

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH WILD FLOWERS



15 tips to photograph flowers

You have a desire to photograph flower but need a good technique to capture the dramatic effect

Here are 14 simple steps to assist you

1. Use a tripod
2. Get up early
3. Use a reflector
4. Cloudy days
5. Use a polarizer
6. Wait for sunset
7. Extra batteries
8. Extra cards
9. Fill the frame
10. Lens
11. From a bugs eye view
12. Filters
13. Wind
14. Reflectors
15. Spring Wildflower Photography

Step 1 **use a tripod**

Most flowers are located outdoors which includes natural environmental factors that will affect your image If you use a tripod it will help stabilize the camera

Step 2 **Get up early**

The best time of day is the golden hour (one hour after sunrise) The colours will be , emphasized the morning dew will an mystic presentation to the flower .

Step 3 Use a reflector

A small portable reflection will help to eliminate the harsh shadows.

Step 4 **Cloudy Days**

The clouds act a natural light diffuser tht eliminates the harsh shadows

Step 5 **Use polarizer**

If you are shooting in the mid-day sun attach a polarizer filter to your lens. This will eliminate any reflections and it will also highlight the colours of the flower

Step 6 **Wait for sunset**

Sunset is another golden hour (one hour before)

Step 7 **Take extra batteries**

The elements of nature will take their toll on the camera batteries always carry extras

Step 8 **Take extra camera cards**

When taking multiple shots your card will fill up fast or you have some special images on one card that you don't want accidentally erase

Step 9 **Fill the frame**

Fill the frame with the flower(s) donot include the garden hose, dead branches or the fence

Step 10 **Lens**

For a general view a telephoto lens 300 mm to 400mm

For a close up view a macro lens or close up filters

For a full field vision a wide angle lens is best

Step 11 **From a bugs eye view**

Use a small lens 14mm to 28mm

Get as close to the ground as possible and aim directly at the flower

Step 12 **Filters**

You want the best image possible to enhance the true colours you will need the use of some special filters

- Polarizer to eliminate reflections and enhance the colour
- Neutral density to darken the sky and bring out the beauty of the flower
- The 81A series of filters to eliminate some unwanted colours and show natures true beauty

Step 13 **Wind**

Wind will always be a factor in any outdoor photo expedition but is more prevalent with the Flowers. Some people say to clamp the flower to a secure fixture but this goes against the code of nature "donot touch the plant" the best way is either come back another day or put up a temporary shield

Step 14 **Reflectors**

They are small and portable are provide the perfect lighting to eliminate the shadows

They will not interfere with nature

Step 15 Spring Wildflower Photography

For about three weeks in early Spring, great swathes of elegant White Trilliums carpet the floors of forests, before trees' leaves fully develop and block out the sunlight. It's a great opportunity to get out and photograph an abundance of wildflowers that can't be seen at any other time of year.

Get low to the ground, put your eye level with the flower or only slightly higher. Don't shoot from a standing position.

If you cannot fill the frame with the flower with the lens that you have, you might want to consider a macro lens to get closer.

Use a tripod. Depth of field will be limited as you get closer, and to get it, your shutter speed will be lower. Use a tripod to reduce the chance of motion blur.

Use the built in flash for a kiss of light. This helps make colours pop when shooting under a canopy of trees. Set your flash exposure compensation to -1

If you are shooting on a bright sunny day, the light will be too harsh. Carry a small pop up diffuser with you and hold it between the sun and the flower for lovely soft light, even on a sunny cloudless day.

When shooting under the canopy or on an overcast day, use your small reflector below the flower to fill in the shadows a bit and provide a less contrast scene with a wider range of tones.

If the flower is in a difficult to reach place, such as a water lily, use your long telephoto lens to fill the frame with the flower. You want the flower, not a cluttered and busy background. A photo with one subject is typically much more successful than a busy scene.

It's good practice to check your scene and remove broken twigs, trash and other distractions. If there are live plants in the way, avoid ripping them out of the ground, consider using string or clamps to move them temporarily out of the way.

Spring flowers are very important to the environment, so don't pick them, and don't kill insects using the plants. A flower with an insect doing its job has a lot of gesture and is very powerful.

If you are not completely sure of which exposure will look best to you, use your camera's Automatic Exposure Bracketing. Set it for 3 exposures with a range of -1EV 0EV and +1EV. This will give you three different exposures to choose from and you'll typically prefer one over the others. It also gives you three exposures that can be used to make an HDR (High Dynamic Range) photograph.

In conclusion

Flowers are always a natural and fantastic photo opportunity, by using these simple

Techniques you will get some fantastic shots while preserving the environment

Have fun experiment and stay safe.

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