

By Emerson Howell Nagel

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RE-DISCOVERING NATURE THROUGH THE EYES OF A BABY (1,188 words)

A year ago, when I was nine months pregnant, I was working for a big bank, commuting an hour a day and generally racing around downtown Chicago. Forget having time to smell the daisies - I barely made time to water my houseplants. And a few frantic sorties on errand-crowded weekends to rip up weeds in our vegetable garden was about as close to nature as I got.

Then something happened.

I had a baby. Of course, millions of millions of people have babies, so there's nothing so unusual in that. But it was very unusual for me. First of all, I was used to being able to race around. Well, no racing around with a baby. It makes them fussy and irritable. Second, I was used to spending most of my awake time in a hermetically sealed office tower, only seeing nature from above. Way above. And there was no way a baby was going to fit into that grown-ups-only citadel, where the loudest noise is the copy machine and nature exists only as rent-a-plant. Babies screech and chortle, and as they grow, they run around and knock things over and pull out all the drawers. Not exactly office material.

But third, and most important, I stopped wanting all that rush-rush-adrenaline-pumping stuff. As never before in my life, I wanted to sit still. Sit still and hold my baby, watching the world be discovered for the first time by his little blue eyes.

At first, I was just happy to carry him, snug in his little pouch, everywhere I went. But as the spring woke the earth up, that young child inside of me woke up again, too. For the first time in years, I noticed the leaves on trees. Nat and I would lie on our backs in the grass, looking up at the branches of the maple in our front yard and the tiny new buds shooting out. It was all new for Nat, so he mostly just grinned and giggled. But for me, it was new all over again.

I'd show him the tiny bugs in the grass, and we'd smell the dirt together, watching robins pull out worms and squirrels chasing each other back and forth excitedly. He smiled, and poked at things, and rolled over. And I? I soaked up those rays of early spring sunshine, my heart bursting with joy at being connected to the earth again.

Soon we exhausted the flora and fauna in our front garden, and started to venture further afield. We'd go to the **forest preserve** and try to find Trilliums - especially the one called, to my enduring delight, Stinking Benjamin. And walk through thick carpets of may apples. And glimpse bright yellow marsh marigolds tucked in cool copses. Those spring flowers felt like a metaphor for my own self, re-awakening to the incredible beauty of the natural world, millions and millions of miles away from fax machines and computers and the Internet.

Then summer arrived. Now, I squandered summers as a child. I took them for granted, and got all excited at the prospect of going back to school in the fall so I could

see my little friends. But when I grew up, after college, I had to step into the Real World and faced the probability that I would never again have a summer off.

I panicked at the thought. Never again to walk in the woods, or go to the beach, or swim in a river. Except for weekends, of course, which to my eyes then looked like nothing more than temporary parole from jail. Time went on, though, and I numbed those feelings. As most of us must, if we're going to go on working in those well-paying jobs. Every now and then, on a fine spring day when I could glimpse the lake from a corner office window, or when I visited the Lincoln Park Conservatory, I remembered how I loved to be outside, close to the earth. But I ruthlessly squashed those feelings, and went less and less to the forest preserve and the lake.

Well, last summer I spent almost the entire summer outside, in a sleeveless shirt and shorts, usually barefoot. With Nat shrieking with delight at the freezing cold lap of Lake Michigan's waves on his tiny toes. Or Nat dozing off smiling sleepily as we lazed in the group of Catalpa trees in the Ladd Arboretum, fanning ourselves with their huge leaves and sniffing their beautiful orchid-like flowers.

We were outside as much as we could possibly be without putting up a tent. One of our favorite outings was to go to the Chicago Botanic Gardens. We loved the waterfall, and the Japanese gardens, but the part we both loved the best were the (six!) prairies. I could put Nat down (he was just starting to crawl), and we could go nose-to-nose with all those wonderful sights and sounds and smells.

