



CHANTAL LACHANCE-GIBSON PHOTOGRAPHY

FLOWER *power*

Ensure your wedding looks blooming lovely by getting creative with your flowers!

Think of wedding flowers and it's likely that the first image to pop into your head will be that of a bride carrying a beautiful bouquet. Be it a sweet hand-tied posy or an elegant cascading arrangement, nothing accessorises a wedding dress quite like a fragrant bunch of blooms (although diamonds and pearls come a very close second). Really, though, the bouquet is just one of the many forms that flowers can take on your wedding day. Get creative with them and you'll be amazed by how effortlessly they can breathe life into your wedding style. And with so many different varieties and colours to choose from, you'll be utterly spoilt for choice regardless of what look you're going for!

SETTING THE SCENE

"Many brides see flowers as the must-have accessory for setting the theme and ambiance of their day," agrees Jenni of

Dundee-based florist Stucio & Waow, who has noted a trend recently towards rustic floral arrangements incorporating succulents [fleshy plants with ornate, defined edges] and earthy tones. You may not have a strict wedding theme you want to adhere to, but most couples have a general idea of the type of vibe they want their day to have. Flowers can be instrumental in establishing this.

"I wanted to create the feeling of a country house weekend for my wedding, as all of our guests were staying for three days," explains Lynette Hilton, who came to Scotland from Australia last June with her other half John to tie the knot at Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel. Lynette chose her favourite blooms – roses, peonies and hydrangea – in soft pastel shades to complement her coffee lace Dolce and Gabbana dress, and florist Emma of Coach House Flowers worked in tandem with venue stylist Hannah of Silver Events and cake designer Heather of Heather's Cakes to incorporate flowers into several aspects of the couple's day. →



SPRING BOUQUET STUCIO & WAOW

Our guide to **FLOWERS**

Hit the shops:

4-6 months before

Prepare to spend:

£350-£1,000+

Start your search:

P261

Don't forget:

Your budget will stretch further if you choose flowers in season



*“We wanted to create drama,
but we kept the look soft and natural.”*

Emma, Coach House Flowers

Overflowing garden urns and blousy floral garlands created a sense of drama at their outdoor ceremony without detracting from the natural beauty of their surroundings, and the flowers were then transferred inside to the venue’s Drawing Room for dinner. “This helped to fill the reception room with blooms, giving a great feeling of grandeur with the stunning floral garland draped over the fireplace as a backdrop for the newlyweds,” smiles Emma.

MOOD BOARDS

If, like Lynette, you’d like to make your flowers a key focal point of your venue décor, go to your florist armed with as much information as possible. This doesn’t necessarily mean knowing your rhododendrons from your ranunculus (though that won’t do you any harm!). Rather, it’s about passing on as much information about your wedding as you can so that they can work out what will suit you. Take pictures of your dress, your venue, and of blooms that have caught your eye in magazines. Fabric swatches of your bridesmaid gowns will help inform the colours you choose; the time of year you’re getting married will influence the type of seasonal flowers you opt for. “I had a really clear vision of what I wanted from my wedding flowers,” says Laura McDade, who married now-husband Kevin at The Cruin, Loch Lomond, last July. “I’d trawled through lots of wedding

magazines and taken cuttings of what I liked. Everything was very rustic, wild and understated.” The blooms in Laura’s bouquet were of mixed lengths and tied together with hessian and her table arrangements had a similarly natural, unstructured feel; mixed stem wildflowers in jam jars trimmed with lace, sitting atop rustic tree slices along with trailing ivy in terracotta pots. “The jars of flowers and ivy plants also doubled up as an extra gift to our guests, who were encouraged to take away a jam jar of stems or ivy plant at the end of the night,” adds Laura.

