

Brides in Bloom...

One of the givens, at even the smallest of wedding ceremonies, is flowers. They range from just a small nosegay for a blushing bride, to a profusion of blooms at a lavish reception.

But many brides, even those who know flowers will play an important role in the overall look of their nuptials, do not know where to begin. Obviously, the florist will play a big role in directing the bride to varieties which will best carry through the color scheme and style of the wedding.

Most flowers are now available at any time of the year, although at a price. Among the flowers which are especially considered “anytime” blooms are roses, anthuriums, orchids, tropical flowers, lilies, and gerber daisies.

But even before selecting or visiting a florist, a bride might want to give some thought to which flowers will be in season at the time of the wedding:

AUTUMN:

- Dahlias, which come in a wide range of tones including ruby red, have a rich, earthy quality to them. Their season ranges from the end of August to early December.
 - Mums are a traditional look for autumn, and are available in a wide range of colors. A budget-minded bride will really like the price tag.
 - Zinnias are bright and bold and a bit more casual than the dahlia.
 - Tiger lilies are bright orange, a perfect choice for an autumn wedding scheme.
 - Calla lilies come in a wide range of deep fall colors such as burgundy, and have a very sleek, contemporary look.
- Other ideas: Chrysanthemums, ranunculus, Chinese lanterns, thistles, ornamental cabbage, English lavender, lisianthus.



WINTER:

- Poinsettias, which come in traditional red, as well as white or pink, are a natural choice during the holiday season.
 - Holly and berries are also widely used during the holiday season as accents.
 - Roses are available all year long, in an unending array of shades. Just avoid using them around Valentine's Day in February, when the prices soar.
 - Amaryllis is in the lily family, and the red bloom which is popular at Christmastime makes an exotic bouquet.
- Other ideas: Bells of Ireland, pink stargazer lilies, birds of paradise, purple dendrobium orchids, evergreen boughs.



SUMMER:

- Gardenias are a traditional bridal favorite, with white waxy blooms.
 - Hydrangea can be used for fall, but the large flowers in dusty colors such as blue, purple and pink, as well as traditional white, also work very well in the summer. Their season is ranges from July to November.
 - Orchids are available all year-round, but especially lend a tropical elegance to a summer wedding. They come in a wide variety of colors and styles such as dendrobium, cymbidium, or phaleanopsis.
- Other ideas: Blue delphiniums, gladioli, columbine, iris, snapdragons, daisies, sunflowers, snapdragons, poppies, asters.



SPRING:

- Lily-of-the-valley is a quintessential spring flower, but because the stems must be wired individually, and the blooms are so tiny, a bouquet can be expensive. Still, they smell heavenly, and the classy look is worth it!
 - Stephanotis can be obtained all year round, but its waxy white flower works well in a traditional spring or summer bouquet.
 - Hyacinths shout out springtime, and give off a serious scent as well.
 - Sweet peas sounds romantic, and they are, with a lovely ruffled blossom in delicate pastel, spring-like shades.
 - Peonies, long thought of as a garden bloom, have become popular with modern brides, and give a lush look and fragrance. They can be pricey, but lots of brides are deciding they are worth the cost for a spring or summer wedding.
 - Tulips come in dozens of colors and add a very spring-like, but elegant, look to a wedding.
- Other ideas: Forsythia, daffodils, violets, fressia, anemones, heather, jasmine, lilacs