Already a budding naturalist, Nat tugged at the huge joe-pye-weed (we steered clear of the poisonous seeds), and stared raptly at the fat bumblebee greedily eating the nectar from the prairie Sunflowers and Coneflowers.

And I felt like I was really there. Nat and I sat in the prairie for hours, drinking in the smell of the warm Big Blue Stem grass in the Tall Grass prairie, listening to its gentle rustling in the cooling summer breeze.

Then maybe we'd take a stroll around the lagoons, watching herons standing gracefully in the shallows, hoping to spear a fat carp with their beaks. Or fish hawks swooping down, sometimes just landing there, sometimes swooping back up triumphantly with a bass or blue-gill.

My mind just drifted along, like the monarchs and Skip Jacks on Butterfly Weed and **Indian xxx**. Instead of zooming and zipping, I floated and glided, with my little boy at my side, his eyes wide open with delight.

Of course, leopards don't change all their spots that quickly. I still can't just live in the moment, the way Nat does, and I make all sorts of plans for the future.

I want to take him canoeing in the North Shore Channel in Evanston, along the Ladd Arboretum, and watch for the kingfisher that I've heard lives there. I want to go exploring with him, and see if we can't find some wild White Fringed Orchids way back in the woods in Wadsworth (they may not want us tromping through there, but if they'd let us go, I'd show him how to be very very careful with protected animals and plants). I want to show him what a red Royal Catchfly and a White Prairie Orchid looks like, before we can't find one ever again.

But mostly, I want him to come to love and enjoy nature as much as I do, and learn to protect and cherish it so one day he can show all these wonderful things to his little boy or girl. And maybe when he's my age, walking hand in hand through the

woods with my grandson or granddaughter, he'll be able to re-discover nature all over again himself!

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RICK BAYLESS' GARDEN (1,908 words)

In a hidden corner of Bucktown, by what used to be Polly's Polka Lounge and with the "Old Style" sign still in place, Chicago turns into Mexico.

An astonishingly lush and tropical garden bursts from behind an inconspicuous faded stockade fence. This is the garden (and home) of Rick and Deann Bayless of Frontera Grill and Topolobampo fame.

Six years ago, after a three year search, the Baylesses moved their household and extended restaurant / cooking show / cookbook enterprise into the converted lounge property. Polly's Polka Lounge, complete with keg room and keg lines, had been joined to a neighboring three-flat some years previously. Rick and Deann and their young daughter live in the old Polka Lounge. Jennifer Fite, Rick's assistant, and Kirsten West, who does testing and research for Rick's television shows and books, live in the three-flat.

The Bayless house is beautiful, a graceful blend of Mexican and contemporary. The televised cooking shows and occasional charity dinners are shot in the dining room and kitchen. In the basement, Rick's full-time gardener Sarah Steedman grows micro-greens for the restaurants. All very lovely and remarkable.

Then there's the garden.

In the warm summer air, Rick at the grill (more on that later), you can easily imagine yourself in some remote Mexican hideaway. The plants, though carefully selected and placed, seem to run rampant, climbing and clinging and hanging luxuriantly from trellises and aged brick walls bathed in summer sunlight. Brightly glazed oversized containers barely hold cascades of color, vibrant reds, yellows, blues. Water trickles musically, and in the pond, friendly fish swim over eagerly to eat from your fingers.

"It's real refuge for me," says Rick. "A lot of my ability to bounce back comes from the serenity of my garden."

Having lived in Mexico for over six years, and traveled there extensively, the Bayless' garden resonates with Mexican-ness. "The most beautiful garden I ever saw was a wall covered with old coffee cans full of nasturtiums in a vertical garden in Mexico City," says Rick.

If you've ever been to Mexico, you probably know what he's talking about. Well, he hasn't exactly used coffee cans, and of course, given our Chicago winters, he can't plant tropicals outdoors and expect them to come back year after year. But his careful mixture of container-bound tropicals with tropical-looking annuals certainly does conjure up a vision of a remote Mexican hacienda.