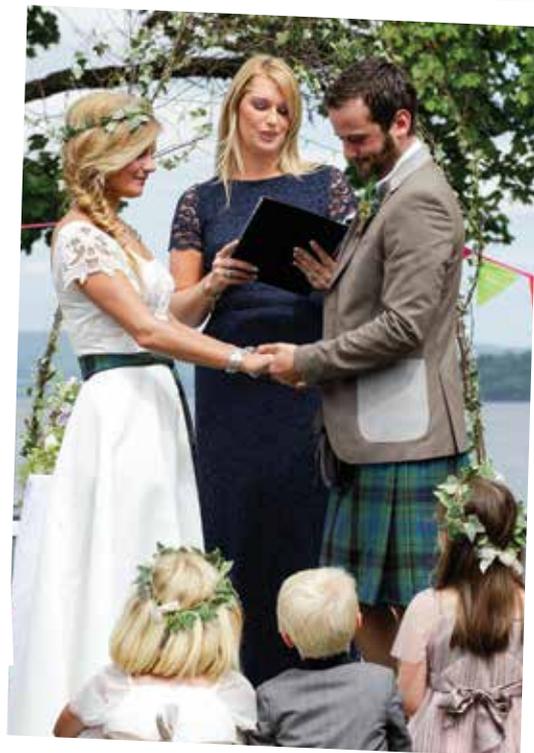
Forgoing traditional vases for less conventional containers is an easy way to make a statement with your flowers; baskets, watering cans, vintage suitcases, metal pails and birdcages all have a romantic, undone charm. Fans of a more glamorous, structured look could opt for oversized martini glasses or a regal candelabra. Or you could simply place your flowers somewhere unexpected by incorporating them into your chair sashes, or suspending them from the ceiling (this is particularly effective in marquees!).

MONEY MATTERS

Laura and Lynette both repurposed their flowers by using them for both the ceremony and reception or gifting them to guests, and this is a great way of maximising your budget and making your blooms go that extra mile. “We do that quite a lot – making your flowers multitask is a great way to beat your



SILVER PHOTOGRAPHY



IMAGES BY SILVER PHOTOGRAPHY

“The jars of flowers and ivy plants also doubled up as an extra gift for our guests.”

Laura McDade

budget,” enthuses Allie of Lavender Blue in Glasgow. “For example, the flowers on your ceremony registry table can be moved to your top table later in the day, and we also supply lace covered jars for girls to put their bouquets into. Even if people are aware that your flowers are being reused, they will still look totally different when placed in another situation.” Another great money saving tip is to use seasonal flowers. “We’ll ask brides if they’re happy to leave the types of flowers we use up to Mother Nature,” explains Allie. “If you’re happy to relinquish a bit of control then we can shop the market and make you beautiful, full arrangements that fit with your theme and colour and cost a little less.”

HEADS UP

Another cost effective way of carrying out your theme is to simply wear flowers in your hair (well, it’s cheaper than a fancy tiara!). This trend has enjoyed a major resurgence since Kate Moss kitted out her 16 bridesmaids in custom floral crowns at her 2011 wedding and several other famous brides have since followed suit, including Peaches Geldof and Millie Mackintosh. And ever ahead of the curve, SWD’s stylish Christina sported ivory spray roses entwined in a half up-do on her wedding day in 2012. “There’s something very romantic about a bride with fresh flowers in her hair,” says Ruth of Supernova Wedding

Design and Flowers. “And there is a floral accessory and hairstyle combination to suit all kinds of brides and wedding styles; our florist team can find something to suit anyone, from rustic to glam, vintage to modern and everything in between!” Don’t forget that your husband-to-be and his groomsmen can also get in on the floral action by wearing a buttonhole (also known as a boutonniere). Fresh flowers look much nicer than artificial ones, and they should co-ordinate not only with your wedding flowers but with their outfits too. Thistles are a popular choice with Scottish grooms and they can be adapted to suit most colour schemes; bind the stems with twine for a rustic look, or choose a vibrant ribbon to tie in with a colourful theme.

FOREVER IN BLOOM

Co-ordinating your flowers and using them creatively will ensure that your wedding looks amazing, and if you can’t bear to see them wilt away then there are ways to preserve your petals after the day. Lots of brides opt to preserve their bouquets by enlisting a specialist to dry them out and frame them, while specialist companies such as It’s A Keeper can use advanced techniques to incorporate your blooms into ornamental paperweights. And while they’re not as much of a physical lasting reminder, your wedding photos will ensure you’re enjoying your flowers for many years to come! ♥

Our
READERS
talk

WEDDING FLOWERS



We’ve gone for artichokes and thistles, peonies, ranunculus and delphinium and possibly a bit of orange blossom as Scott’s parents are in Spain and it’s traditional there.

Jemma



Our venue is a blank canvas. I’d like an archway with a combination of flowers and candles at the venue. It’s a large space though, so there will be lots of flowers!

Sarah



We’re having a couple of large arrangements on the pillars at the ceremony and quite simple centrepieces – large wine glasses with floating gerberas.

Nicola



Are you getting creative with your flowers? Share the details.... forum.scottishweddingdirectory.co.uk