

## Photo Tips

Bold colors, dramatic shapes and striking patterns make photos that capture the viewer's attention. It's not always possible to find those characteristics when photographing your projects, but you can improve your odds by taking a few minutes to plan your photos.

If nothing else, remember these basic tips:

- Use flash, indoors and out
- Get close to your subject, whether person or object
- Frame your landscapes with trees or other objects found in the foreground
- Change your elevation – kneel, climb on a fence, lie on your belly



- Shoot both verticals and horizontals
- Avoid totally centered subjects – dead center is deadly
- Shoot lots – digital images are cheap (as are slides and prints), returning to the project site to re-shoot those images is not



Here are more detailed concepts that can help you shoot better images.

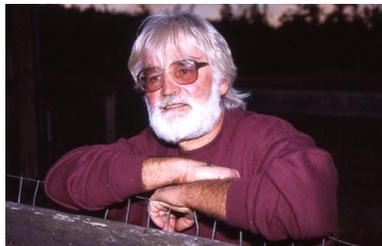
1. Don't be intimidated by the camera. New digital cameras have hundreds of options. For the most part, you don't need them. Keep it simple. Use the auto function. And turn on the flash.
2. Keep these tips in mind when photographing people.
  - a. You're the set director. Tell subjects in the photo what you want them to do. They'll usually be compliant.
  - b. Avoid photographs of people staring at the camera with hands in pockets.
  - c. Have them doing something – kneeling between crop rows, reaching for fruit, showing you something, even pointing to something. Try to put subjects in the context of the grant project. Whether it's taro or tomatoes, have the subject stand or kneel in a row middle. If animals are involved, have the subjects stand in front of the pens or on the opposite side and shoot across the pens with the animals in the foreground and the subject in back.
  - d. If there's nothing for the subjects to do or show you, have them lean on a fence rail or put a hand up on a piece of equipment.



- e. Short of any such props, have the subjects stand, feet a foot or more apart, with arms folded or hands on hips.
- f. Or, if available, have a third party engage them in conversation and shoot them while they're talking
- g. If subjects are wearing caps or hats, have them tilt them back off their faces or remove them.
- h. Ask them to remove sunglasses



- 3. Get close to your subjects, whether it's people, crops or animals. Fill the frame with plants, animals or people. If it's uncomfortable getting close enough to the person, try using a telephoto lens or setting if either is available for your camera.



- 4. Remember to use your flash often, both indoors and out. It can brighten colors and fill in shadows, especially on faces. Indoor artificial light rarely provides adequate light. Whether indoors or out, shoot with the flash on; then turn it off and shoot some more.

- 5. Change your position, high or low. It can make your photo more interesting than from the standard photographer angle of standing and shooting. Kneel and shoot up at a person or animal or across a crop or irrigation ditch or stream. Climb on a fence, a tractor or any safe elevated structure and shoot down or across, a technique especially useful in shooting landscapes.
- 6. Pay attention to the background. No trees or poles sticking up behind people's heads like an unruly cowlick. Keep an eye out for clutter or garbage. Move yourself or the subject away such distractions or pick up and move trash like soda cans or paper.

- 7. Take several shots of the same thing, especially people. They often blink or change expressions. Remember to shoot vertical and horizontal.
- 8. Look for diagonal lines from the corners of your photo (viewfinder), especially from the lower right or left, that lead to the subject – crop rows, irrigation ditches or pipes, fence lines, field edges, etc. Such lines make the photo more dynamic and help draw the viewer into the subject of the photo.