And it's not all just ornamental.

When Rick and Deann moved in, the area behind Polly's Polka Lounge was all grass with a sandbox. They converted the 800 square foot space into an 11-row production garden. Since Frontera Grill and Topolobampo feed some 600 people a day, Rick can't really use his garden for volume crops. But he can use it for trials and for select crops for specialty dishes.

On his travels through Mexico Rick seeks out new varieties of chilis and tomatoes and other herbs. He locates seed - either in Mexico or back here in the US - and plants a trial crop in the production garden. If the crop is a success, he'll ask the organic farmers he works with locally to grow it for his restaurants.

He also uses the production garden to raise specialty salad greens, micro greens, tomatillos, heirloom tomatoes, hepasote, and unusual herbs for the restaurant. In the summer, they do a different salsa every day that goes on one dish, usually grilled fish.

For Rick, a kitchen is a kitchen of place, so in his production garden he doesn't just grow what Mexicans use in their cooking officially. He recollects some amazing fields of wild arugula in the highlands around Puebla that are ignored agriculturally and gastronomically, but actively foraged by the local population.

The production garden is complete with cold frame, production-size work area for potting and such, and a 6' by 10' over-wintering greenhouse (a balcony off the second floor that overlooks the garden). An old Daniel Webster Flour billboard presides majestically over the potting bench, a relic from the previous owners and a nice touch of blue and red against the old rose-colored brick of the back of the building.

Though he's not able to grow it all himself, Rick takes fresh, organically grown food very seriously. In addition to what they use fresh in the restaurant during the growing season, they have enough freezer space to hold 16,000 pounds of locally raised organic tomatoes and they process organic fruits to make ices and ice creams.

The benevolent ruler of all of this is Sarah Steedman, Rick's full-time gardener. Sarah and Rick collaborate on designs, but for the last few years, Sarah has been in charge of the day-to-day.

Sarah is an Illinois master gardener, did an organic gardening apprenticeship at the University of California in Santa Cruz, and for five years managed a 6,000 square foot Chicago Park District organic greenhouse.

She saw two major design challenges with the Bayless garden: size and aesthetics. To make a working production garden in 800 square feet requires juggling and careful stewardship. And since the garden is almost organically linked to the restaurant business, and there's a lot of activity there all the time (television shows, live remotes, product shots), she has to make sure that even scraggly cilantro plants look good on camera.

In the off-season, when the hustle and bustle of keeping the gardens in high form subsides a bit, Sarah dedicates herself to making lovely tiles and to tending the microgreens.

(For the uninitiated, microgreens are tiny shoots of greens like arugula, broccoli, cabbage, kale, mizuna and edible chrysanthemum. They're harvested - read "buzz-cut" - every Tuesday for use in Topolobampo as a garnish.)

But man does not live by production garden alone. We also need beauty and color, and by the way, wouldn't a full outdoor kitchen be nice?

The empty lot between the two buildings and all the space not taken up by the production garden has been given over to pleasure gardens.

In Rick's imaginative hands, and with regular help from Craig Bergmann Landscape Design Inc. in Wilmette (the design arm of Craig Bergmann's Country Garden in Winthrop Harbor), this area has been converted into a lush green retreat.

Let's start at the back. As a lesson to all of us city dwellers with limited plots, Rick has made excellent use of the back of an otherwise homely 4-car garage. The aged brick used to have a 12" strip of annuals in front of it.

Gone are the narrow beds, replaced by a much deeper bed planted with apple and pear trees (used, of course, in cooking!) espaliered gracefully against the brick. The trees are inter-planted with a succession of colorful annuals and an evolving collection of lush perennials. Grape vines grow gradually up the brick toward the trellis.

A leafy wisteria canopy shields the teak deck in front of the garage from the summer sun. The shade is extended a bit further by a slate blue patio umbrella, cooling the wrought iron deck tables and chairs.

