

Points to remember from “How to Take a Better Photograph”

By Kirsten Torkelson of KT Images

To take a better photograph you need to ask yourself what story to I want to tell. Every photograph tells a story. A “Good” photograph tells the story you meant to tell.

Knowing why you are taking the photo will help you focus and help identify the main subject.

- You may want to document your whole garden or individual plants.
- You may want to document a garden you saw on vacation.
- You may want to make a slide show to share what you saw with your friends

Several things to keep in mind to help you take a better photo

- Identify why you are taking the photograph (intent)
- Identify the subject
- Composition (where the subject is in your photograph)
 - Simplify the background
 - Watch the background for bright spots that will distract the viewers eye from the subject
- Point of view (take the photographs from several angles)
 - From a low angle looking up will emphasize the foreground
 - Shooting level with the flower
 - Try shooting down from above
- Lighting and how it affects your image
 - Direction of light (**side light**=texture), (**backlight**=silhouette for solid object, lights up translucent flower peddles), (**Front light**=even lighting with no shadows can sometimes make object look flat if light is too bright)
 - Time of day (quality of light-best early morning and evening)
 - Tips for getting a better photo even in direct light (*make your own shade- use your shadow or that of a companion to diffuse the light*)

Remember to use landscape mode (large f-stop 8-16) to keep everything in focus. Best used for taking a picture of the whole garden. The larger the F stop the more light you will need to get a sharp photo without a tripod.

Use Portrait mode (or a small F-stop) to help blur the background. Best used to isolate individual plants or flowers. Small F-stops need less light to make a sharp image.

How do I put my Android in portrait mode?

Open your Android's. Settings. ...

Scroll down and tap Accessibility. You'll find this option near the bottom of the Settings page.

Scroll down and tap the grey "Auto-rotate screen" switch. . . .

Hold your Android vertically for portrait mode.

Hold your Android horizontally for landscape mode.

Points to remember from “How to Take a Better Photograph”

By Kirsten Torkelson of KT Images

How do I put my iPad in portrait mode?

Access the Control Center by touching the top-right corner of any screen then dragging downward. Tap the Portrait Orientation icon to turn on. When the icon is highlighted in red, the Portrait Orientation Lock is turned on. If you don't see the Portrait Orientation icon, and your iPad has a Side Switch, view this info.

If you want to document your garden you may want to take a series of pictures from the same vantage point to document the changes over the seasons. Over the winter you can select additions to next year's garden to help spread the blooms out over the entire growing season. You may just want to document a favorite plant from your garden or one you see while traveling in hopes to add it to your garden.

Remember to have fun and enjoy being with flowers.