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6/21 ENGLISH GARDEN 7/3 FLOWERS 4 THE 9TH 7/12 FRUIT + FLOWER

8/30 DELICIOUS DAHLIAS

BY MACKENZIE NICHOLS Snapshot











STOCK UP In the past year, Gang implemented a new rule for her window displays: only feature merchandise that has backstock. With this new strategy, staff can easily access a duplicate wreath (or cornucopia) without having to first dismantle and restock the display.

FOOT TRAFFIC-STOPPING WINDOWS

Rachel Gang, owner of Helen Olivia Flowers in Alexandria, Virginia, strategically overhauls her retail displays every three months or so, coordinating the moves to occur just a few weeks before major holidays and during slow months so as not to interfere with busy foot traffic. The shop is located in Alexandria's bustling Old Town neighborhood, so Helen Olivia's window displays matter: Potential customers walk by the shop all day. During the last week of August, Gang hires high school students on summer vacation to install wreaths, cornucopias and other autumn-themed props. Those seasonal helpers "have been a godsend," Gang said, noting that she also brings in high school students to help dismantle her intricate vignettes.

CURB APPEAL A chalkboard in her window display advertises upcoming instore events, including weekly workshops. Gang said the simple, welcoming sign often draws in walk-in customers.