The original very small pond in the center of the garden was replaced by a larger one, but the fish inhabitants are direct descendants from the first stock. The previous owners gave Rick and Deann eight goldfish as a "welcome to your new home" present. They went forth and multiplied, to the tune of thirty three goldfish, all now swimming happily in their larger pond.

The pond isn't the only water feature, either. On the back deck, in a striking cobalt blue container, bright yellow water lilies float gracefully. And for that nice trickly sound, Craig Bergmann's installed a large galvanized oval tub into which recirculated water falls from a spout mounted on the wall above it.

Around the back deck wends a low stone wall, broken at intervals by some really impressive boulders, inherited from the previous owner. Torches stuck in here and there assure you that, even by starlight, the garden will look magical.

The space between the two buildings houses Rick's outdoor kitchen. Not your average Smokey Joe here, oh no. This is a real kitchen: a complete flagstone counter/cabinet construction curves gently around the chef, fully equipped with a sink, grill-plus-stove combination and oven.

A lot of this part of the garden was either designed or fine-tuned by Craig Bergmann's. But lest you think Rick just leaves the designing to the designers, Russ Buvala, head gardener at Craig Bergmann's, says Rick plays a very active role in the garden.

"Rick will describe something he's seen somewhere, maybe on his travels, like colors, or combinations of plants, and ask what we can do to make this happen in his garden," says Russ.

That's where the black-and-chartreuse in containers on the deck by the side of the house come from, for example. Rick saw and liked the color scheme, and Craig Bergmann's implemented it. They combined ipomea "Blackie" and "Marguerite" (sweet potato vine) with colocasia "Black Magic" (elephant ear).

To work into Rick's Mexican theme, Craig Bergmann's hunts out bright, primary-colored annuals and perennials and has incorporated as many culinaries as possible, like squash blossoms and marigolds, which are used by the restaurants in a lot of different recipes.

Around and beyond the outdoor kitchen, ensuring that everyone has a sense of snug privacy, tall ornamental grasses wave - miscanthus strictus (porcupine grass) with a nice yellow variegation, and miscanthus "Silver Feather".

The grasses are interspersed with lots of strong-colored perennials - fall-blooming boltonia, with its bright, aster-like flowers, native dock (which was already there, and has

cheerful, sunflower-type daisies), the gold daisy-like ligularia, and of course, rudbeckia (sunflowers). At ground level are patches of Canadian ginger and leading up toward the pond (on a slightly higher level), a pretty little metal bird bath.

To mark the transition between the hill and the water of the pond on the rear deck, clumps of bamboo wave in the gentle summer breeze, adding to the tropical feeling.

The bamboo is echoed in containers throughout the gardens. The heat is turned up with the bright reds, yellows and pinks of a rich assortment of annuals - bright coleus, deep red fuschia "Gardenmeister Bondstadt", hot-colored begonias like begonia fuschiodes, and specialty pelargoniums like "Platinum" and "Persian Shield".

If you follow the flagstone path from the outdoor kitchen, or stroll down a few shallow steps from the back deck, you'll come upon yet another garden within this remarkable collection of gardens.

Hidden by more waving grasses and arching perennials is a deck that serves the three-flat as dining area and private getaway. A lot of the elements here mirror the rest of the garden - attractive teak planking, a green patio umbrella, more of the massive boulders, and some chairs and tables. But because of the clever plantings, you could sit out there and never know there were other people in the garden.

So there you have it. Full production garden, complete kitchen, several private deck areas, multiple water features, a greenhouse, a cohesively tropical, vibrantly colorful planting scheme that transports you to sunny Mexico... Sounds fantastic, doesn't it?

OK, so maybe you don't have a full-time gardener. Maybe you don't eat enough to justify a full production garden. And OK, perhaps a Weber is enough for most of us outdoor chefs.

But the Bayless garden is an excellent blueprint for anyone who wants to weave all these garden elements together into a lovely, lush, thoroughly Mexican urban retreat.

