

# Garden Photography Tips

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## ~~~~~ Cameras ~~~~~

- They all take good pictures. iPhoneographer Chase Jarvis says: "*The Best Camera Is the One That's With You.*"
  - Phones
    - Great if you don't zoom
      - Get within 4 to 6 inches from your subject
      - Optional zoom lens
    - Wide angle only (subject becomes smaller than the eye can see)
    - Focuses everything
  - Fixed lens "pocket" camera—zoom lens
  - SLR digital camera
    - Interchangeable lenses
      - 50mm standard lens (you get what you see)
      - Macro close-up lens (you have to get physically close)
      - 28-300 zoom (zooms are great all-purpose lenses)
      - Read the lens manual for distance to subject

## ~~~~~ Using Your Masterpiece ~~~~~

- Facebook or other social media
- Computer or phone wallpaper/screensaver
- Calendars, photo books, holiday cards, prints
  - Vista Print, Zazzle, Lulu, Shutterfly, Blurb, Snapfish, CafePress, Costco, Walmart, Staples, Drugstores, Kinkos, Google Picasa, and many more.

## ~~~~~ Taking Pictures ~~~~~

- Where to practice
  - Your own backyard
  - Nurseries
  - Public gardens
  - Nature hikes/walks
- Depth of Field (how focused the background is)
  - Phones focus everything unless you get close to the subject
- Lighting
  - Overcast sky – Yay! No deep shadows
  - Before 10a, after 4p - soft, warm light
  - Light from behind
  - Spot of light in a shady area

- Whites—if there is anything dark in the photo, white will often overexpose. To get detail a light area, make it the main subject. Phones—tap on white subject.
- Red/dark pinks—tend to over-saturate and may be best in sun or back-lit. Phones do pretty well with red.

~~~~~ **Composition Tips** ~~~~~

- Get Close (or crop to get detail of the subject)
- Do you need the whole subject?
- Move around the subject--it looks completely different from behind
- Look down.
- Look up
- Include a foreground subject
- Find repeating patterns
- Record your harvest—make a still life
- Critters—Take A LOT of pictures. Practice patience!

~~~~~ **Hands-On Practice** ~~~~~

**Apple Phone Camera Tips**

(Android users skip to page 4)

The latest iPhone operating system (ios 11) unlocked a bunch of new settings making the iPhone an even better camera. Way too much to cover now! Here are some of the features you might use in garden photography. Most will work with older phones.

**Turn the camera on fast!** From a black screen, press either “on” button once (you don’t want to see the login keys). Swipe your finger across the screen to open the camera without logging in. Before ios 11 this was left to right. Now it’s right to left.

**Taking pictures.** Here are some useful tips for taking pictures. For those settings not covered here, go to Google and search **iPhone camera tips!**

**Getting close** – you can get to within 4 inches of the subject and the camera will still focus.

**Picture settings** (top row, left to right)



**Lightning Bolt – Flash** (Auto > On > Off)

**HDR** (Auto > **On** > Off) HDR takes 2 pictures for every shot. The first is normal exposure. The 2<sup>nd</sup> automatically deals with too much contrast like bright sky when your subject is dark.



**Intersecting circles** – this setting gives you choices to make the colors of your picture warmer (more red), cooler (more blue), or even black and white. If you prefer, you can also change a picture after you take it—more on that below.

**Direct the focus** – The camera will automatically focus on whatever is in the center of the screen. To change that, tap the screen where you want to direct focus and lighting. This locks the focus so keep the camera the same distance from the subject.

**Adjust lighting even more** - Tap and hold on the subject. This brings up a slider that allows you to increase or decrease lighting. (note: if you get an “AE/AF Lock” warning, you have held down too long. Tap to release that and try again) Again, don’t move the camera as it locks the focus on the part of the picture you tapped.

**Type of picture** (bottom row). It is very easy to accidentally change these!

Time-Lapse > Slo-Mo > Video > **Photo** > Square > Pano

**Make the camera level with the subject.** (Note: this feature only works when the camera is pointed down, ios11 only.) Settings > Camera > Grid This turns on a pale grid pattern over your picture (it doesn’t show in the photo). Since focus is best when the camera is parallel/level with the subject, this feature helps you do that. A small yellow “plus” sign will become solid in the center of the picture when the camera is level with the subject.

**Editing pictures you have already taken.** Note: changes you make to a photo with these settings are permanent once you click “Done” (bottom right). Choose “Cancel” (bottom left) if you don’t want to keep the changes.



**Open your photos** – After logging in to your phone, tap the Photos app

**Select a photo** and tap “Edit” in the upper right

A row of settings will appear at the bottom (or side) of your phone

**Intersecting circles** are there again and you can apply different color shadings to the picture.

**Brightness/Color/Black and White** – This is the symbol of the sun with a clock in the middle. Here you can change light, color, and make the picture black and white. Slide the bar or row of choices to make the change. This is for those rainy afternoons when you have nothing better to do—LOTS OF CHOICES!

# Android Phone Camera Tips

Disclaimer! I found these on the internet and have not tried them since I don't use this phone.  
Jan Fetler

**Turn the camera on fast!** —varies by device manufacturer. Try one of these either from a black screen or the screen before you see the login keys:

1. Double-tap the power/home button.
2. Holding the phone (turned off) shake the phone using a rapid double-twist gesture that's almost exactly like what you would do if your watch gets stuck too high up on your wrist.
3. Add a "shortcut" to your lock screen. Try finding it here:

Settings > Lockscreen > or  
Settings > Lockscreen > System IU Tuner > or  
Settings > Display >

Then choose the camera. A little icon will appear on the screen before the login keys. Click the icon to launch the camera.

**Taking pictures.** Here are some useful tips for taking pictures. For those settings not covered here, go to Google and search **Android camera tips!**

**Getting close** – you can get to within about 4 inches of the subject and the camera will still focus. You can test your phone by taking pictures of a printed document from various distances. See how close you can get before the type is blurry.

**HDR Setting** (Auto > **On** > Off) HDR - takes 2 pictures for every shot. The first is normal exposure. The 2<sup>nd</sup> automatically deals with too much contrast like bright sky when your subject is dark.

**Direct the focus** – The camera will automatically focus on whatever is in the center of the screen. To change that, tap the screen where you want to direct focus and lighting. This locks the focus so keep the camera the same distance from the subject.