

Smart Phone Flower and Garden Photography

Nath Kaplan

My Goal Today

To teach you how to think like a Photographer!

- What we will talk about
- General Photography Tips
- Smart Phone Cameras
- Post Processing
- Flower and Garden Photography

Photography Basics

- What makes a good photo?
 - Interesting Light and Interesting Subject
- What makes a bad photo?
 - Blurry, Bad Light, Cluttered Image
 - Think BBC

Photography Basics

- What makes a blurry photo?
 - Lens not clean!!!!
 - Movement & Low light
 - Movement of camera or Subject (WIND)
 - Auto focus is very good, but not perfect
 - If there are many items it tries to do an average of items to be in focus
 - You can do a manual focus

Photography Basics

- Lighting (Key Factor)
 - a. When to shoot - Soft Light
 - Early or late (Golden Hour)
 - Overcast / Fog
 - Open Shade
 - Window light if indoors
 - b. Color
 - Light has color to it.
 - It can be cool (blue) in shade or over cast or different times of day
 - It can be warm (yellow) during sun rises or sun set

Photography Basics

- c. Hard Light
 - Midday - Top Down light Direct sun and harsh shadows
 - What I call the "Squinting Rule"
 - Look for shaded area

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Try using your body to block the sun

Photography Basics

Composition

This is one of the key important parts

Composition is how you setup your image.

What you **include** and **exclude** in your image.

How the subject appears in the image.

Photography Basics

Simplicity

"Less is more"

Too much stuff in your image is confusing to the viewer

Isolate your main subject

Ask yourself what is the center of the image

Photography Basics

Rule of thirds

Think Tic-Tac-Toe – Try to avoid placing in the center.

Leading Lines (Diagonal, Curved, horizontal)

Leads the eye into the image

The eye follow the lines and curves

Use this to lead into your image

Color, Texture, Patterns, Shapes

Think about any of these items and how they can add to your image.

This adds interest to your image.

Point of View

Most people take a photo from eye height

Low angle, side view, above, behind

Get down to the level of the subject.

With children and pets you should be eye level to them. Flowers are the same.

Get closer

Move in closer

Consider switching to your 2x or 3x lens

Robert Capa

“If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough”

Google Rules of Composition Photography

Curves, Symmetry, Triangles, Negative Space, Framing,

Colors and emotions, Odd numbers....

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Background & Clutter

Try for simple background (Change angle, move up, down, right or left)
Watch for distractions
Look at the four corners
Look trash, dead leaves, sticks, post, etc
Remove distractions

Cropping

Cropping helps to improve the image. Remove distraction, Fix the angle
Cropping can be done in the camera or with software after you have taken the image.
Cropping Tips
 Straighten the image
 Remove from the top, bottom or sides
Watch that you don't crop key items
Top of a person head, parts of an animal, parts of a flower, etc....

Smart Phones

- a) Learn your phone
- b) Clean Lens
- c) Don't use the camera flash other than for a flashlight
- d) How to hold the camera
 Turn the camera - Landscape, Portrait, turn upside down
- e) Set the app up
 File type – Jpeg, RAW, HEIC (High-Efficiency Image Container)
 Live view iPhone - Motion on Samsung (video 1.5 second before and after you tap the shutter)
 Grid
 iPhone - Settings, Camera, Grid, On
 Android - Camera, Gear for settings, (Lock icon)
- f) Focus Lock Focus (AF)
 - i. iPhone has a Yellow square with a sun shows you the focus
 - ii. Android has a slider with a sun in the center
 - iii. Minimum distance
- g) Exposure (AE)
- h) Lens / modes (macro)
- i) Back camera is better than front camera - Front camera can get under things!
- j) Portrait mode
- k) Pano
- l) Burst Mode 10 frames per sec (iPhone 14 pro) will vary by phone
 (iPhone – white circle to left / Samsung - moved down)
- m) Accessing the camera
 Press the camera icon on lock screen
 Swipe Left

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- n) How to snap a photo
 - a. White circle
 - b. Volume (can also be set for Burst mode)
 - c. Timer
 - d. Watch – Apple watch - Samsung watch
 - e. Bluetooth remote
 - f. Voice command - Setting - Accessibility - Voice Control - On - Turn volume up or Turn volume down
 - g. Plug in Head Phones that came with the phone

Demo – Phone and Post Processing Demo

Phone Demo

Edit your photos

All phones come with a basic photo editing program.