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ARTFUL FLOWER ARRANGING (2,322 words)

Gone are the days when the only way to have flowers in your home was to buy an expensive arrangement from a florist. Today, with bucket florists selling individual stems, and bouquets of flowers selling for 3/\$10 at Jewel and Dominick's, not to mention some lovely candidates in your garden you may not have considered before, a whole world of flower arranging possibilities is now open to us.

By "us" I mean the lay, non-flower-arranging-professional, the average Jane or Joe who needs to grab something to put on the dinner table for tonight's informal pot luck. Or just wants some color in the living room. Or even who's giving a formal sit-down dinner for twelve, and needs coordinating arrangements for a centerpiece and each place setting but doesn't want to take out a second mortgage to do so.

According to Jimmy Osburn, head floral designer at Pesche's in Des Plaines, more people are buying loose flowers, or arrangements with cleaner lines, simpler forms, and not as full of filler flowers and fluffy tops. Which means that by following a few simple guidelines, almost anyone can put a beautiful, stylish arrangement together - and without breaking the bank.

First, let's consider your possible floral sources.

A professional florist is the place to get a big selection of unusual, fresh and high quality "line" flowers (see insert). Your best bet is to go to someplace that's really busy and sells lots and lots of flowers. Their stock will be the freshest, and they're likely to have the broadest range of choices. At Pesche's, for example, they get flowers in every day or two, and in a single week sell over 5,000 roses. Now that's volume.

Why do you need something unusual? You don't, of course. A bouquet of stargazers all by themselves can be lovely. But for that extra special arrangement something a little different, maybe exotic, really eye-catching is called for, and for that, go to a florist. And florists will sell you single blooms, where grocery stores often sell only pre-packaged bunches.

Grocery stores, however, are a great place to get nice and inexpensive filler and round flowers and greens (see insert). Their prices are hard to beat, but don't disdain them for that. Because they're chains with often national buying power, they can buy up entire fields of things like alstroemeria. Provided you pick up your flowers shortly after they've been delivered, these excellent round flowers are hard to beat.

And occasionally, they'll have something really fresh, really spectacular, so keep your eyes peeled next time you zip out for some hamburger, or a quart of Ben & Jerry's.

Then last but certainly not least, there's your garden. Maybe you think, "Pooh! I don't have a cutting garden!" Maybe your garden doesn't look like the cover of *House and Garden*. So what? Do you have any hostas? What about ivy? Daylilies? Ferns of any kind? See any peonies? You know, with a sense of humor you can even make a fanciful little windowsill bouquet out of three dandelions in a bud vase.

Garden flowers are possibly the most charming in a bouquet precisely because they come from your garden. Like a homemade card instead of a store-bought one, flowers from your own garden add a touch that nothing else can even approach.

Maybe it's because your own garden's flowers in a bouquet tie your indoors to the outdoors. They make people think about sitting outside on a patio in a comfortable old Adirondack chair, a cool mint iced tea frosting on the broad arm, speckles of sunshine dancing in the perennial beds all around them.

Or maybe it's just that a bouquet that you've made up with flowers you've grown yourself, and watched grow, bud and bloom make you proud of your garden, and it shows if you love what you do.

For whatever reason, if you have even something quite lowly and commonplace growing, consider including it in your next arrangement.

A word to the wise about flower freshness, though. Flowers from florists are the freshest and will last the longest. Flowers from grocery stores will last the next longest, depending upon when they got their shipment and how skilled the florists in your particular grocery store are at keeping flowers fresh (see insert).

Sadly, flowers from your garden will fade the fastest. Like any wild thing, they're not used to being in captivity. They weren't raised in temperature-humidity-light-controlled environments to be the perfect specimen, and they haven't usually spent any time in a cooler.

More likely, they've been jostled by their bed fellows, possibly bruised by dogs or small children or stray tennis balls, and gotten hot and wilted in the summer's sun. Sun - as vital as it is to flower growth - will wilt a flower faster than you can say delphinium!

