

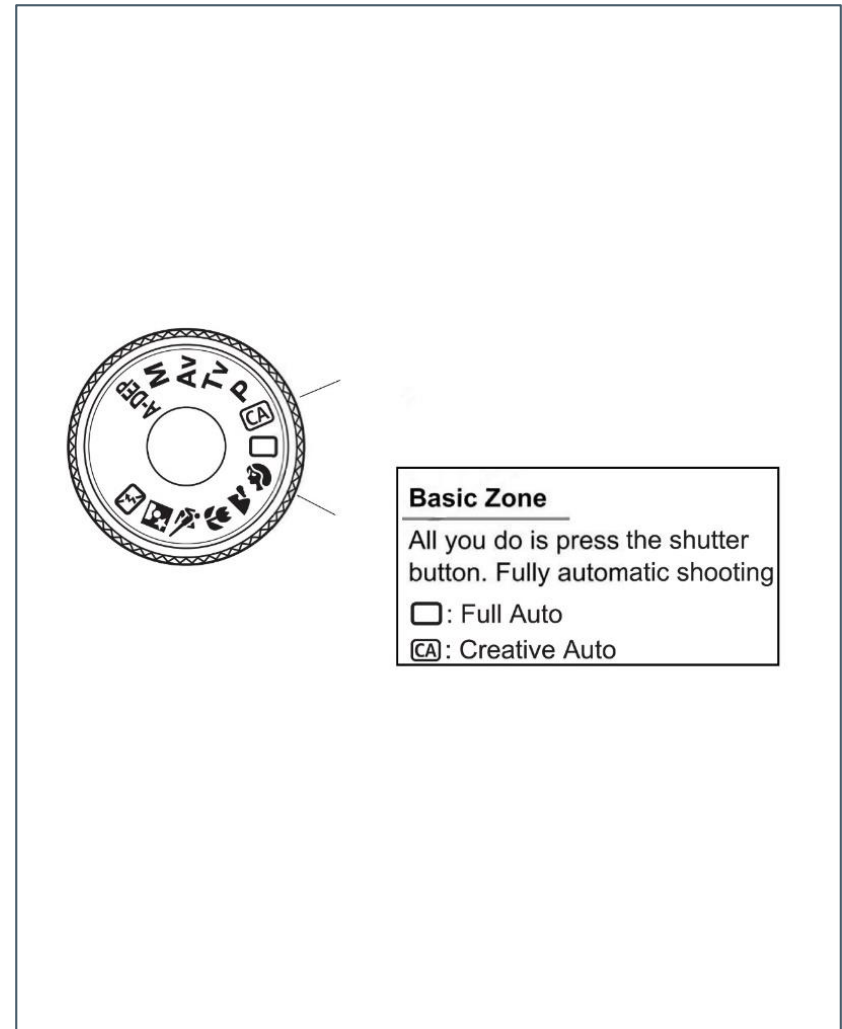
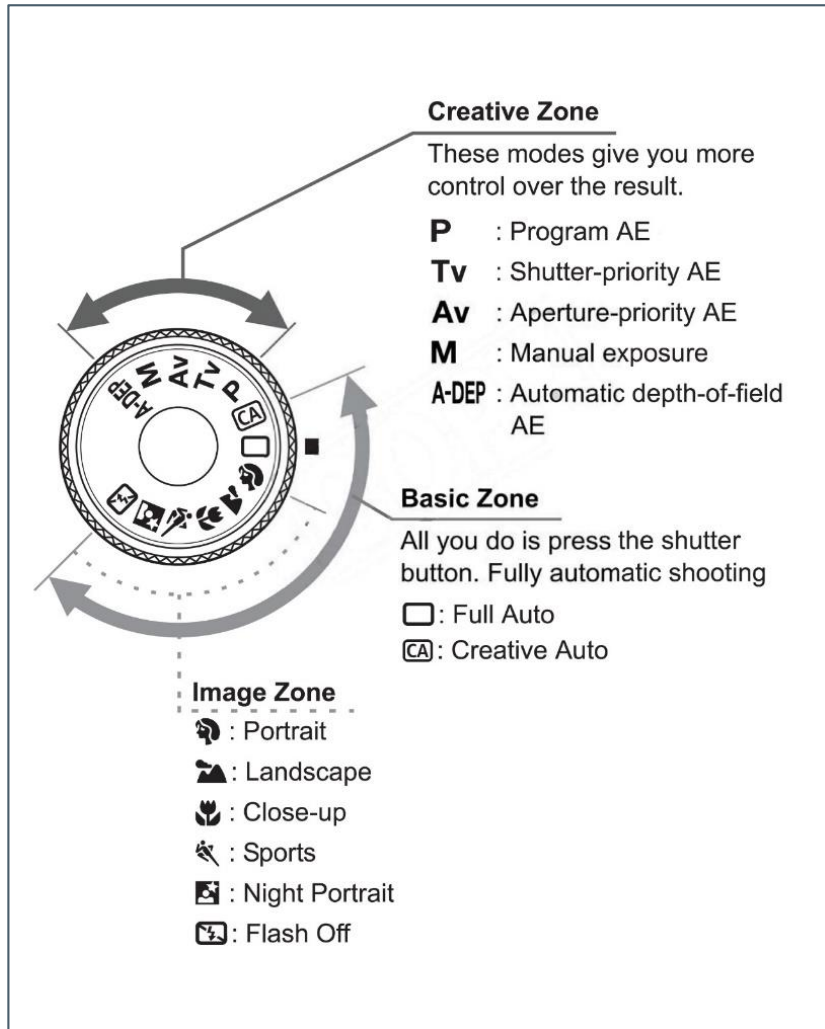
Photographing Your Garden

