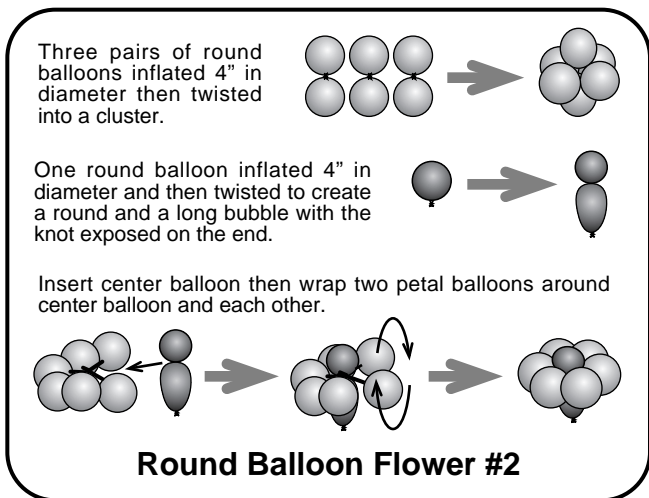
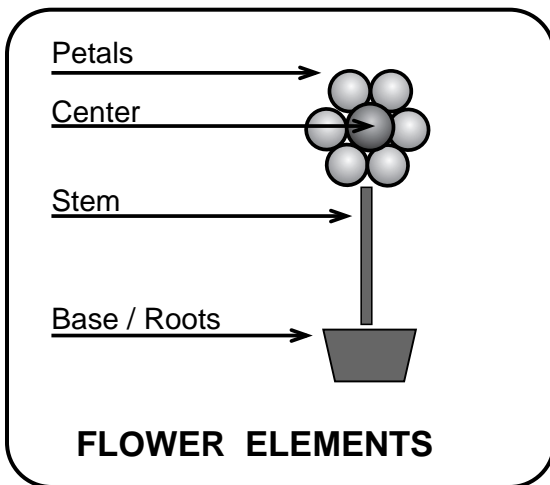
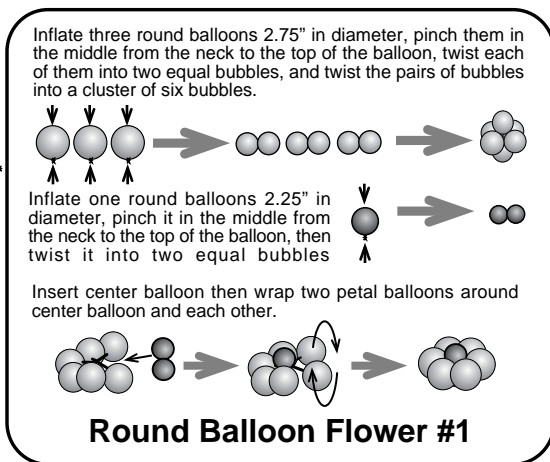


# Flower Basics - Round Balloons

These are techniques and tips for three basic approaches to growing balloon flowers:  
 1. with Round Balloons, 2. with Long Balloons, and 3. with Internally Structured Balloons.



There are many many live flowers and even more varieties of balloon flowers. These pages introduce just a few along with our favorite tips to get you started growing your own gardens of flowers, shrubs and trees.



## TIPS: Round Balloon Flower #1

You can use this same design on larger scale by using larger balloons. Generally, the more underinflated the balloons are, the more easily they can be pinched, twisted and combined into this type of flower.

It is also possible to twist the center balloon as shown in Round Balloon # 2 in order to leave the knot showing on the back so that it may be used to tie to a stem or balloon cup.

## TIPS: Round Balloon Flower #2

If you squeeze the balloons firmly before you size them to 4" they will be softer and slightly smaller in volume when you use them for the flower. This will make it easier to keep the six petals flat in the finished flower.

If you cut back to 5 balloon petals in your flower it will be even easier to keep the petals flat. If you use a larger center balloon ( say a 9" round balloon) inflated to the same 4" or larger, it will hold the petals in place better than the smaller balloon.

You can use this same design on larger scale by using larger balloons.

This design is very good for using with a balloon cup attached to the knot on the end of the center balloon and then to a balloon straw or dowel.

## Stand Them Up

Long balloons such as #160, #260, and #350 are natural selections for stems for balloon flowers. Wire, balloon straws, wooden dowels, foam covered wire, floral wire, chenille sticks, and even drinking straws can also make effective stems.

Often, the stem can simply be pinched between petals to attach the stem to the flower. For a more secure joint tie the stem around the center of the flower or tie the neck of balloons used for petals around the stem. Chenille sticks, for instance, may be easily bent around the center of the flower and then inserted into a balloon straw or drinking straw.

Your stem may come in an appropriate color or may be painted or wrapped with ribbon or floral tape to suit your color scheme.