

FUNDAMENTALS OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION – KEW GARDENS 1st – 5th September 2025

MATERIALS LIST

1. Drawing equipment:

Pencils: 2 different hardnesses, ideally 2H and HB. In any form, either: wooden artists pencils of good quality (e.g. Staedtler, Faber Castell) OR a clutch pencil/lead holder which holds a 2mm-sized lead (e.g. Mars Technico or Staedtler).

Sharpener: a blade (e.g. scalpel or stanley knife); or lead pointer for a lead holder.

Eraser: a white plastic eraser.

Measuring device: a clear plastic ruler or set-square. Dividers (simple ones with two points, OR proportional dividers. The latter are very expensive so not necessary to buy).

Paper: 3 x A4 or 2 x A3 sheets of good quality heavy cartridge paper, e.g. 160gsm. If you have an existing sketchbook you like to work in, bring it! I recommend a minimum A4 sized sketchbook, I use an A3 sketchbook myself.

1 x A4 tracing paper.

2. Watercolour equipment:

Paints: ideally Winsor & Newton *Professional Quality* or similar. I use half-pans; use tubes if you wish, but we will only use small amount on this course.

If you already have paints of any kind, please bring them. There is no need to buy new paints.

Small amounts of the following paints will be made available in class: W&N Transparent Yellow, Winsor Lemon, Winsor Red, Permanent Alizarin Crimson, Permanent Rose, Winsor Blue (green shade), French Ultramarine, Permanent Sap Green, Paynes Grey & Winsor Violet.

Paintbrush: I recommend a Winsor & Newton Series 7 sable brush, size no. 1. A less expensive synthetic option is Daler Rowney gold taklon size 1.

Palette: a small white ceramic plate, or ceramic palette with multiple wells. A ceramic plate will be provided in class if needed.

Paper: 2 x A4 hot pressed (smooth surface), 300gsm paper such as: Fabriano 5, Botanical ultra-smooth, Saunders Waterford.

Useful links (for description purposes only) of materials listed above:

Clutch pencil, 2mm leads:

Mars Technico (different leads can be purchased)

<https://www.staedtler.com/intl/en/products/technical-drawing-instruments/technical-pens-drawing-ink/mars-technico-780-leadholder-m780/>

Staedtler <https://www.faber-castell.co.uk/products/TK9400clutchpencilHB%c3%982mm/139400>

<https://www.faber-castell.co.uk/products/TK4600clutchpencil%c3%982mm/134600>

“lead pointer” sharpener for 2mm clutch pencil: <https://www.staedtler.com/intl/en/products/pencils-and-accessories/sharpeners/mars-502-lead-sharpener-tub-502/>

Wooden pencils:

Staedtler Mars Lumograph: <https://www.staedtler.com/intl/en/products/pencils-and-accessories/graphite-pencils/mars-lumograph-100-drawing-pencil-m100/>

Faber Castell 9000: https://www.cultpens.com/i/q/FC05496/faber-castell-9000-pencil?gclid=EAAlaQobChMIj_Hi7dTu8QIV4oBQBh3RbQJxEAQYBSABEgKTQvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds#FC05496-HB-1

Eraser: <https://www.staedtler.com/uk/en/products/pencils-and-accessories/erasers/mars-plastic-526-50-eraser-in-premium-quality-526-50/>

Dividers: <https://www.pullingers.com/p/JK1152/technical-drafting-tools/jakar/jakar-dividers>

Proportional dividers: https://www.londongraphics.co.uk/ecobra-proportional-divider?gclid=EAAlaQobChMI1eGw_OD6-AIVSJ7tCh2zNgw5EAQYAiABEgKpJfD_BwE

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/201824027360>

Paper: <https://www.cassart.co.uk/surfaces-category/paper-surface/product-type-paper/cass-art-heavyweight-cartridge-pad-200gsm-25-sheets.htm>

Watercolour paints: <https://www.winsornewton.com/uk/paint/watercolour/professional-watercolour/>

Watercolour paintbrushes

Winsor & Newton Sable Series 7: <https://www.winsornewton.com/uk/brushes/watercolour-brushes/series-7-kolinsky-sable-brushes/>

Winsor & Newton Synthetic Sable: <https://www.winsornewton.com/uk/brushes/watercolour-brushes/professional-watercolour-synthetic-sable-brushes/>

Watercolour paper

Saunders Waterford (High White, HP) <http://www.stcuthbertsmill.com/st-cuthberts-mill-paper/saunders-waterford-watercolour/#prettyPhoto>

Arches Satine 300gsm HP (**some artists report problems with this paper recently)

<https://arches-papers.com/arches-range-of-papers/watercolor-and-wet-techniques/arches-aquarelle/>

Fabriano 5 300gsm HP (**some artists report problems with this paper recently)

<https://www.fabrianoboutique.co.uk/album-fabriano-5.html>

Sketchbooks and Cartridge Pads

Daler Rowney Ebony: <https://www.daler-rowney.com/ebony-artist-s-sketchbooks/>

Fabriano: https://www.fabrianoboutique.co.uk/collections/fabriano-arte/venezia-book.html?_SID=U

Cass Art 200gsm Cartridge paper: <https://www.cassart.co.uk/drawing/paper-3/product-type-paper/cass-art-heavyweight-cartridge-pad-200gsm-25-sheets.htm>

Tracing paper: <https://www.cassart.co.uk/surfaces-category/paper-surface/tracing-paper/cass-art-tracing-90gsm-pad-45-sheets.htm>