

BRIDES OF '85

Anything goes in bridal bouquets

Though traditional floral arrangements are very popular at today's formal weddings, new ideas are also welcome.

"Anything goes from a small nosegay to a formal cascading arrangement," according to Judy Yovanovich of FTD, a cooperative association of retail florists across the country. A bride may also elect to eliminate the traditional bouquet and carry instead a white prayer book adorned with a single orchid, rose or gardenia.

Among trends in bridal bouquets are the introduction of a note of color into the formerly all-white bouquet; the use of silk flowers as well as materials such as feathers, pearls and fabrics like gauze, tulle and lace; and the inclusion of a small bouquet for tossing inside the larger one, so the bride may press and keep her own.

With air transport, enough advance notice and better sources of supply, virtually any type of flower is available anywhere in the United States.

Besides the bridal bouquet, corsages for the mothers of bride and groom and bouquets for honor attendants are usual.

Selecting the flowers — a pleasant interlude

In addition, the groom and his attendants general sport boutonnières.

Flowers traditionally decorate the bridal altar and are often placed strategically along the aisle.

The size and nature of the place of ceremony and the wishes of the bridal party determine what flowers should be used and how many. However, it is customary to ascertain what is customary and permissible with church authorities before making final arrangements. Those planning the wedding may also request that the florist visit the site to offer some suggestions.

Flowers are often a feature of the reception. They are usually found at the

bridal table and at guests' tables, if there is a sit-down meal. The buffet table and table on which the wedding cake is displayed may also be decorated with floral arrangements. When selecting arrangements for the bridal table, keep them low so that guests can see you.

The process of selecting flowers is often a pleasant interlude in which the bride and an adviser (usually her mother) make an appointment to visit one or more florists for a consultation.

"We show the bride pictures of arrangements we have made and also have some flowers made up in silk," says Andrea Burg, wedding coordinator for Bachman's Florists in Minneapolis. The florist, which has 14 branches in Minneapolis-St. Paul, is one of the larger concerns in the country and handles about 12 weddings a week.

Ms. Burg estimates that a typical expenditure for flowers might range between \$400 and \$600. However, she adds, a bride might spend as little as \$100 or as much as \$1,000, depending on number of attendants, size of wedding site and amount of flowers purchased.

Bridesmaid's bouquets, for example, range from \$20 to \$40, depending on size and type flowers selected. In recent years, growing accessibility to flowers from Holland and interest in more colorful bouquets has resulted in higher standards and thus more costliness. However, she notes, a good florist should be able to suggest attractive combinations in many price ranges.

She suggests that a bride prepare for a meeting with a florist by looking for ideas in bridal magazines, questioning friends whose weddings she may have attended, and considering the type of dress she will be wearing and the degree of formality desired in the wedding. If a color scheme has been selected, she should provide this information (along with fabric swatches, if available) to the florist.

One idea is to consider ahead of time a price range you can afford. Enumerate also the flowers you would like without regard to price. If the two numbers don't



ALL EYES ON BRIDE — Beautiful flowers, arranged in traditional or informal style, reflect the radiant glow of the bride on her wedding day.

gibe, you can ask for suggestions to lower the cost through substitutions or elimination of some arrangements. The florist you select should be able to help you meet your budget, provided you have not been totally unrealistic.

Once you have obtained several estimates and have an idea of what is available, expect to choose one florist and to sign a written contract. The contract should specify each floral piece, its cost, date and time of delivery.

Pearls complement bride's glowing beauty

A perfect way to enhance the radiant beauty of the bride as she walks down the aisle is with the gift of a necklace of cultured pearls. Their shimmering iridescence is the finishing touch, complementing her glowing complexion.

For centuries the pearl has been a symbol of love, beauty and romance. The ancients believed that the pearl would bring romance and ward off harm.

Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, was said to have been born from the foam of the sea and carried ashore like a pearl. Cleopatra, the sensuous Egyptian queen, is said to have concocted a love potion for Mark Anthony by dissolving a

pearl earring in a glass of wine.

The pearl is one of nature's most exquisite creations. It flatters the wearer and lends an air of elegance to any outfit.

Pearl jewelry is not only appropriate for a wedding gown but is a timeless classic that is a beautiful investment in the bride's future.

When choosing a strand of cultured pearls to be worn on the wedding day, consideration should be given to matching an appropriate style with the neckline of the bridal gown.

With high round necklines a multiple strand "dog collar" or a classic single strand choker is the most flattering. For

a high standing collar or a scooped neckline, a matinee or opera length necklace is desirable.

With a deeper scooped neckline, a luxurious bib of several strands of cultured pearls falling from the base of the throat is alluring and regal.

Adding a pair of pearl earrings and, if sleeves permit, a single or double strand cultured pearl bracelet completes a look of delicate elegance.

The look of a shorter necklace can be changed by the simple addition of a decorative colored stone or cameo pendant.

Cultured pearls with rose overtones are the most popular in the United

States, and are generally the most costly. Necklaces, however, should always be selected on the basis of skin color.

Olive skin is best complemented by dark cream cultured pearls medium complexions by pink cultured pearls, and for light skin tones, light cream cultured pearls are preferable.

Cultured pearls are also the ideal accessory for the pre-wedding whirl of engagement parties and bridal showers. From casual to sophisticated to completely elegant, cultured pearls have the remarkable capacity to accent each look to its fullest.