

SUMMER'S BOUNTY

We've gathered a fresh crop of floral fashions

IN 2015, SLOW FLOWERS INTRODUCED AMERICAN FLOWERS Week, inviting flower lovers, gardeners, growers, and designers across the country to share their red-white-and-bluish blooms during June 28- July 4th. The promotion celebrates domestic flower farming and engages people everywhere with local botanicals. The hashtag #americanflowersweek encourages flower fans to follow and enjoy the campaign's beauty and floral diversity. Since 2016, when American Flowers Week debuted its annual botanical couture collection with Susan McLeary's red-white-and-blue floral Afro, we have commissioned more than 50 wearable looks, each one created by our member designers and flower farmers. Read on to enjoy this year's Haute Couture Harvest!

ILLUSTRATION BY APRIL LEMLY



FLORALS GIVE MENSWEAR AN UPGRADE



A DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM THE TRADITIONAL boutonniere or floral pocket square, this exaggerated look is Tara Folker's modern idea of botanical menswear. "I wanted to take things to an extreme and play around with building a floral lapel," she says. About half of the ingredients came from Tara's Splints & Daisies garden, located northwest of Philadelphia. The Rustic Bunch, a Slow Flowers member, and Riverside Blooms also contributed design elements.

Grape hyacinths, daffodils, anemones, poppies, hellebores, along with flowering forsythia, plum, and magnolia branches, appear to "grow" from the left lapel of the model's honey brown velvet jacket, extending far above his torso and head. "A smaller floral accent on the right sleeve balances this out," Tara notes. She inserted layers of branches, stems, and blooms, which are held in place by small pieces of chicken wire stitched onto the garment to create a base mechanic. The vivid spring-blooming palette includes a cluster of bright orange flowers of the *Fritillaria imperialis* – creating a jolt of joy.

DESIGN + CONCEPT: Tara Folker, Splints & Daisies, splintsanddaisies.com, [@splintsanddaisies](https://www.instagram.com/splintsanddaisies) **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Madeline Isabella, [@madeline.isabella](https://www.instagram.com/madeline.isabella)
FLOWER SOURCES: Splints & Daisies, [@splintsanddaisies](https://www.instagram.com/splintsanddaisies), The Rustic Bunch, [@therusticbunch](https://www.instagram.com/therusticbunch), Riverside Blooms, [@riversideblooms](https://www.instagram.com/riversideblooms) **MODEL:** Kris Boston
VENUE: Splints & Daisies garden, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, [@splintsanddaisies](https://www.instagram.com/splintsanddaisies)

