

Studies Regarding the Possibilities of Using *Gladiolus Hybridus* Cultivars in Floral Art

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Abstract. Floral art has an increasingly important role in our life, specially in the last 20-30 years. Each year, exhibitions and contests are organized in larger towns and the nicest, the most artistic arrangements are rewarded. The goal of this experiment was to find new possibilities for associating plants that lead to a nice visual effect. Therefore, for the realization of the arrangements, were used materials such as: plastic recipients, vases, baskets, Oasis sponge, scissors, ribbon, thin wire etc. As for the plant material, were used *Gladiolus hybridus* cultivars and other ornamental species such as: dried leaves, *Monstera* leaves, branches of *Salix*, rush leaves, *Eucalyptus*, fern leaves etc. All the plants were produced at UASVM Cluj-Napoca and the arrangements were made in the didactical greenhouse belonging to the Floriculture department. Combining different materials, accessories, ornamental plants and applying different styles were obtained five arrangements that can be used for decorating tables, a shelf, a dresser, on cars (for weddings) or directly on the floor. By diversifying the cut flower assortment, new possibilities to integrate the plants must be identified, so that, old cultivars could be combined with new ones and modern accessories, to obtain more adaptable designs to the requirements of the clients.

Keywords: arrangement, floral stem, color, style.

Introduction. Floral design (floral art) is the art of creating arrangements for any containers and also for making bouquets or compositions using flowers, foliage, herbs, ornamental grasses and other plant materials (Griner, 2002). A floral composition is harmonious or not, depending on different proportions of its dimensions. The main measures that are taken into account when sizing a bouquet are: the height, width and thickness (Cantor and Buta, 2010). To be able to maximize the quality of color by understanding its tonal values, using them to achieve perspective, and therefore create a harmonious design, plays a crucial part in the success of any flower arrangement (Coleman, 1984). Given that the flowers open in stages, bouquets and arrangements have a long period of storage and decor in tap water (from 9.7 to 15.7 days) or, even longer period of time, depending on the preservation solutions that were used (Cantor *et al.*, 2013).

Aims and objectives. The purpose of this activities is to promote new *Gladiolus* cultivars in floral art, by identifying the possibility of arranging *Gladiolus* plants, depending on colors and heights and their association with other decorative species depending on the destination of the arrangement and the adopted design style. Flowershops can use the associations to create their own arrangements or they simply can reproduce them. Also, plant magazines can promote those daring associations so that, the readers can be inspired by its.

Materials and methods. The arrangements were made in August 2013 at UASVM Cluj-Napoca greenhouse, using flowers of *Gladiolus* the following varieties: 'Priscilla', 'Nova Lux', 'Fistic', 'Peter Pears', 'White Prosperity', 'Pink Lady', 'Lemonade', 'Fidelio', 'Oscar', 'Medina', 'Blue lagoon', 'Black Jack', 'Red zone', 'Georgia Peach' which were obtained in didactical collection of Department of Floriculture. To fill the empty spaces, were used other plants produced in the same greenhouse: *Monstera deliciosa*, *Aspidistra*, *Typha*

latifolia, *Strelitzia augusta*, *Dryopteris filix mas*, *Eringium*, *Eucalyptus*, or, there were collected branches from the park of the univeristy: *Salix matsudana tortuosa* *Corylus avelana*. The other materials used for floral design are: Oasis sponge, ribbon, pots, sisal, scissors. For the compositions, were consulted and applied the bases of the most common flower arranging designs. The most important characteristics taken into account were: the colour, the texture of the plants and the size. Elements from the oval arrangement, and a minimal arrangement were combined to realize the first bouquet. In order to make the basket arrangement plant material was simply introduced in the basket all around its margins and then, the center was filled out with glads and greenery. Minimal and Ikebana elements were applied for the realization of the third arrangement, by creating an asymmetric composition. The horizontal arrangement was created by adding new elements like dried lives in a fresh arrangement. The rustic arrangement is combining elegant flowers with rustic tree branches, and, to add modern elements, twisted leaves were placed in the composition, to draw straight lines, contrasting rustic elements.

Results and Discussion. For the first arrangement, the bouquet, branches of *Salix* were used to make a support in which the plants were introduced. The plant material used for the design are: *Monstera deliciosa*, *Aspidistra*, *Gladiolus hybridus*, *Typha latifolia*, dried leaf of *Strelitzia augusta*, and some gladioli: ‘Priscilla’, ‘Nova Lux’, ‘Fistic’, ‘Peter Pears’, ‘White Prosperity’. The second arrangement contains a twigs basket which was padded with polyethylene to avoid the flow of the wather from the wet Oasis sponge. In this support, the vegetative material was introduced: *Solidago*, Fern, *Gladiolus* cultivars: ‘Pink Lady’, ‘Nova Lux’, ‘White Prosperity’, ‘Lemonade’, ‘Fidelio’, ‘Oscar’, ‘Peter Pears’. The support of third arrangement is a wood cylinder with a string tied at both sides of the pot so that it can be hanged. The plants were chosen to match the pot. Therefore, the materials used for this arrangement are: the pot, Oasis sponge, *Salix matsudana tortuosa*, a leaf of *Monstera deliciosa*, *Dryopteris filix mas*, *Gladiolus* leaves and flowers (‘Medina’, ‘Priscilla’, ‘Blue lagoon’, ‘Black Jack’). The forth arrangement is designed in a white, oval ceramic pot, the wet Oasis sponge was putted inside and the plants were arranged in it. The materials used for this composition are: leaves of *Aspidistra*, *Dryopteris filix mas*, *Strelitzia augusta*, and leaves and flowers of *Gladiolus hybridus* (‘Red zone’, ‘Nova lux’, ‘Lemonade’, ‘True Love’) and yellow sisal. For the last arrangement the most important part is the support representing a part of a branch where the wet Oasis sponge was placed and in which plants were arranged: *Eringium*, *Eucalyptus*, leaves of *Typha latifolia*, *Corylus avelana* var. *contorta* and gladioli: ‘Peter Pears’, ‘Red zone’, ‘Georgia Peach’.

Conclusion

Considering the fact that lately, the demand of *Gladiolus* on the market decreased, therefore, it is necessary to promote new cultivars, increasing the palette of colors and shapes of flowers available on the cut flower market and especially for summer events. The novelty of this study consists on the combinations that were made and the arrangements its selfs. By introducing daring combinations (for example, dried leaves in a fresh bouquet) spectacular and modern effects can be created.

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