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Photographing your garden – some tricks and tips

- Camera Settings • Taking photos using your smart phone • Where is your photo being used
- Light & Shadow • Composition • Editing & Enhancing • Filing & retrieving your pictures
- Telling a Story • Flowers & Gardens • Portrait Tips • Links



Creative Zone Settings

these modes give you more control over the result



P: Program AE

The camera automatically sets the shutter speed and aperture to suit the subject's brightness. This is called Program AE.

- * <P> stands for Program.
- * AE stands for Auto Exposure.

Tv: Shutter-Priority AE

In this mode, you set the shutter speed and the camera automatically sets the aperture to obtain the correct exposure matching the brightness of the subject. This is called shutter-priority AE. A faster shutter speed can freeze the action or moving subject. Or a slower shutter speed can create a blurred effect, giving the impression of motion.

- * <Tv> stands for Time value.

Av: Aperture-Priority AE

In this mode, you set the desired aperture and the camera sets the shutter speed automatically to obtain the correct exposure suiting the subject brightness. This is called aperture-priority AE. A higher f/number (smaller aperture hole) will make more of the foreground and background fall within acceptable focus. On the other hand, a lower f/number (larger aperture hole) will make less of the foreground and background fall within acceptable focus.

- * <Av> stands for Aperture value (aperture opening).

M: Manual Exposure

In this mode, you set both the shutter speed and aperture as desired. To determine the exposure, refer to the exposure level indicator in the viewfinder or use a commercially-available handheld exposure meter. This method is called manual exposure.

- * <M> stands for Manual.

A-DEP: Automatic Depth-of-Field AE

Objects in the foreground and background will be in focus automatically. All the AF points will function to detect the subject, and the aperture required to attain the necessary depth of field will be set automatically.

- * <A-DEP> stands for Auto-Depth of field. This mode sets the depth of field automatically.

Image Zone Settings

shooting pre-sets for specific situations



Shooting Portraits

The <P> (Portrait) mode blurs the background to make the human subject stand out. It also makes flesh tones and the hair look softer

Shooting Landscapes

Use the <A> (Landscape) mode for wide scenery, night scenes, or to have everything in focus from near to far. The greens and blues also become more vivid and sharper

Shooting Close-ups

When you want to photograph flowers or small things up close, use the <C> (Close-up) mode.

Shooting Moving Subjects

To photograph a moving subject, whether it is a child running or a moving vehicle, use the <S> (Sports) mode.

Shooting Portraits at Night

To shoot someone at night and obtain a natural-looking exposure in the background, use the <N> (Night Portrait) mode.

Disabling Flash

In places where flash photography is prohibited, use the <O> (Flash Off) mode. This mode is also effective for candlelight scenes when you want to capture the ambient light.

Taking photos with your cell phone

- Clean the lens • Check your resolution
- Turn on camera stability settings • Hold the phone steady • Be aware of shutter lag
- Snap photos with the volume button • Use delay timer • Avoid digital zoom
- Take the flash off auto • Turn on HDR • Hold down a spot on your viewfinder to lock focus
- Slide the exposure meter to brighten (or darken) images if available
- If available use macro or manual focus for shooting close ups
- Familiarize yourself with specialized shooting modes like Portrait, Panorama, Food, and various filter settings
- Choose a simple online editing program to enhance your photos • Google Photos • Instagram • Prisma • Snapseed for iPhone, and many more
- ALWAYS back up your photos using a cloud service

iPhone specific:

- Use Burst mode for action shots



Things to consider: Where will your photo be used?

**A best practice is using the highest resolution possible and taking as many photos as you can of your subject. This will give you lots of choices for sharing and using later.*

Social media: Facebook Instagram Twitter

- Medium resolution – cell phone pictures are excellent for this application
- Obvious focal point • Take several photos to tell your story
- Be aware of the size limitations of internet formats



For photo prints or other photo related gifts

- High resolution • Single photo
- Obvious focal point • Cropped to highlight subject
- Clear photo of subject • Limit background distractions



* Bay Photo, Shutterfly, Costco

For documentation / sharing / photo albums

- Good resolution • Clear photo of subject • Several shots from different angles if possible
- Include something that will indicate scale

Tips

- *when photographing children, animals, insects, birds begin taking your photo as soon as you can. As you move closer to your subject take more photos to insure you capture something, even if its just a memory photo.*
- *when photographing in a crowd or taking portraits in a crowded setting take several shots to give yourself editing choices.*



Light & Shadow

Overcast days



- Bright overcast with some shadow detail is ideal
- It's darker so there is less light

Sunny days



- Sunshine adds sparkle & dimension to landscape
- Higher contrast & deeper shadows

Sunny days



- Colors tend to bleed (especially reds)



- Light reflects off surfaces giving the image a washed out look • Exposure can be difficult

Early morning and late in the day

- Light can have a warm cast from sunrise/sunset
- Light is softer and more diffused
- Backlighting effects are easier to accomplish



Mid-day

- Harsher white light • More shadows & reflected light



Photographing in the rain and the snow - turn on your flash!



