

Select In-Season Wedding Flowers

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Savvy couples can keep floral expenses down by choosing flowers that are in season on the wedding date.

The prices for popular wedding flowers that are available year-round — carnations, daisies, roses, chrysanthemums, lilies and orchids — fluctuate by season or variety and generally are less expensive in the spring and summer months.

Work with your florist to find standard all-year varieties and in-season flowers to create an arrangement that reflects your per-

sonal style. Many brides feel they can't stray from what they see in a bridal magazine or from tradition, but a professional florist working in today's global economy can get almost any flower, including some pretty exotic ones. However, exotic or out-of-season flowers can be very expensive.

Flowers that are appropriate for spring weddings include bulb flowers such as tulips, irises, daffodils and ranunculus.

Specialty spring flowers include delphinium, freesia, larkspur, peonies, viburnum, heather, genista, waxflower and Queen Anne's lace can be effective.

Summer varieties that are popular are roses and lilies. Asiatic lilies have a wide range of colors and fragrance. Calla come in large and miniature sizes in white, yellow or pink.

Gerbera with its boldly colored, daisy-like flower is available in standard or miniature varieties in a range of bright and delicate colors.

Specialty summer flowers include snapdragon, sweet pea, hydrangea and astilbe. Other flowers to consider are bouvardia and stephanotis, which are generally greenhouse-grown and pricey at any time.

During late summer and early fall, consider chrysanthemums, asters and dahlias. Mums are most plentiful in the fall and have a wide range of colors. Dahlias also have a large color range and have a large enough form to make bold and pleasing arrangements.

Sunflower and yarrow. Miniature sunflower varieties can work in arrangements.

Specialty fall flowers include birds of paradise, pincushion protea and several orchid varieties are tropical varieties available in the fall. Other specialty flowers include amaranthus, celosia, gloriosa, montbretia and zinnia.

For winter, consider tropical flowers. Anthurium, cymbidium and dendrobium all come in white or white-green hues.

Amaryllis and oriental lilies. Both flowers come in traditional color varieties, deep red and pristine white. Other colors add variety to arrangements.

White flowers such as agapanthus, euphorbia, tuberose and ornithogalum are effective in arrangements with winter greenery.

Berries such as hypericum, pepperberry and holly branches complement winter foliage and purple and red color schemes.

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