

# Getting ready For Spring



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## Getting ready for spring

### New equipment

Whether you're planning a trip to the sunny south or just a fun weekend adventure a little closer to home, spring is when many Canadians come out of hibernation and rediscover photography.

One of the best parts about camera shopping is the wide array of options available for all types of photographers. Camera manufacturers are producing innovative products that drive fierce competition between brands and push the limits of what a camera can do.

### Where to start

- The first thing consider is what do you plan on capturing?
- Are you hoping to document friends and family close to home?
- Maybe you're embarking on an adventure across the globe to soak in the beauty of the diverse landscapes?
- Are you a professional studio photographer looking to offer your clients more?
- Start thinking about the size of your ideal camera and how much gear you're willing to lug around and that will help narrow down your options a little.

Once you've established the purpose of your camera and the size of your kit, there are three core factors that can really help lead you in the right direction. These include: lifestyle, expectations and budget. No two people are alike: every person has different expectations and budgets for fulfilling personal photography wants and needs. All of these options allow you to customize your camera to suit you the best and provide the best results today and well into the future.

### “Lifestyle”

Reflect on the “how” and “where” you take your photos and videos.

- If you're adventurous, perhaps you want something weather-sealed that doesn't weigh a tonne.
- If you've got Children, maybe think about the advantages of a shockproof camera.
- If you're into video, consider the different types of stabilization, lens selection and ability to add accessories like a high-quality microphone or a continuous LED panel.

There are no “one-size-fits-all” cameras, within any given brand, there are lots of choices: from

### Expectations

- family shooters may enjoy the compact
- adventurous travelers will be wowed by the great lenses,
- working professionals will go gaga for the powerful DSLR

**Budget.**

You may have a set number in your mind, but are you leaving room for things like memory cards, filters, cases, and a service plan. These are all worth considering, as they contribute to your overall experience of owning the camera and getting the best value from it. Technology is ever-changing, so a good way to approach setting a budget is to look to the future – give yourself some room to grow with your camera.

As you can see, there are quite a few variables that come into play

## **Bring Your Garden Photos to Life**

Summer is just a Few month away, and the warmer months are a fantastic time to get outdoors to shoot landscapes and nature. even though the current world situation means many of us can't travel to new and interesting locations to shoot, that doesn't mean we don't have ways to hone our skills and take Fantastic shots close to home.

Garden photography is one way to do just that. Photographing your own garden or yard, or visiting a nearby public park (while practicing any safe measures that may be in effect!) is a Fantastic way to work on your landscape, nature, still life and macro photography skills — and even your wildlife photography skills, if you're lucky. And if you're an avid gardener, it's a Fantastic way to show off your green thumb!

### **Tips for More Succulent Garden Photos**

#### **1. Get up close and Personal**

it may be tempting to widen your shots to show off an entire flower bed (or your whole garden), you will be adding too much clutter into your shots. Instead, focus on the object that really catches your eye: a specific flower or color; the way the light shines through a patch of leaves; or a bumblebee or butterfly as it hovers above the flowers

Don't stop there, either: You can break out your macro lens to get even closer. With the macro you can fully capture the detail in the pistil of a flower or on the shell of a beetle.

#### **2. Capture the Unexpected**

Many times flowers are often the focal point of a specific garden, there's a lot more to a garden than that. Make sure you move your camera around and capture the additional plants and elements that make up your garden. What evokes the mood that your garden sets for you? Is it the combination of plants and flowers, the way the sun hits certain leaves or the way shadows fall across individual beds?

You can also use different elements of your garden, such as spaces between plants or openings in the leaves, to frame your shots and bring your favorite elements into Fantasticer focus.

#### **3. it's Not Just About the Plants!**

You've spent time shooting the flowers and the surrounding plants, but what about the complementary features that bring your garden to life? Most gardens have decorative elements like statues, or benches to sit on or bird feeders or baths; make sure you take the time to capture these as well. Even individual pots or planters can have interesting details on them or can be used to set scale; you can also shoot birds and bugs, or squirrels or chipmunks, as they visit your garden.

Another way to make your garden feel alive is to include people in your shots. For your home garden, you can capture your family working or playing in your green space, and even shoot items like garden tools to make your garden feel lived-in.

#### **4. Contrast is Your Friend**

Gardens can run the gamut between colorful, flowers providing bursts of color all over, or just too green, with a seeming sea of leaves covering all. To help ensure your desired subjects stand out from their surroundings, look for angles that show off contrasting colors. That might mean getting low, to put the sky behind the subject, or the reverse, to get dark soil in the background.

You can also make use of a shallow depth of field to bring your subjects out of the background.

#### **5. Avoid the Midday Sun**

While it might seem like the midday sun will make the colors in your garden pop, it can actually have the opposite effect: The midday sun can be too bright, and completely wash out your colourful subjects.

Instead, make the time in the early morning and later afternoon to shoot your garden. The lower sun will provide a soft, beautiful background that makes your plants and flowers feel lively and vibrant. And don't be afraid to shoot on slightly overcast days, either; cloud cover offers diffused lighting that gives you a natural feel on camera. Add a polarizing filter for an add effect

#### **6. Grow Your Skills with the Right Tools**

You can take Fantastic photos in your garden with just about any camera! But if you're looking to invest in some new gear to help bring your green space to life, there are a few specific features and items you should look for.