Wherever you get your flowers, here are some easy-to-follow steps for creating two dynamite arrangements:

Instructions for making a small, round arrangement for a modest centerpiece or a buffet or cocktail table:

First choose your flowers. We started with the greens, two or three stems each of leatherleaf fern, myrtle tips and pitosporum. Then get three or four each of filler flowers (we used lamium and small purple asters) and round flowers (sunflower, gerbera daisies, lilies, roses, small mums). Finally, choose several line flowers but nothing very tall (we used snapdragons, larkspur, and delphinium). When choosing flowers, colors should compliment one another - brights go together, pastels go together, or go for something monochrome.

Next choose your container. The arrangement should end up being 2 ½ times the size of the container (volume or height), so for this arrangement, we selected a low round basket filled with green florist's oasis cut to fit snugly in the basket.

Now get started arranging. Remember to fresh-cut each stem on an angle, preferably underwater, before you stick it into the oasis. Make sure your knife or scissors are very sharp, so you don't crush the stems.

The end result should be taller flowers in the center, with rounder flowers around the sides and smaller flowers interspersed throughout.

- For this kind of arrangement, where you need to hide the oasis, start with the greens. Stick each piece into the oasis almost horizontally, starting along the outside

edge then working toward the center in a spiral, so all the oasis is obscured by greens. As you go, make sure the outside edges of the greens stick out fairly evenly all around.

- Next add the filler flowers. Start in the center, then arrange flowers in offset triangles moving outward (see diagram). You want to end up with something that's fairly evenly dome-shaped. Make sure you shove each stem in as far as it will go, so your bouquet doesn't fall apart and to make sure your stem gets water.

- Move on to the round or face flowers, following the same general pattern - start in the center then add concentric triangles.

- Finish with your spike flowers in the same pattern. Keep turning your arrangement as you add flowers so you see it from all sides as you go. Don't be afraid to pull things out and move them - just be careful and go gently.

- Finally, add water then step back and admire your handiwork!

Instructions for making a tall, dramatic arrangement for a front hall or mantle:

For this arrangement you'll want some dramatic line flowers. We used fantail or spatular willow (not a flower at all, but it serves the same purpose visually and is very unusual looking), snapdragons and delphiniums (both available in lots of gardens). For filler flowers we choose solidago (a nice, brushy mustardy kind of a flower). In the face flower department we decided on roses and iris, with a striking cluster of blue hydrangea as the focal point.

Since this was meant to be a tall arrangement, we used a tall, vertical vase which we filled with balled-up willow to form a kind of netting to hold the flowers in place.

If you're working on an arrangement to be set against a wall, you should design it from the front, but always make sure you have something pretty on the backside, in case there's a mirror there, or someone chances to peer behind your masterpiece.

- This time, start with your tall, line flowers. Arrange them in a triangle as before, but this time, the back of the triangle should be parallel to the wall. Put the tallest in, say, the back right point of the triangle, the next tallest in the back left point of the triangle, and the shortest in the front point of the triangle.

- Next we added the filler flowers, in this case, the solidago, following the same triangular placement.

- Then we inserted the round flowers also in the triangle-pattern, stepping back each time to make sure everything looks balanced (it won't look uniform, like the first arrangement, but it should look well-proportioned and evenly distributed).

- The final touch for this spectacular arrangement was the hydrangea, tucked into the front point of the triangle right over the lip of the vase for a stunning focal point.

- Now add water and invite the company!

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| SIDEBAR ON EUROPEAN GARDENS: |
| An alternative to cut flowers is to use small pots of flowers arranged in a basket with moss. I don't mean those dish gardens from the olden day where all the houseplants were potted up together in a single container. These European gardens, as Pesche's calls them, can easily be disassembled and replanted in the recipient's garden. You may not |

want to disassemble them, but they can be disassembled.

