Reliable *Materials* for Floral Design

A COLLECTION OF THE STURDIEST FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS

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WHY RELIABLES?

Choosing reliable "performers" for artful floral designs such as installations and wearables gives us long-lasting results *and* require far less resources. In addition to reducing waste, the freedom that water-free design allows is truly transformative.

These are materials that I use and trust, and feel comfortable sharing with you. Use this as a helpful guide, and I encourage you to keep your specific environment and display needs in mind. Please test on your own and grow your own list of "reliables."

KEY
W: good for use in **wearables**
I: strong stem, good for use in large-scale **installs**
SI: vulnerable stem, good for use in installs with internal **support** (wire, wooden skewer) or external structural **support**

RELIABLE FOLIAGE

- Acacia - knifeblade, pearl & feather   w,i
- Acuba w,i
- Agonis w,i
- Aralia w,i
- Bay laurel w,i
- Baker fern/leather leaf w,i
- Blueberry branch w,i
- Berzelia w,i
- Bittersweet (late season) w,i
- Boxwood w,i
- Brunia w,i
- Brake fern w,i
- Calathea w,i
- Callicarpa w,i
- Camellia w,i
- China berry w, si
- Coral fern w,i
- Datura pod w,i
- Dracaena w,i
- Eleagnus - all varieties w,i
- Eucalyptus - all varieties w,i
- Euonymus w,i
- Evergreens - all w,i
- Flax w,i
- Fig on the branch w,i
- Galax w,i
- Grasses w,i
- Grevillea w,i
- Hakea Laurina w,i
- Hala w,i
- Holly w,i
- Honey myrtle w,i
- Huckleberry w,i
- Ilex w,i
- Ivy (common, vine type) w,i
- Ivy (hedera, bush type) w,i
- Kakuma w,i
- Kochia w,i
- Kumquat on the branch w,i
- Leucadendron w,i
- Lipstick pods w,i
- Lotus pods w,i
- Lycopodium w,i
- Magnolia w,i
- Maranta w,i
- Ming fern w,i
- Monstera w,i
- Mulberry w,i
- Myrtle w,i
- Nagi w,i

- Nandina w,i
- Oak w,i
- Olive branch w,i
- Oregonia w,i
- Palm w,i
- Pear (ornamental) w,i
- Penny cress w,i
- Pepperberry w,i
- Persimmon on the branch w,i
- Photina w,i
- Pieris japonica w,i
- Pineapple w,i
- Pittosporum, all varieties w,i
- Plumosus fern w,i
- Podocarpus w,i
- Pomegranate on the branch w,i
- Poppy pods w,i
- Privet w,i
- Pyracantha w,i
- Raspberry (ornamental) w,i
- Rose sumac w,i
- Rosemary w,i
- Ruscus - all varieties w,i
- Salal/lemon leaf w,i
- Skimmia w,i
- Song of india w,i
- Smilax - southern w,i
- Smilax -bagged w, si
- Snowberry w,i
- Succulents w, si
- Tillandsia w, si
- Ti leaves w,i
- Tree of heaven seed pods w,i
- Tropicals - most w,i
- Viburnum - tinus w,i
- Wooly bush w,i

RELIABLE FLOWERS

- alstroemeria w, si
- agapanthus w, i
- ageratum w, si
- allium - all varieties w, si
- amaryllis w, si
- amaranthus - upright w,i
- anthurium w,i
- artichoke w,i
- asiatic lily w,i
- banana flower w, i
- banksia w,i
- begonia w, si
- berzillia w,i
- boronia w,i
- bouvardia (limited testing) w,i
- bromeliad w,i
- calla lily w, si
- calathea w,i
- calycina w,i
- carnation w, si
- celosia, cockscomb w,i
- chamomile - button w,i
- chrysanthemum (firm, plump varieties) w,i
- crocosmia w,i
- curcuma w,i
- craspedia w,i
- cypripedium (lady slipper) w,i
- dahlia (firm ball type) w, si
- date palm w,i
- dianthus (sweet william) w,i
- Dianthus (green trick) w,i
- echinops w,i
- Echinacea w,i
- eremurus w,i
- eryngium w,i
- Eriostemon w,i
- eucomis w,i
- festival bush w,i
- forsythia w,i
- fritillaria persica
- frittilaria imperialis w, si
- freesia w,i
- garden rose (firm, South American, especially w,i
- genista w,i
- gerrondo gerbera daisy w, si
- ginger (beehive, wax, torch, shell, shampoo) w,i

- gladiola w,i
- gloriosa w, si
- grevillia w,i
- gypsophila w,i
- heather w,i
- heliconia (all varieties) w,i
- hellebore (mature, after seed head forms) w, si
- hyacinth w, si
- hybrid tea rose w,i
- hydrangea (late season antique) w,i
- hypericum w,i
- ixia w,i
- kalanchoe w,i
- kangaroo paw w,i
- leptospermum w,i
- liatris w,i
- limonium w,i
- lisianthus, doubles w, si
- lipstick pods w,i
- marigold w,i
- martigon lily w,i
- nerine lily w,i
- orchids - cymbidium, dendrobium, mokara, oncidium, vanda w,i
- ornithagalum - arabicum & dubium w,i
- pieris japonica w,i
- pompon mums w,i
- protea - all varieties w,i
- psittacorum w,i
- tanacetum - tansy w,i
- thyrsoides w,i
- tulip - doubles w, si
- tuberose w,i
- safflower w,i
- sandersonia w, si
- skimmia, blooming w,i
- statice w,i
- strelitzia (bird of paradise) w,i
- squill w, si
- sterling range w,i
- stirlingia w,i
- Serruria w,i
- rice flower w,i
- rose sumac w,i
- verticordia w,i
- waxflower w,i
- waratah w,i
- yarrow w, si

CONSIDERATIONS

- The location and duration of your design's "performance". Remember the contributors to wilt: *temperature*, *light*, *wind velocity*, *relative humidity*.

- Utilize plants that do well where you are locally. If you're designing in a hot, arid place, be mindful when selecting materials.

- Design your installation components a day ahead! Spray them generously with water, tuck them into airtight containers (or contractor trash bags) and allow them to take moisture in through the pores in the surface of their petals, stems, and leaves before installing them at the event.

- Lookout for materials that you can responsibly forage (and dispose of). Materials like seed pod clusters, grasses, or cotinus fluff that can be used over and over in installation work.

- Learn more about all of these techniques in my <u>online tutorials</u>.

MORE ON FLOWERS...

Some have soft or fleshy stems that may sag with time, but the blooms will hold well. Take this into consideration, and choose your placements accordingly. Allow cascading blooms to cascade naturally instead of forcing upward. Insert stems in a direction that will allow them to look their best for the length of the event. Large fleshy stems such as hyacinth and amaryllis can be bolstered by inserting a slim bamboo skewer.

With love and respect,