

## PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

# Capturing great flower shots

By Darren Crush



Continuing from last month's article lets get started onto the photography itself. Ideally you'll be photographing on a day with good light, bear in mind that the best light tends to be in the early morning or later in the day.

**By all means photograph your subjects at any time of day, but when the sun is high in the sky, the light is at its harshest and this is then reflected in your photographs. Plus early morning forays can give you the option of capturing flowers with a light coating of dew on them, and these make for great pictures.**

Because we want to capture the flower on its own, it's best to select one that, when viewed from the angle you are going to take the picture, doesn't have any distractions in the background. Also, flower pictures are best taken low down and on a level with the flora itself.

By selecting aperture priority you will be able to isolate the flower and blur out the background to give a short, or shallow, depth of field. When opting for aperture settings, different lenses have different abilities. However, a figure of f4.5 should suffice and this will keep the flower in focus. If you happen to have a tripod handy then attach it to your camera, this will reduce camera shake and keep your image sharp.

With compact cameras, you can check your composition and exposure on the LCD at the back of the camera, and nowadays more DSLRs possess this facility, and on such cameras it is known as Live View. So if your photograph looks a little bright, or blown out, let less light in by either increasing the shutter speed or making the aperture smaller. If your picture is under-exposed, then do the opposite.

Most people tend to take photographs with the sun behind them so that their subject is lit from the front. There is nothing wrong with this, but for a more creative look, try positioning yourself so that the sun's rays are hitting your flower at an angle, or even better, try a technique known as



backlighting. This is done by positioning yourself, and your camera, so that the sun is behind the subject and shining through it. Done correctly, your picture will take on an appealing glow, and this works brilliantly in the early morning, and, again, if there is some dew on the flower.

One of the most important things to bear in mind here is that you should never be afraid to experiment. There are no hard and fast rules in photography. Well, there are few, but these can always be manipulated. And even if it is a cloudy day, there's nothing to say you can't get outside and snap away. Cloudy day lighting can often reveal subtle hues.

Once you are happy with your composition and exposure, press the shutter release and capture your picture. Remember you don't have to restrict yourself to photographing flowers during the spring in your garden. Why not try and find a spider's web and photograph that with early morning dew on and the light shining through it?

Happy photographing!

**If you would like me to go into more detail on any other of the topics covered in this month's article, please do not hesitate to email me on [dmjc@crush-associates.com](mailto:dmjc@crush-associates.com) or call 07515 415669 and I will endeavour to cover them in a future piece.**

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