



FALL FLORAL DESIGNS



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
EXTENSION

This booklet offers some fall decorating ideas that are easy to recreate, long-lasting, and can inspire you for those sunny yet cooler days that are just around the corner.

These designs use accessible materials whether Mississippi grown or beyond. Sustainability is gaining a foothold in floral design, from the reduction of plastic to the reuse of materials all the way to fully compostable arrangements. Join us in this effort to limit plastics and consider creating designs the way nature intended.



MSU Extension offers the Master Floral Designer Program, Advanced Master Floral Designer, and multiple certifications in Professional Floristry.

The Master Floral Designer (MFD) certification program helps you to learn more about the correct ways to design with flowers. Learn about the principles of proportion, balance, rhythm, and how they directly apply to floral design. Gain confidence in knowing you are doing your best work!

MFD contains three phases. In Phase I, you will be prepared to work with flowers, learning proper care and handling techniques. Discern between the elements and principles, and gain a deeper understanding of design, forming your pathway to creativity.

Phase II is a natural progression to the preparation you have gained in Phase I. Learn by practicing all the foundational floral design forms and techniques. We use diverse cut flowers, foliage, and accessories to familiarize you with the wide array of materials available in today's marketplace.

The third and final phase enables you to use what you learned by sharing your knowledge and abilities. In this service component, MFDs engage in projects that promote excellence in floral design such as teaching others, designing flowers for places of worship, promoting the MFD program, creating designs for public spaces, and more.

Learn more at extension.msstate.edu.



Shop for chrysanthemum plants at shops and floral departments.

Searching for a quick and easy idea for a floral arrangement that can last a long time? Pick up a florist's chrysanthemum at your supermarket or garden center. Cut the flexible pot cover to half its original size and place the plant in a bowl. A permanent botanical wreath will hide the gap between the top of the pot and the bowl's rim. Next year, reuse the wreath in a kitchen window or at the base of a bowl of gourds.



Dress up potted chrysanthemums and make them the focal point of the room.

Adding a rim of garland dancing around a basket gives it a wild feel and adds the designer's touch.



Floral designs do not need much plant material to convey a theme. Indeed, overstuffing an arrangement takes away from its message. We reused a black cat prop, replicating its arching back with a defoliated smilax vine. The vine and the dried green pitcher plant (*Sarracenia* sp.) are perfectly paired with the prop. We added just a few permanent maple leaves “harvested” from a fall wreath and based the design with crape myrtle bark.



Dried and permanent flowers support a Halloween-themed arrangement for October.



Autumn opulence is on display in the form of a dried floral garland.

Garlands are an ancient floral design style and dried flower versions are a good way of adding seasonal color to tables, mantels, and doorways in the home, church, or shop.



Pumpkin stacks are beautiful and can last through the fall season. As the Halloween holiday approaches, illuminate the porch with miniature lights in seasonal colors. To camouflage the electrical cords, wind some Mississippi muscadine vines around the stack...

...then illuminate it before the hobgoblins approach!



EASY MECHANICS

Many southern landscapes possess crape myrtle trees. These trees can have bark that sheds in the late summer. Although it is not a spice, the bark pieces are just as beautiful as cinnamon sticks, which just happen to be bark, too. Begin by wrapping rubber bands around a boat-shaped container. Lay the bark pieces over the bands, then add additional bands to secure them in place. The banded bark becomes a stem holder that controls floral placements.



Use fresh flowers to build an autumn tone design.



Build the design foundation with crape myrtle bark and rubber bands.



A zinnia in the morning light.

Second sowings in the summertime garden can yield beautiful blooms. Purchase zinnia seeds in late summer/fall colors like yellow, gold, and orange. You will appreciate having warm-hued cut flowers for your home or events.

AUTUMN MIXED BOUQUET



A sweet flower bowl.

Fall colors can be a mix of jewel tones including red, rose, and violet. Why not share a design like this for a birthday or a shower centerpiece? For more information, refer to MSU Extension Publication 3313 *Sweet Mississippi Flower Bowl* online at extension.msstate.edu.

MARKET NOSEGAY

Creating a fresh arrangement is as easy as 1, 2, 3. Pick up a bouquet from the market and make a nosegay arrangement.



Layer each stem so that they cross at a single point.

After cutting each stem, arrange them in a spiral pattern within a low, glass vase or jar. Be sure to mix and use the floral preservative solution to the manufacturer's instructions and remove any foliage that falls below the water line.



Add additional stems to the pattern.

Continue the spiral pattern of placement, varying the flowers and their patterns.

The finished design should maintain a hemispherical pattern.

Display your design where it can be enjoyed. It will look especially beautiful underneath a lamp where the natural colors become illuminated at night.



INTERIOR ACCENT

Gather and arrange dried materials from the yard and garden and accentuate them with commercially grown materials.



Lay the container on its side when adding the dried floral elements.

Bright Chinese lanterns, crape myrtle bark, and dehydrated orange slices are combined within this large, glass vase. Keep the patterns of dried materials parallel by laying the vase on its side.



Styling of dried floral materials.

Simple designs blend easily into a living room or dining room, displayed on a table with a lamp, books, and treasured objects.

AUTUMN AWAKENING

Lepidium (Peppergrass) is a native plant and is gaining popularity as a filler flower in cut floral arrangements. In this design, we recommend you arrange it into a vase first because its structure helps to hold other flowers in place.

When arranging flowers for your home, select those in tight bud form. Selecting and arranging flowers in bud form helps you to enjoy your flowers for a longer time.



Arrange cut Lepidium into a vase of fresh flower food solution.



Add additional stems of cut flowers and strive for a rounded, symmetrical pattern. Remove any foliage that falls below the water line.

Our fall bouquet, after two days at room temperature display.



BEAUTIFUL FLORAL DESIGN INSPIRED BY MISSISSIPPI FILM

Simple and elegant, rose bouquets are often used for special events in Southern homes. This arrangement was made in homage to Tennessee Williams' plays. His movie *Baby Doll* was filmed in 1956 at the Burrus House, also known as the Baby Doll House, located in Benoit, Mississippi.



A rose centerpiece bouquet.

The Baby Doll House,
circa 1865.



The Baby Doll Room.

DID YOU KNOW?

Born in Columbus and raised in Clarksdale and St. Louis, Tennessee Williams is considered one of America's greatest playwrights. In his play, *The Glass Menagerie*, the character Laura Wingfield is nicknamed "Blue Roses" as both are considered unique and fragile. Williams drew character inspiration from his own life as his sister was named Rose.



Tennessee Williams

Special thanks to the Winn Family, Burrus House, Benoit, Mississippi.

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