

Group Shoot: Spring/Blooms

When it comes to photographing flowers and leaves, there are a few easy things you can do to improve your images. Here are four tips to help you take your foliage photos to the next level.

Top Tips

1. Get close with a macro lens

Once you have chosen a subject for your image, a macro lens will enable you to position yourself as close as possible. Getting up close and personal allows you to show more detail, completely fill the frame with your subject, or experiment with extreme depth of field.



2. Use a shallow depth of field

When photographing foliage oftentimes your subject is surrounded by more foliage. Choosing a shallow depth of field will help to isolate your subject and throw the background out of focus. This helps to draw viewer's eyes to the part of the image that you intend to be your subject.



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3. Keep an eye on your background

Even when you make sure that your background is a soft, out-of-focus blur, too much contrast can be distracting. When composing your shot, make sure to look for hot spots or bright areas that might detract from your subject. Or, choose this effect to make your subject stand out; it's up to you.



High contrast in background

Less contrast

Objectives

Get outside and use your surroundings

Choose an area nearby that has natural elements to shoot such as a park, public space or garden.

Take advantage of the weather

Shoot outside with natural light and show the feeling of the season in your images. Try shooting in full sun as well as shade and partial shade to experiment with contrast.

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The Challenge

Create 5 portfolio-worthy images using the following characteristics:

- Show flowers in bloom or foliage of some sort
- Try shooting in full sun as well as shade and partial shade
- Experiment with a different lens you have never tried before