Canson Foundation Series Tracing Paper

## **Ruler**

**Duster** - A large cheap paintbrush 1-2” wide or an Alvin Draftsman Duster. You can also use a brand new make up brush

**Tape:** Artist or surgical tape

## **Recommended Books**

Fundamental Graphite Techniques – Katie Lee. This is the best book on graphite techniques and exercises out there. It can be obtained from [www.katieleeartist.com](http://www.katieleeartist.com)

Botanical Techniques produced by the American Society for Botanical Artists and edited by Robin Jess and Carol Woodin.

<https://botanicalart.education/botanical-art-e-booklets/> Botanical Artist Margaret Best produces booklets that can be bought and downloaded from her education site. Her two most recent ones look at light and dark tones in graphite and make an excellent companion to this course.

## **Suppliers**

[www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)

[www.davinciartsupply.com](http://www.davinciartsupply.com)

Thompsons Art Supply, 184 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, 914 949 4885