



There's no lack of selection when it comes to flowers for a wedding. Although carnations and roses are high on the list exotic flowers like orchids are also being ordered for bridal bouquets and corsages, Georgetown's Fendley Florists manager Nancy Craigie said.

(Herald photo)

Pretty fresh flowers liven a special day

There's nothing like flowers to add that special touch to a wedding party.

Fresh flowers are always popular with brides, who like to walk down the aisle with a bouquet of sweet-smelling blooms.

Although roses and miniature carnations are the best-sellers at Georgetown's Fendley's Florists, exotic flowers like orchids, freesias, alstromeria and stephanotis are coming into their own, said manager Nancy Craigie.

The traditional style of a cascade or round posie bridal bouquet is still around, she said. However, the newer style of fewer flowers, where the bouquet is smaller and more delicate, without a concrete shape so that the flowers dictate where they're going to go is also requested.

Besides the bride, bouquets are also carried by the maid of honor and the bridesmaids or flower girls. The groom and his ushers wear boutonnières which may be embellished with a sprig of baby's breath. The mothers of the bride and groom and any grandparents or special

relatives also wear a corsage.

"Bridal parties seem to be getting larger so that weddings as events are coming back," Ms. Craigie said.

Many brides also order large floral displays for the church and decorative bows and greenery for the first few pews of the church.

Bridal bouquets run from \$25 and up and florists offer packages ranging from \$99 up to \$299. Of course, a bride can always spend more.

"Pink is back for the spring, and there's not as much burgundy as there was last year," Ms. Craigie said of bridal party bouquets. "For the summer, they seem to be going for the pastel pinks and blues."

Flowers should compliment the style of dress, the people they're for, and the type of wedding it is.

Usually flowers are ordered two to three months early, with a six week deadline before the wedding.

"People tend to look at what their friends have done in the past for ideas," Ms. Craigie said.

In the Georgetown Marketplace, Vander-

burgh Flowers owner Hank Vanderburgh has found the number one choice of brides is roses, followed by miniature carnations, then daisies.

Dutch imports like freesias, alstromeria and lilies are gaining in popularity, Mr. Vanderburgh said.

Last year, dusty pink was the popular color with brides. It's too early to tell what this summer's color will be, he said.

Flowers, instead of blending with the dresses of the bridal party should contrast with them and stand out on their own.

Although fresh flowers are by far the first choice of most brides, silk flowers are gaining in popularity. Mr. Vanderburgh said 30 per cent of the brides at his shop are choosing the longer lasting silk flowers.

"You can not beat a real flower for beauty," he said, indicating his personal preference for the real thing.

On the day of the wedding, the flowers are delivered to the bride's home, the church, the groom's home and to the reception hall.

Ancient wedding customs

Today's wedding ceremonial traditions are a unique blend of many national customs, some dating back from centuries ago.

Today, a bride may sign an ancient marriage contract originally devised by Anglo-Saxons. She may walk down the aisle in a Gothic Cathedral to Richard Wagner's Lohengrin. The bride may wear a

medieval veil, a Jewish coronet made of Pagan orange blossoms and her wedding ring may be of Roman descent.

During the ceremony, if she kneels at the altar, she will be following the custom of ancient Egyptian brides.

The following are a few more explanations of the rituals we follow today and their origins.

- According to the

ancient romans, weddings are held in June, partially because of the warm weather, but more importantly because May was considered an unlucky month.

- Today's tradition of exchanging wedding bands is a throwback to the medieval times when people wore signet rings to put their seal on agreements.

- When the newlyweds depart after the wed-

ding celebration they still pretend to flee, as though the irate brothers and fathers were still chasing after them.

- During the most primitive times, men acquired their wives by stealing them, and then hiding them until the families anger was lessened by the passing moons. This time when the couple was in hiding was sweet, which is why the period after the wedding is still called the honeymoon.

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