

# What's new in wedding flowers

Tastes tend to change considerably over the years, and nowhere is this more apparent than in wedding planning. Trends come and go, and what was once fashionable is no longer. Take flowers, for instance. Many brides today are opting for fewer, but more daring floral designs in their weddings.

When it comes to wed-

ding flowers, brides have a number of choices. Roses remain popular, as do gerbera daisies and tulips. Tropical flowers are also hot.

One of the biggest changes in wedding floral design is color. Lighter, more muted shades are now being replaced with brighter, bolder hues. Brides today are not afraid of mixing reds and yellows, oranges and

purples, and greens and blues.

Along with stronger colors, many wedding floral designs feature herbs, fruits, vegetables and other striking pieces. These help create interest and add dimension.

To create even more drama and interest, many brides are varying the contents of their centerpieces. Gone are the identical bas-

kets of flowers on each table. In their place are various kinds of flowers in various sized containers. You might find a large wicker basket of tulips on one table and a slender crystal vase of lilies on another.

As for the bouquets, brides are going for a simpler, sleeker look, with many choosing hand-tied or posy bouquets. Small, compact,

tasteful bouquets with exquisite flowers and gorgeous accents are ideal. Flowers may be embellished with beads, crystals, faux jewels, feathers or pearls. These may be glued inside petals, strung on wires over petals, threaded onto thin strands of glass within petals or left to dangle. Ribbon has also made a comeback, but instead of being used in bows,

it may be wrapped around the flower stems.

For brides that choose not to wear a veil, flowers may be the answer. They may use flowers from their bouquet in their hair, attaching them with pins or securing them to barrettes or a headband.

These days, brides are being more daring with the flowers for their wedding. Bold is in!

## Don't forget Nana And Papa

From groomsmen and bridesmaids to ringbearers and flower girls, family members often play a pivotal role in weddings. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins—nearly everyone has a role to play but Nana and Papa. Sure, they attend the festivities, walk down the aisle and sit up front with the rest of the family, but other than that, they have little to do. As head of the family, don't they deserve more? Here are some ideas to include and honor Nana and Papa in your wedding.

While younger family members are often asked to be in the wedding, that does not mean you cannot ask your grandparents to step in. Perhaps your grandfather would like to be an usher and welcome and seat all of the guests. Perhaps your grandmother would like to show off her chops and be your pianist. Heck, your grandparents might get a kick out of walking down the aisle together as a groomsman and bridesmaid.

If your grandparents would prefer to stay out of the lime-

light, you should respect their wishes and find some other way to honor them. Here are some suggestions:

- Wear a replica of your grandmother's wedding dress.

- Include your grandparents' names in your wedding program.

- Give your grandparents a boutonniere and a corsage to wear.

- Place wedding photos of your grandparents and parents at the reception.

- Seat your grandparents, along with your parents, at a

special table at the reception.

- Tell a story about your grandparents at the reception.

- Have a special song played for your grandparents at your reception and ask them to dance with you.

If your grandparents are deceased, you may still honor them at your wedding with photos and letters. You may also ask your officiant to say a special prayer in their name.

Grandparents are to be cherished. Make sure yours know how much they mean to you by including them in your wedding.

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