



A note from the instructor, John Radigan:

Class Goals and Equipment Needs

The goal of this class is to teach photographers of all skill levels useful tips and techniques for working close-up with plants. Participants should, at the very least, be comfortable with the basic operation of their camera in its automatic modes.

Although there is a wide range of specialty equipment that can be applied to macro photography, the class is based around inexpensive and readily available equipment.

For this class you will need:

- A digital camera with manual focus capability
- A sturdy tripod
- A lens or system capable of macro focus (discussed below)

There are a number of ways to achieve macro focus capability with a lens system. The most common types are extension tubes, close-up lens adapters and specialty macro lenses. All of these have their strengths and weaknesses and I have provided a section below that briefly compares them.

If you are new to macro photography, I highly recommend the combination of a standard zoom lens with the Canon 500D close-up adapter. Any standard lens can be used, but a most flexible system can be built around the 80-200mm or similar zoom lenses offered by many manufacturers. This combination provides very high quality images at the least additional cost.

So that you may come properly prepared and maximize your class experience, I will be more than happy to answer any questions regarding equipment prior to the class. I can be contacted by email at john@adklight.com.

Macro Lens Systems Comparison

Canon 500D closeup lens (\$150) *Recommended!*

Pros:

- Relatively inexpensive (best bang for the buck)
- Can be attached to lenses from any manufacturer
- Excellent image quality

Cons:

- Limited focus range

Extension tube (\$75)

Pros:

- Least expensive option
- Good image quality

Cons:

- Difficult to use due to loss of some automatic camera features
- Loss of lens speed
- Limited focus range
- Typically usable with only one brand of camera

Tiffen Closeup lens kit (\$100)

Pros:

- Inexpensive
- Can be attached to lenses from any manufacturer
- Allow a variety of magnifications depending on the lenses used

Cons:

- Mediocre image quality
- Limited focus range

Macro lens (\$1350)

Pros:

- Best image quality
- Full focus range to infinity

Cons:

- Price
- Size
- Typically usable with only one brand of camera