Composition basics

- **Rule of thirds** – keep the main part of your subject in center of your frame **turn on the grids in your viewfinder.*
- You can fix this when cropping with your editing program.



Composition basics

- **Focal Point** – provide the viewer with a clear focal point or subject for the eye to land.
- The subject should be placed in or mostly in the center of the frame, or balanced by other elements in the photo.



- This is another issue you can fix when cropping.

Composition basics

- **Depth of Field** –Depth of field can be controlled using the aperture setting on your lens, or using the macro settings on the camera dial. Many smart phones have a dedicated setting for this effect as well. Macro and Portrait are two of those settings.



Above: the daisies are in focus, above left the orb is in focus, bottom the whole photograph is in focus. I did this using the aperture setting on my DSLR.



Composition basics

- **Distracting Elements** – keep the frame clear of clutter and other elements. It's easier to fix this when taking the photo vs using an editing program.

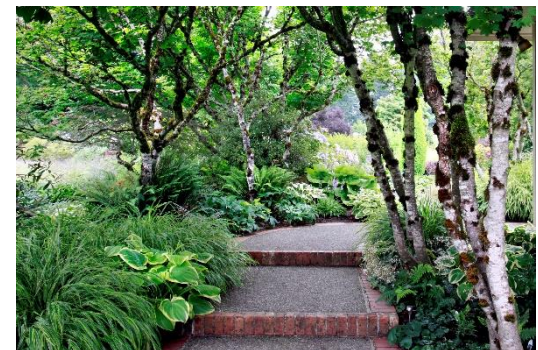


- **Point of view**– seek different camera angles to make a more interesting image. For example, kneel and look up, or stand directly over your subject.



- Photograph your subject from the back, or side to for something different.

- **Framing**– use the elements in your photo to frame a subject and draw the eye forward and into the photo.



Editing & Enhancing

Contrast - the difference between light and dark.

** Learn to use this tool. Most digital images can benefit from a bit more contrast.*

Saturation – boosts color & makes the image pop.



Focus or Sharpen - correct mistakes made during shooting. This tool can also make a photo look more saturated.

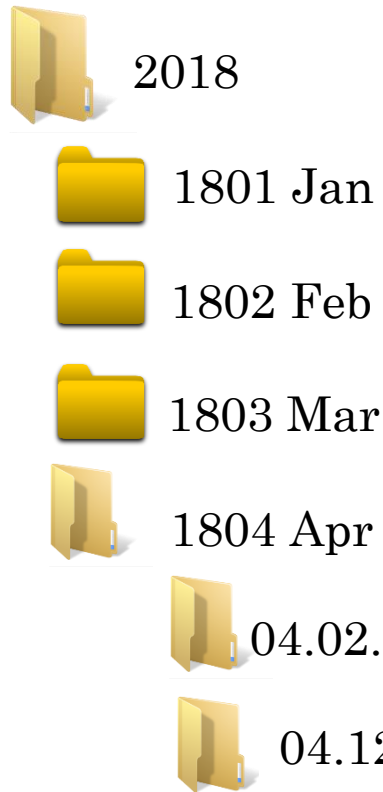


Cropping –

- Reduce distractions
- Highlight subject
- Straighten image



Simple filing system – create main folders for your images and tell the camera where to file the photos, but let the computer put the photos in folders by day for simpler sorting.



Tip: when saving an edited photo simply add a letter or number at the end of the original photo name

_MG_5225.JPG (original)

_MG_5225a.JPG (edited)

* Add a description after the pre-filled date

Telling a story

- A photo is a moment in time
- Play with different angles
- Try out different camera settings

Flowers & Gardens

- Get close to your subject
- Use macro modes for background blur
- Stand or kneel on firm ground
- Take multiple photos from different angles



Portrait Tips

- Use portrait modes
- Position the light behind the photographer so it falls on the subjects face
- Turn on your flash if the light must be behind your subject
- Stand close to fill the frame with your subject (this can take practice)
- Avoid digital zoom – you can crop when you edit



Links for more inspiration/info

<https://www.sandmarc.com/pages/13-tips-tricks-for-better-iphone-photography>

<https://www.imore.com/ten-tips-taking-great-iphone-photos>

<https://iphonophotographyschool.com/iphone-camera-settings/>

<https://www.macworld.co.uk/how-to/iphone/camera-tips-take-better-iphone-photos-3645186/>

Thank you for coming, and don't forget the most important part of photography as a hobby

Have Fun!

