

TRIANGLE NURSERY  
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# Pedestal Design

**Back to Basics**

PRESENTED TO  
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## **The Pedestal Arrangement**

### **What Is a Pedestal Arrangement?**

A large scale arrangement suitable for a Church, a Cathedral, entrance to a venue, reception area etc. It creates a welcome to guests, offering the initial wow factor for an event, and can direct footfall if required. Usually a finished height of between 1.5 - 3m including the stand.

As it is viewed from 3 sides it requires depth and coverage from these viewed angles. Occasionally a 360 degree design is required, if it is to be viewed from every angle, which requires double the plant material a front-facing design will require. This is usually a "stand alone" design, and needs to have even coverage throughout.

### **Container & Mechanics & Tools**

- Pedestal Stand: Plinth, wrought iron, perspex, clay/concrete urn base or wood
- Container: green plastic bulb bowl (usually 25cm), ceramic bowl or deep urn (if foam free)
- Jumbo brick or 2 x wet foam bricks
- Chicken wire (if foam free, or to add extra support)
- Scissors
- Secateurs
- 12mm anchor tape
- Cutting cloth (if working on site)
- Brush and dustpan
- Bin bags
- Watering can

### **Suggested Plant Materials & Quantities**

This is intended as a guide only. The brief, setting, size, theme and budget will all have an impact of the plant materials you select

- 1 x bunch linear foliage eg. soft ruscus, Eucalyptus Cinerea, Beech, Cocculus, Laurel, Ligustrum
- 7 x stems Phoenix Robellini or Sword Fern
- Trailing foliage if desired eg. hедера, Rubus, Passiflora, Asparagus Sprengeri
- 9 x Aspidistra Leaves or Hosta, Fatsia, Bergenia, Philodendron etc
- 7 - 9 Linear Flowers eg. Delphinium, Antirrhinum, Gladioli, Aconitum, Digitalis etc
- 7 - 11 Focal (round) blooms eg. open Oriental lilies, Chrysanthemum Blooms, Large Gerbera, Hydrangea
- 7 - 11 Transitional/Filler flowers (branching or spray stems) eg. Spray Carnations, Lisianthus, Solidaster, Spray Chrysanthemums, Clematis

### **Depending on the budget and size:**

- 5 - 9 Form flowers (to add interest to the design) eg. Iris, Anthurium, Curcuma





## **Method**

The method of construction is really the same as that for a symmetrical triangle, but on a much larger scale!

1. Securely fix the wet foam (or chicken wire if foam free) to the container with 12mm anchor tape, ensuring it is stable enough to hold the plant materials in position during transportation (if not constructing on site) Place the wet foam horizontally rather than vertically so there is not a weak gap between the foam bricks causing instability for the stems. Chicken wire can also be added at this stage if desired
2. Start by creating the height and width of your design with the linear foliage, creating a triangular shape. Take into account the scale and proportion of the design
3. Add more of the linear foliage to build the "sides" of the triangle and ensure the plastic container is covered
4. Place the linear flowers to establish the finished height
5. Place the focal flowers through the centre of the design in a staggered line
6. Add the transitional flowers to give width and outline
7. If using, add the trailing foliage and form flowers to give added texture and interest to the design
8. Fill in any gaps with spare or remaining foliage
9. Cover the wet foam in the back of the design with foliage cut offs and any remaining or spare flowers

## **Care and Maintenance**

- Fill container with fresh water and top up when necessary depending on the ambient temperature and varieties of flowers used
- Position away from direct heat source and sunlight and avoid areas of heavy footfall
- Remove any faded blooms to allow others to develop and prolong longevity
- If logistically possible, remove arrangement to a cooler environment overnight to extend shelf life

## **Top Tips**

- Don't try to use a pedestal arrangement to cover something unsightly - it will only serve to emphasise it! Place the arrangement in such a position that it draws the viewer's eye away
- Visit the venue before hand and assess the available stands and logistics
- Group materials together to create impact if the plant materials are small
- Can add chicken wire over the wet foam to give additional support to larger, heavier stems ie. Delphiniums. Gladioli Digitalis etc.
- If creating 2 pedestal arrangements ie. either side of an altar in church, work on them at the same time, stepping back occasionally to confirm they are aesthetically pleasing and mirror each other



- One large design gives more impact than several smaller ones. Despite the impression that a large pedestal can be expensive, it can work out more cost effective for your customer than multiple smaller designs, and less labour intensive for you
- Use less developed, smaller blooms at the extremities of the design, keeping more open, larger blooms close to the centre and base of the design giving both visual and actual balance
- Even if the pedestal arrangement is a front-facing design rather than a 360 degree construction, cover any gaps in the back of the design with remaining/spare foliage to give it a “finished” appearance
- Ensure the design is well balanced and anchored into the stand, especially if it is placed in a heavy footfall area. This will avoid the possibility of the design being knocked over!
- If making up the design onsite, preparation of the container can be done in advance

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