

New York Botanical Gardens Online Class

Peonies: A Modern Palette

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Floral Design Materials Summary

Welcome designers,

When selecting flowers aim for a balanced composition using the **Four key floral elements: focal flowers, complementary flowers, accent flowers and Botanical material.**

1. Focal Flowers (The Showstoppers – Large, Eye-Catching)

These flowers create the centerpiece of the arrangement and draw the most attention.

- **Examples:**
 - 5 to 10 stems pink peony
 - 5 to 10 stems coral peony
 - 5 stems burgundy

2. Complementary Flowers (Adds Volume and Depth)

These flowers create depth and spotlight focal flowers.

- **Examples:**
 - 10 stems queen Anne lace
 - 5 to 10 stems bupleurum
 - 5 to 10 stems waxflower

3. Accent Material (Adds Movement & Interest – Unique or Textured Blooms)

These flowers give the design a personal touch, creating interest.

- **Examples:**
 - 5 to 10 stems of pansies

4. Botanical Material (The Supporting Cast – Adds Texture & Completes Design)

These botanical materials balance the design, frame the flowers, and set the design style.

- **Examples:**
 - Ferns (boston or maidenhair)

5. Vase Choices

Select a **pedstal** vase of your choice, considering the **size of the opening** to ensure proper stem support and proportion for the arrangement. Here are some commonly used vases:

- **Size Options & Opening:**
 - **Small:** 4" diameter (Opening: 4")
 - **Medium:** 5" diameter (Opening: 5")