



## FUN WITH FLOWERS

There is so much satisfaction in making lovely and interesting flower arrangements that we hope you will not miss the fun and try making some for yourself.

Some flower arranging authorities have given us some rules that are very fine, but why not think of them as suggestions. A guilty conscience will not torment you then, if the flowers you are arranging insist on taking an unruly attitude. They may be trying to help you in an original idea.

Flowers are gay and beautiful. They add the color note you want in your home, and if you go about arranging them in a happy mood you can make the line of your composition swing to the tempo you desire.

If your container is simple in shape and color you may take more liberties in bringing out your own ideas in the arrangement. If simplicity is your keynote you will not be disturbed by confusing lines, and intricate patterns. A vase that has flowers on it seldom needs flowers in it.

Study the natural tendencies of the flowers. Their shape, color, stem and leaf-forms, and general contours will guide you into the pattern they will naturally fall. By placing the larger flowers near the base of your arrangement and the smaller ones toward the top, you avoid top heaviness. Try carrying out the lines of the vase with the stems of your flowers so your container will become a basic part of your composition.

The type of flowers is not so important as the arrangement. However, good taste bids us keep the flowers in an environment suitable to their type, for the background is to the arrangement what a frame is to a picture. Choose your flowers carefully as to color, for it creates the first emotional effect. They should also be interesting in form and character.

The foliage should be selected with equal care and placed as purposefully. It is very important that you cut out all unnecessary leaves or branches that will make your arrangement look cluttered. If the flowers have no natural foliage, a common garden weed may often be used effectively. You will find many surprises when you start looking for the many lovely stem lines and gorgeous colors and shapes in all kinds of leaves. The color of your container should blend harmoniously with your whole arrangement.

A well-balanced composition should have a main line that will govern the other two basic lines of the design. Sometimes it is the foliage, sometimes the flowers themselves, and often the branches that produce these lines. If you allow the stems to cross each other they are liable to cause friction and you lose your harmonious and rhythmic feeling. It is nice to think of your container as a stage. Pick your leading characters and make them your center of interest. The less important flowers and foliage complete your play and make a beautiful story.