#### **7. The Best Cameras for Garden Photography**

Ideally, you'll want to shoot outdoors with a rugged, compact camera. And since you'll likely be zooming in on small details, image stabilization is also key — as is a tilting LCD screen, to help you get close to the ground and nail the right angles.

#### **8. Choosing the Right Lens for Garden Photography**

In addition to your kit lens, a macro lens will help you get up close and personal with your garden. a 52mm filter diameter and lets you get within four inches of your subject without distortion.

If you're concerned about stepping right into your garden, or can't get as close in a public space as you might like, you'll want to have a zoom lens with you. A 70-200mm zoom lens, will give you all the room you need, and provide a tight depth of field that frames your shots nicely.

For a fun addition, consider using a fisheye lens; it will help you create interesting compositions using flowers and plants immediately in front of the lens, or help you show off your entire garden without stepping too far outside of it.

Getting close to the ground is an important part of garden photography. A low tripod can help you get right close into the dirt while still helping you maintain stability and avoid camera shake and blurriness in your shots.

## **9. Tripod**

The Tripod with ball head is a sturdy tripod that lets you get as close as 10 inches to the ground. Its ball head gives you plenty of angles to work from, and its built-in level helps ensure you're perfectly on line when you need to be.

Use a tripod with a 90-degree centre column mechanism, which allows you to extend your camera both horizontally and vertically. Best of all for garden photography, allowing you to get within four inches of the ground.

## **10. Take Advantage of Your Available Green Space!**

Our backyards and public parks can be Fantastic sources of photography inspiration. Colors and contrasting light and shadow are readily available, and you can experiment with interesting angles to create memorable compositions.

## **Nature Photography in the spring**

As the birds and animals shed their winter coats it provides a tremendous opportunity for all nature and wild life photographers.

### **Think new life**

The animals, like us, are throwing off their winter blues. Playful and frisky, squirrels are busy now from sunup to sundown. Chipmunks, moles and voles scurry from their winter bunkers. Watch quietly and you'll see foxes and deer in the hours near sunrise or sunset. Break out the long lenses to focus on birds and mammals. They're curious too and you'll be surprised how approachable many urban animals are.

Always approach your subject quietly and very carefully.

### **Keep it simple**

When photographing a scene where a lot is going on, like a field full of flowers or a cluster of trees in a forest, it's easy for the final image to end up looking a bit cluttered. But remember that if everything is important, nothing will stand out. To avoid this, you need to have a clear idea of what your subject is.

You can then think about how to use contrast, composition and leading lines to emphasise this subject, whether it's a squirrel or a particularly majestic tree.

### **Think beyond flowers**

Although flowers and blossoms tend to be one of the first things that come to mind when thinking about spring, you don't have to limit yourself to photographing trees and flowers.

There are many other things that are equally representative of this time of year, from fuzzy ducklings and playful squirrels to people sitting outdoors enjoying the first warmer days of the year. So think outside the box and get creative with your spring photography.

Protect your camera equipment from the wet conditions of the spring, like rain dirt mud and pollen

When the flowers start to bloom the smaller nectar eating birds like the Humming bird arrive

Late spring is the perfect time to capture Great images of small subjects using macro photography use insect repellent to prevent the insect from biting you



## The magic of April showers

You know what they say: April showers bring May flowers. If you fancy braving the wet weather in spring, then you can also create some stunning rainy shots that are both moody and eye-catching. Whether it's shimmering rainforest foliage or children having a ball while splashing in puddles and playing in the rain, the options are endless.

If your photo has the right amount of light reflecting off the water droplets, then you may be able to produce eye-catching bokeh within your image

As a new season is evolving and you can't wait to get outside but you realize it is rainy so you put your gear back in the case and wait for a better day

Some of the best photos are taken due a slight rain fall

There are multiple ways to photograph images in the rain

From the shelter of a bridge overpass or a deck canopy a picnic shelter or specialized rain gear

Protect your gear from the elements ( a strong sandwich bag) will work wonders A good rain coat for you and a weather proof camera bag

Water droplets on the lens will destroy any image constantly wipe the lens wipe a clean dry cloth A uv filter will protect the delicate elements of the lens.

Rainy day Photography will produce some fantastic images

Look for rainy day magic

- Reflections on the ground vehicle windows and other shiny objects
- Amazing cloud formations
- Storm formations
- bolts of lightning
- Black and white images
- Items of high contrast

As a photographer you must be prepared for any situation bring lots of dry towels an good strong umbrella and the necessary protection clothing and protective material for your gear

Take all necessary safety precautions

After a serve thunder storm the light will provide for a spectacular image The landscape will be presented from a completely different perspective A long exposure of the street lights reflecting off the wet pavement below

To compensate for the different light situations us a neutral density filter

To eliminate unwanted reflections use a polarizer

Next time rain is forecasted Put on a rain coat protect your gear and get out there to get some spectacular shots,

## **Nature reflection**

The conditions of the spring make it easy to capture wildlife and to get sharp images of flowers and vegetation

The calm waters make for a perfect reflective surface

The reflection allows you to capture some of the intricate details of your subject

Get the right angle even if it means getting down dirty and wet

## **Looking for reflections**

Reflections can also add interest and drama to your photos, whether it's the reflection of a flowering tree in a placid lake or a child's face reflected in a puddle of water on a muddy path. If you're shooting street scenes in the city, you can look for things buildings or car mirrors that show the reflection of the trees or spring flowers that are coming to life.

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## Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

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