

Topic	Notes
Lilies	<p>Harvest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How we cut the stems - How we transport them to the barn - Stage of harvest - ensuring maximum post-harvest quality - Timing of harvest - identifying stems that ready to cut, not open yet, buds are starting to color up nicely but before they crack - Handling - sleeve them to avoid bruising - Speed from cut to processing to cooler - Everything is targetted to ensure longevity of vase life
Peonies	<p>Flower Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classic flower of Memorial Day in honor of fallen soldiers - Ancient flower - where is it native to? - Culturally old-timey flower - settlers? Potentially 150 years? - Beautiful flower, wonderful fragrance, interesting that it is available only for 2 weeks of the year locally - Cultural overlay of tradition with Memorial Day - Beautiful form, rose-like, fragrance, relative scarcity as a perennial Spring flower - Planting time: Fall - can be dug and divided 5-6 years - Root stock: 3 to 5 eye root - Care and nurturing - weeding, watering, soil care - Encourage development of the root - cut off the flowers bulbs and leave the foliage to grow the roots - typically 3 to 4 year process from planting new divisions to full perennial harvest
Lavender	<p>Flower Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fragrance, versatility - fresh, dried, oils, therapeutic, culinary - Many different varieties - 50-60 cultivars - Perennial which benefits from some cold, but Colorado can be difficult due to fast and dramatic temperature shifts - Quality of selection based on particular climate zone (most French varieties won't survive in Colorado) - One of the few flowers that we field bunch - Fantastic pollinator flower, honey bees - Everyone is always very relaxed while harvesting lavender it is a joyful experience the fragrance extends across the whole farm for days on end
Perennials	<p>Flower Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different forms, different season, they flatten out the annual flower curve because they are early and late - Different palate of flowers that you don't get from annual flowers - Similar water needs as annual varieties - Opportunity for selection through cuttings and divisions choosing - Peonies, scabiosa, veronica are out personal favorites - Growing perennials as well as annuals allows you to have a far fuller compliment of flowers to offer customers - Selection over multiple generations allows for careful biological work that is hands-on and fascinating
Annuals	<p>Flower Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Variety and trying new things every year, allows for changing things every year - Sunflowers and zinnias are the farmer's favorites - 80% direct sown and 20% we plant them into 128s on the heated bench in the greenhouse until they're established with fully rooted and that typically is a 6 weeks from seeding to planting plugs directly in the field