

Botanical Drawing for Beginners
New York Botanical Garden

Materials List

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Welcome to Botanical Drawing for Beginners!

This course will be an introduction to Botanical Drawing tools and techniques. Students will learn the fundamentals of botanical illustration to draw plant specimens accurately and scientifically.

Materials:

- Notebook for class notes
- Botanical subjects: see syllabus
- Strathmore 400 Series Paper (9" x 12" or 11" x 14" or another high quality artist-grade paper with a smooth finish. (Optional upgrade: Strathmore 500 Series Paper Bristol Vellum finish)
- Canson Tracing Paper
- Tombow graphite pencils: 4H, 2H, HB, B, 2B
- KUM metal sharpener and/or KUM long point sharpener
- Metal divider with points: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-masterbow-divider/?fromSearch=%2Fsearch%2F%3Fsearchword%3Dmetal%20divider>
- Ruler
- Prismacolor Kneaded Eraser
- White Eraser, recommended: Staedtler Mars Plastic Eraser or Tombow Mono Eraser
- Alvin duster or large soft paintbrush/makeup brush (clean)
- Artist Tape
- Hand lens
- 2 desk lamps: one lamp to scientifically light the subject and one lamp over your drawing paper

Optional Supplies:

- Prismacolor Verithin Colored Pencils Set of 12 (or 24 or 36)
- Prismacolor Premier Colored Pencils, set of 24 (or Faber Castell Colored Pencils)
- It is recommended that you have the following colored pencils, which can be purchased individually if you do not wish to buy a whole set. Colored pencils can be a big investment, so other substitutes are welcome if you do not already own a set.

- White
- Lemon Yellow
- Cadmium Yellow or other Warm Yellow
- Magenta
- Scarlet Red
- Ultramarine
- Pthalo Blue
- Light Green
- Orange Glaze
- Permanent Green Olive
- Purple or Violet
- Small cotton cloth for removing dust from sharpened pencils- prevents smudging
- Tombow Mono Zero retractable eraser- excellent for small details and enhancing highlights
- Drawing board- helpful if you need a smooth surface and clean surface for drawing. A large board can also be angled to make drawing more comfortable. 18" x 24" is a good size. There are many options available. If your desk surface is not smooth or drawing on a flat surface is uncomfortable, consider investing in a drawing board.
- Pencil box- protects pencil points
- Helping Hand or flower frog- some plant specimens might need to be propped up or held at an angle

Suppliers:

- Dick Blick
- Jackson's Art Supplies
- Your local art store

Recommended Reading Material:

- Botanical Techniques produced by The American Society of Botanical Artists, edited by Carol Woodin and Robin Jess