

my top 5 tips.



Jodie McGregor opened her eponymous floral boutique in Sydney's Annandale in 1999 after honing her skills as resident florist at London's exclusive Savoy Hotel. Jodie McGregor Flowers has since expanded, with a second Sydney store and a talented team. Jodie's penchant is for romantic blooms with dramatic foliage and flowers that evoke childhood memories. Visit www.jodie.com.au

Jodie McGregor, Florist

Each month we seek advice from our favourite experts in their field.

1 To get the most out of cut flowers, make sure they are fresh to start with. For most flowers it's about cutting a few centimetres off the stem and placing in clean water. Changing the water and re-cutting the stems every two to three days will give your flowers the longest and nicest life they can have.

2 Chrysanthemums are the traditional Mother's Day flower with the disbud chrysanthemum being the queen of crissies. For a traditional look, team them with garden roses or tulips and magnolia foliage. Contemporary bouquets using bromeliads, unique natives and gnarly branches are becoming popular for mums who appreciate something a little different.

3 Kale is particularly good value at this time of year. They can be used to create an edgy look or something soft and pretty, come in gorgeous whites, pinks, purples and mauves, are great by themselves or teamed with other flowers, and also have a good lifespan.

4 If you are looking for beautifully scented roses then the fragrance and changing look of David Austins, Mr Lincoln and Fragrant Cloud varieties make them absolutely unbeatable. If you prefer roses that are pretty much the same every time, come in a huge range of colours and tend to last longer, opt for the glasshouse roses, but these often don't have any fragrance.

5 Floral fashions do change. At the moment my team and I enjoy pairing gorgeous, old-fashioned flowers, such as garden roses and tulips, with other interesting components, such as bromeliads, succulents or sticks for a striking effect. A mass of one flower paired with tropical leaves also gives a stylish, modern look. Mixing lots of different flowers together in a bouquet doesn't work for me. Often people want it to be big, big, big, when a lush, tight posy would be much more appropriate. ■