

## Hoffman Estates Garden Club – September 1, 2022



### **12 Takeaways from demonstration on flower arranging:**

1. Flower height that is 1 1/2 times of the height of the container is a pleasing proportion when designing a container flower arrangement
2. Start with your greens first, then fill in with fillers, and last add the focal point.
3. Position stems of the same flower as you see them in nature-staggering their height.
4. Work in groups of three-three of the same flowers - and spread evenly around the bouquet.
5. Don't be afraid to add a focal point flower at the base of your arrangement.
6. Don't overlook grasses and branches when collecting your plant materials. Experiment and try whatever you have in the yard.
7. If you find an interesting container but it leaks, insert plastic cups inside to hold the water and your flowers.
8. Use 18 gauge wire to hold weak stems. Create a hook at one end, push it up through the flower head and press hooked end closed. Use tail of wire to wrap around the stem.
9. Once you have made your bouquet, wrap florist tape around the flower stems to hold them in position. Don't have florist tape, use a rubber band.
10. Always cut your stems on an 45 degree angle so that the flowers can take up water better.
11. An arrangement of coleus and hydrangeas will last a long time. The hydrangeas don't need water and the coleus will root. If you transfer the rooted coleus to a pot, you will have new plants in the spring.
12. Roll a Hosta leaf around your stems before adding to a glass vase if you want to hide your stems

### **Favorite Tools:**

- Hori hori knife-A.M Leonard Deluxe 4752P Soil Knife
- Root cutter shovel-Radius 23311 Root Slayer Perennial Shovel
- Needle nose pruner-ARS Needle Nose Pruner HP-SE45
- Narrow long handle spade shovel
- Bypass Pruners-Felco and others
- Slip-on Knee pads
- Ergonomic garden hand trowel
- Post Hole Digger