To make a European garden, first select your flowers, grouping them together the way you would make a cut-flower arrangement - combine with an eye to color, shape, fullness, texture. Next choose a nice sturdy basket big enough to hold your pots, line the basket with a plastic basket liner (florist), get some sphagnum moss (craft store or florist) and then find some nice lumpy pieces of styrofoam.

Gently, being careful not to pinch anything trailing or to break any stems, wedge the pots together in the basket, using the styrofoam to hold them securely in place. Finally, cover any exposed pot rims with sphagnum moss, throw in a stuffed bird or a butterfly on a stick or a fancy bow, and voila! A living flower arrangement that will give your recipient years of floral happiness.

| FLOWER FORM AND FUNCTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Flower type | Examples | Function in a Bouquet | Tips for Using |
| Line flowers usually have buds growing up a center stalk | Liatris, gladiolus, snapdragon, delphinium, tuberose, veronica, stock, branches like curly willow, tall foliage | Tall, straight line flowers gives a bouquet height and width, balancing out your bouquet. | By themselves, line flowers look striking in a tall, cylindrical vase. They can give a cramped room the illusion of height and add elegance simply. |
| Round or mass or “face” flowers have a single flower on the end of a stem | Rose, gerbera daisy, carnation, lily, daffodil, iris, freesia, zinnia, chrysanthemum, sunflower, alstroemeria | Round, full-faced mass flowers (aka “face” flowers) give weight to your bouquet. Their lovely faces are generally the focal point of a bouquet. | Pop a bunch of mass flowers quickly into almost any vase for a no-fuss touch of cheerful, bright color. |
| Filler flowers have lots of little flowers on a bunch of small stems | Baby’s breath, Queen Anne’s lace, heather, feverfew, statice, aster, ferns, eucalyptus | Soft sprays of filler flowers fill out your bouquet and give it a rounded look. They help tie together the line and mass flowers you include with them. | A couple of sprigs of filler flowers by themselves in a vase smartens up any room. A lot of filler flowers are good dry, too. |
| Greens are, well, greens, though they can also be brown or red | Leatherleaf fern, lemon leaf, grasses, willow, ivy, hosta, myrtle, pitosporum | Think of greens as the backdrop for your bouquet. They frame your other | Greens by themselves can be a cheap way to spruce up a forgotten |

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| | | flowers and are also very useful in hiding oasis. | corner. Some tall grasses in an old milk bottle with marbles in it will last and last, even without much light. |
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TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR ARRANGEMENTS LAST LONGER

Use flower food. No kidding. Those little packets of food that get rubber-banded to the bottom of a lot of flower bunches really do help. Use them for your plants the way you use vitamins for yourself.

Change the water every day. Right, you say, who has time for that? Well, make time - it doesn't really take that long, and will mean your \$10-150 arrangement will last at least a few days longer.

Cut the stems under water. Before you place a flower in it's arrangement, cut its stem underwater, at a 45° angle, not right above or below one of the knobby-things. This will give your stem the best chance of staying hydrated - code for living longer and looking better, just like people!

Refrigerate when not in use. I know that sounds ridiculous. But if you have a big party coming up, or need your flowers to look especially nice, keep them cool as long as possible before putting them on display. If they won't fit in the fridge, stick them in a cool basement or garage.

Where it's practical, use a vase instead of oasis. As wonderful and efficient as oasis is, it takes up a lot of space in your container, which means there's less space for water.

Keep your arrangement out of the sun and away from appliances that heat up.

FLOWERS IN THE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

suitable for a bathroom, bedroom, small entrance table:

| Type | Flower |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Line | Larkspur |
| Round | Ranuncula |
| Filler | Seeded eucalyptus |
| Green | Leatherleaf fern, Italian ruskus |

| Type | Flower |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Green | Leatherleaf, ivy (cover oasis) |
| Line | Bells of Ireland |
| Filler | Heather |
| Round | Freesia, hydrangea |