

# Garden Photography

## Your Camera

### The Exposure Triangle



Each of the three aspects of the triangle relate to light and how it enters and interacts with the camera.

The three elements are:

1. **ISO** – the measure of a digital camera sensor’s sensitivity to light.
  - a. High ISO 400 records more light. Use when it is darker. Tends to be **grainier**.
  - b. Low ISO 100 records less light. Use when it is brighter. Tends to be **sharper**.
2. **Aperture** – the size of the opening in the lens when a picture is taken.
  - a. Large aperture = large opening = small number (f3.5) = more light  
-Offers a smaller depth of field. Good for **blurring the background**.
  - b. Small aperture = small opening = large number (f16) = less light.  
-Offers a larger depth of field. Good for having **everything in focus**.
3. **Shutter speed** – the amount of time that the shutter is open.
  - a. Fast lets in less light. **Freezes running water**.
  - b. Slow lets in more light. Gives running water a **smooth effect**.

## Camera Modes

**Landscape Mode:** Large depth of field.

-Camera will select a small aperture (f11) to make everything sharp.

**Macro Mode:** Small depth of field.

-Camera will select a large aperture (f4.5) to blur the background.

**Aperture Priority:** Lets **you** creatively select the desired depth of field.

-Small aperture (f22) – large depth of field - everything in focus.

-Large aperture (f5.6) – small depth of field - blur or soften the background.

**Sports Mode:** Fast shutter speed. Camera will assume that you want to freeze fast moving subjects.

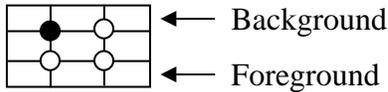
**Shutter Priority:** Lets **you** creatively select the desired shutter speed.

-You can use a fast shutter speed to freeze a fast moving subject or use a slow shutter speed to create a blur to show motion or to give running water a silky effect.

## Composition

### **Rule of Thirds**

The lines and circles on the diagram are the strong, attractive positions.



Consider locating the main subject along one of the lines or near one of the four intersections.

### **Simplicity (KISS)**

- Avoid extraneous subject matter.
- Draw attention to the most important part of your picture.
- Crop out unimportant objects.
- Select a **single center of interest**.
- Your eye should **not** have to wander through the scene trying to locate something to focus on.
- May have more than one center of interest to add richness and to encourage exploration.
  - But there should be only one main center that immediately captures your eye.

**Foreground** (the bottom of the picture, or what's in front of the main subject)

- Provides an interesting feature in front of the main subject.
- Should generally be sharp.

**Background** (the top of the picture, or what's behind the main subject)

- Avoid highlights (light areas) through leaves of trees.
  - Our eyes are attracted to the highlights.
- Avoid distracting or cluttered background.
- Background may be sharp or blurred.
  - An out of focus background will separate the main subject from the background and create a feeling of depth.

### **Purpose**

- The wide angle vista of the whole garden.
- Move in for the flower grouping.
- Move right in using your macro mode to take a creative close-up.

**Orientation:** horizontal and vertical

**Fill the frame** (see **Simplicity**)

## Design

**Form (Shape)** (created by lines, either real or implied)

- Circles, triangles
- Horizontal lines: suggest tranquility and stability.
- Vertical lines: suggest formality and stiffness, strength and power.
- Diagonal lines: appear unstable, creates tension, gives the illusion of depth.
- Curved lines: feel soothing and pleasing.
- Leading lines: our eyes following the path of a leading line, hopefully to a main subject.

### **Dominance**

-An object may become the dominant centre of interest because of it's size, colour, or location.

### **Balance**

- Symmetrical:** Everything is organized around a central axis. Elements on one side of the picture are the same as on the other side.
- Asymmetrical:** The location of objects of different shape or size may be balanced depending on their location within the photo.

**Proportion:** The amount of space/size allocated to the main subject.

**Pattern:** Created by three or more similar objects in a picture.

**Rhythm:** Created by the repetition of similar objects at regular intervals.

### **Light:**

- Quality:** Harsher light provides more abrupt tonal contrasts or shadows (high noon)
- Direction:**
  - Front light** tends to flatten the subject matter.
  - Back light** usually creates visible shadows through contrast and lines thereby suggesting depth.
  - Side lighting** creates perspective.