



## COLOR BEYOND BEAUTY: STRATEGIC USE OF COLOR SCHEMES IN ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

**B. Bhargavi\*, M. Raja Naik, N. Vinod Kumar, T. Sumathi and P.T Srinivas**

*Department of Floriculture and Landscaping, College of Horticulture, Anantharajupeta,*

*Dr. Y.S.R. Horticultural University, Andhra Pradesh-516105, India*

*\*Corresponding Author Mail ID: [bhargavibhumi@gmail.com](mailto:bhargavibhumi@gmail.com)*

### Introduction

Floriculture, the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants is not just a botanical pursuit, but a deeply artistic and psychological one. Among the most powerful tools in a grower or designer's tool kit is colour. From calming monochromatic beds to vibrant complementary displays, colour schemes help transform gardens, bouquets, and floral arrangements into emotionally resonant and visually compelling creations.

### Understanding Colour Theory in Floriculture

Colour schemes are derived from the colour wheel, a circular diagram that organizes colours based on their chromatic relationship. In floriculture, this theory guides the selection and combination of flower colours to achieve specific aesthetic or emotional goals.

### Types of Colour Schemes in Floriculture

**Monochromatic Scheme:** Uses varying shades, tones, or tints of one hue. It gives Elegant, peaceful, and harmonious effect.

**Example:** Pink roses, petunias, and lilies in a single bed.

**Analogous Scheme:** Combines colours adjacent on the colour wheel. It gives Natural and pleasing effect with minimal contrast.

**Example:** Orange marigolds, yellow zinnias, and golden calendulas.

**Complementary Scheme:** Uses two colours opposite each other on the wheel. It gives Striking and energetic effect, often used for emphasis.

**Example:** Purple petunias with yellow marigolds.

**Split-Complementary Scheme:** A base colour and the two colours adjacent to its complement. It gives balanced vibrancy with twist.

**Example:** Red salvia paired with yellow-green chrysanthemums and blue-green coleus.

**Triadic Scheme:** Three colours evenly spaced around the colour wheel. It gives Cheerful and lively effect used in festive floral displays.

**Example:** Red roses, yellow marigolds, and blue delphiniums.

**Tetradic (Double Complementary) Scheme:** Two complementary colour pairs. Rich and colourful, though requires thoughtful balance.

**Example:** Violet pansies and yellow daisies combined with red zinnias and green foliage.

**Achromatic Scheme:** Uses neutrals white, black, grey, and silver. It gives classic and sophisticated effect often used in formal arrangements.

**Example:** White roses with dusty miller and silver-leaved artemisia.

### Applications of Colour Schemes in Floriculture

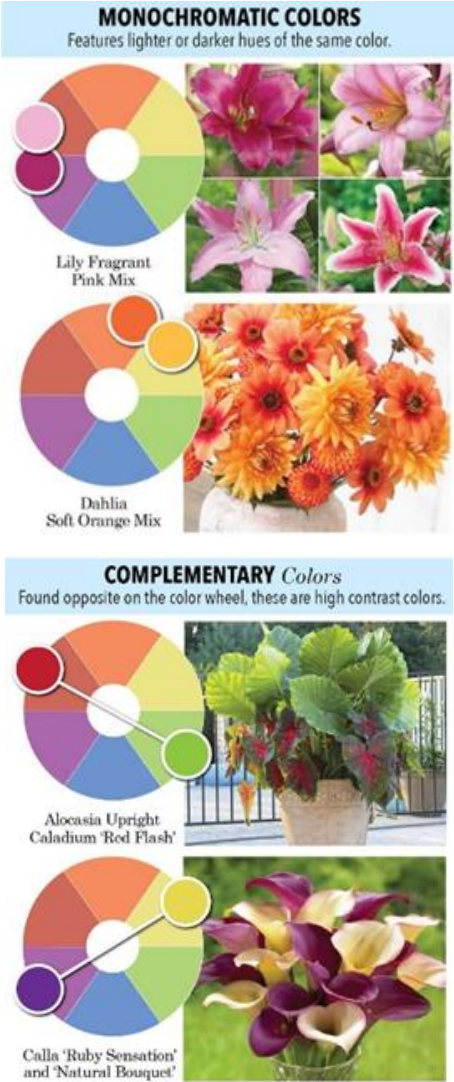
- **Landscape Design:** Public gardens, parks, and resorts use colour theory to create mood-based zones soothing blue areas, energizing yellow beds, or romantic pink corners.

- **Floral Industry:** Event florists and flower shops use colour combinations to align with themes weddings, festivals, or branding aesthetics.
- **Commercial Flower Farming:** Growers often choose varieties based on seasonal trends and consumer colour preferences, especially for holidays like Valentine’s Day or Diwali.
- **Therapeutic Gardens:** Healing gardens in hospitals and wellness centres employ calming colour schemes for mental well-being.

| Application Area        | Colour Scheme Used     | Flower Examples                               |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Landscape Design        | Analogous              | Marigold, Zinnia, Celosia                     |
| Wedding Floristry       | Complementary          | Yellow rose + Purple lisianthus               |
| Festival Decor          | Tetradic               | Red, Yellow, Green, Purple flowers for Diwali |
| Healing Gardens         | Achromatic / Analogous | White lily, dusty miller / Lavender, Hosta    |
| Home Gardening          | Monochromatic          | Pink rose, petunia, cosmos                    |
| Commercial Floriculture | Seasonal Complementary | Blue delphinium + orange lily                 |
| Corporate Interiors     | Achromatic + Accent    | White orchid + single blue iris               |

Conclusion

Colour in floriculture is far more than a visual treat—it’s a powerful medium of expression, emotion, and design. Understanding and applying colour schemes allows floriculturists, landscape designers, and growers to **elevate simple blooms into meaningful compositions**, captivating the eye and touching the heart. Whether it’s a soothing green-and-white garden or a burst of triadic brilliance, every bloom plays a role in the greater symphony of nature’s palette



### ANALOGOUS Colors

Found together on the wheel, these colors work in harmony.



### SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY COLORS

Create a high degree of contrast with more harmony. Two colors closer on the color wheel with one across the color wheel.



Red and Purple flower bed reflecting Analogous scheme



Flower bed reflecting triadic and complementary schemes