



Hydrangea Bleu

Floral & Gift Ideas as fresh as our Flowers!

HYDRANGEABLEU.COM

OCTOBER, 2009

Welcome:

I love October: football's in full swing, the boys of summer have shifted to playoff mode, and of course it culminates in Halloween! I've come to really enjoy Halloween - the decorating, the kids in costumes, and I must confess, even the horror movies. I know, not exactly the image associated with someone who loves flowers. As an ode to the season, even the flower world makes a contribution with green spider mums, orange spider gerbs, "Halloween" roses (an antique pink rose that blends nicely with autumn colors), and "Phantom" hydrangea (turns a pale pink after starting out with a green tinge to the flower). So, if you're decorating for the scariest night of the year, be sure to include the "spiders". Happy Halloween! Anne

Flower of the Month: "Gerber Daisy"



He loves me, he loves me not.....

This charming childhood game was surely written with the Gerber daisy in mind. This flower boasts a broad range of vivid colors and a versatile range of sizes and shapes. Flowers with bright, defined petals that sit atop leafless stems can reach a diameter of up to 5". A smaller version, the mini-gerb, still packs a color punch, but with a diameter of less than 3". For variety, recent introductions

include the Gerrondo, a much more densely petaled flower, closer in size to a mini, and with a somewhat longer vase life. The Gerber, named for Traug Gerber, a German naturalist, has become one of the most popular flowers in the world and is available year-round. This versatile flower works well in contemporary settings in a vase by themselves or in mixed bouquets. I use them in tropical arrangements as well, as their bold colors accent tropical flowers nicely.



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Q: How do I arrange smaller, more delicate flowers with Gerber Daisies?

This is essentially an issue of scale, so a couple of solutions to this dilemma. The first option is to use a mini-gerb instead of the standard Gerber daisy. The minis have the same wide range of color, but because they are smaller (less than



3" in diameter) they adapt well in smaller arrangements. The other option is to increase the scale of your smaller flowers by massing them together. Use 3 or 4 of your smaller flowers and group them together so that they balance out in size next to the Gerber. Either of these methods will help your arrangement looked balanced.



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“Whispers from the Flower Fields”

"In my garden there is
a large place for sentiment.
My garden of flowers
is also my garden of
thoughts and dreams.
The thoughts grow
as freely as the flowers
and the dreams are as beautiful."
Abram L. Urban

Thanks a bunch for picking Hydrangea Bleu!!



TIPS & TRICKS FOR GERBER DAISY!

1. Gerber daisies prefer water to floral foam.
2. Vase life is approximately 7 to 10 days.
3. To extend vase life, keep the level of the water in your vase low. If the level is too high, the stem will take too much water & weaken (you'll see the stem discolor at the water level). For a single stem in a bud vase use up to 1" of water. Use this technique if you have a vase of all Gerbers. Of course, you will need to keep an eye on the water.
4. Floridated water can cause petal tip burn, so be sure to use flower food.

Hydrangea Bleu Fine Flowers (949) 454-9041

Eco: “Pumpkins, Carving Tips!”

What's more fun than carving pumpkins? Ok, so lots of things, but, it's still fun, especially with kids. My niece and I used to carve pumpkins together and we had great fun. So grab a pumpkin and create some memories surrounding this traditional ritual. Supplies you'll need:

- Pumpkin
- Halloween Patterns
- Carbon Paper
- Tape
- Pencil
- Carving Kit
- Serrated Knives
- Wood Carving Tools or Pottery Tools
- Metal Halloween Shaped Cookie Cutters
- Light-Duty Hammer



For additional detail, carving and pottery tools work great.

Tip: The best trick of all is to use metal Halloween shaped cookie cutters.

3. Place your metal cookie cutter onto the pumpkin. (Some plastic cookie cutters will also work, but they're generally not as flexible.)
- Note:** Don't cut the lid off or clean out yet! Make all your impressions first.
4. Use a light-duty hammer to get the cookie cutter into the pumpkin. Work the cutter side to side while hammering.
5. Hammer the cookie cutter in until it's almost all the way in.
6. Pull the cookie cutter out with a pair of pliers.
7. Continue to hammer all of the shapes where you want them in the pumpkin. Once you have your designs stamped in place, you're ready to cut off the top of the pumpkin and clean it out.
8. Once cleaned, finish cutting out the shapes with small serrated blades and pop them out from the inside.
Option: Place the pieces in a bucket alongside your pumpkins and the kids can have fun trying to put them back in. It's like a puzzle and they can decide which designs they want to light up each night!

Steps:

1. Place your pattern over the carbon paper and tape onto the pumpkin. Trace around and the image will be left on the pumpkin for easy lines to follow when carving.

2. The tools that work best for carving are the small carving tools that come in those inexpensive Halloween pumpkin carving kits. They're manageable for all ages. Other tools that work well are serrated steak knives and grapefruit knives.

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