

# Flowers 101 – From Seed to Vase

## Pinching Flowers and Herbs

### Reasons to Pinch:

- For a fuller plant with branching beginning lower on the plant
- For longer stems

### How to Pinch:

1. Depending on the variety of plant (check online for proper height at pinching time), when plants are between 8 and 18 inches, with sharp snips cut the center stem down to a node where two sets of leaves are emerging from the node. Try not to leave a large piece of stem on the plant. Where you have pinched, two stems will emerge instead of one.
2. On plants such as basil, pinch when very small (a few sets of true leaves) and continue pinching for a bushier plant. Also on herbs it stops the plant from flowering (basil turns bitter when it seeds) and puts the plant's energy into the leaves. For flower arranging, after a bushy plant is achieved, then let the basil flower.
3. Only pinch annual flowers that produce flowers on many branching stems. Do not pinch flowers that produce only one flower per stem.

### Flowers to Pinch:

- Ageratum
- Amaranth
- Basil
- Calendula
- Carnation
- Celosia (all but Bombay Celosia)
- Cerinthe (Honeywort)
- Chrysanthemum
- Cosmos
- Cynoglossum (Chinese Forget-Me-Not)
- Dahlia
- Dianthus (Sweet William)
- Didiscus (Lace Flower)
- Dusty Miller
- Godetia
- Marigold
- Orach
- Snapdragon
- Sunflower (Branching types only)
- Sweet Pea
- Zinnia

### Do not pinch:

- Bombay Celosia
- Cress (Lepidium)
- Flax
- Ornamental Cabbage
- Stock
- Sunflower (Single stemmed)

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>)

Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.

### Pinching a Dahlia



 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources | UC Mast

### Pinching Basil



 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources |

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>)

Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.