Cropping

Exposure

Color temp

Saturation

Sharpness

Flowers and Gardens

Macro settings on the phone

Samsung - Macro Setting – (Different on different models) Some models Macro is off the Wide angle lens. Some models Macro is off the 1X. Some models you need to go to More on the camera. Some you need to click the Focus enhance (Two yellow dots.)

iPhone -Macro Setting - Setting, Camera, Macro (if you phone has macro function)

Flowers

- a. Fill the frame (Try to isolate an item)
- b. Low angle, side view, above, behind
- c. Parts of the flower
- d. Water drops (dew, rain, watering, spray bottle)
- e. Minimal
- f. look for tiny details in your flowers—the details that nobody else sees.
- g. Try Portrait Mode
- h. Patterns and shapes
- i. Visitors - Insects

Lighting

Side Light

Shows texture

Back Light

Lights the petals and leaves

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Midday Bright Light
Diffuser can help

Gardens

- a. Look at the whole - wider shots
- b. Look for things that show the garden (unusual or quirky)
- c. Architecture - walls, paths, structures, ponds, fountains, stairs, trellises, ...
- d. Watch for distraction
- e. Garden design

Creative

- a. Different seasons (Think about a four seasons project)
- b. Black and White
- c. Abstract
- d. Geometric Shapes
- e. Shadows
- f. Post processing and Different apps

General Tips

Know the limitations
They don't do well in low light or moving subjects (newer phones are better)
They are prone to movement from hand shake
Older camera don't have real zoom
Lens gets dirty
Tend to be slow (Think Burst Mode)
Hard to see the screen on a bright sunny day (Increase the screen brightness)

General Tips

Learn how to use the camera/phone
Turn on the Grid lines
The camera work better close up so move in
Avoid the **Pinch and Zoom** if you have one lens
Avoid dark or low light (newer phones have Night Mode)
Consider cloud storage (check the storage on your phone)
Make Sure your phone is fully charged!

Helpful Equipment and Software

Equipment

- a. Tripod
- b. Knee pad
- c. Reflector
- d. Diffuser
- e. Colored background card

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f. Spray bottle

Addition Software

Post processing

The phone's software

Snapseed

Lightroom Mobil

VSCO

There are all kinds of additional software to play with

Home Work

The best way to make better pictures is to understand light.

Start by observing light in your daily life.

How does the light "look" at different times of day?

How does it react to certain surfaces?

How does the light sculpt your subject?

What color is the light at different times of day or seasons?

Build a library of these observations to use next time you shoot.

Start taking some photos

How can you become better and more creative

Look around all the time.

Look up, Look down and Look behind you.

Look for color, patterns, lines and shapes.

Look at parts of things

Flowers, house hold items, machines, etc..

Look for reflections.

Water, glass, metal, mirrors, etc..

Think about Black and White

Don't put the camera away in bad weather

Fog, Snow, and Rain are all great for photography

Get out and Experiment and take lots of photos

"Your first 10,000 photos are your worst." Henri Cartier-Bresson

Recap

Tips to Think Like a Photographer

Look around

Look at the Big Picture

Look at the small things - details

Shoot Wide, Medium and Close

Think about Light

Think about Composition

Watch for distractions (trash cans, light poles coming out of heads, etc)

Take many photos / Change you Point of View (POV)

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Get out and shoot
Have Fun with the camera!!

**We use to think that we had a phone that could take photos.
Now we think we have a camera that can make phone calls.**

Resources

Check Youtube for your phone and camera for more info

Geeks on Tour

<https://www.youtube.com/@GeeksOnTour>

Android Camera App Walkthrough / Mobile Photography for Beginners Pt. 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V83Na0fUfDw>

Iphone Camera

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsyLfp1kqgk>

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