

### Tiny wedding belle



Whether she's a part of the wedding party or one of the youngest guests, this little beauty will look adorable in a long, natural color muslin dress, dramed with bands of dyed-to-match lace.

# Guide to selecting wedding flowers

Toasts to happiness and health, prosperity and love — this is the language of the wedding celebration.

Your wedding flowers will say what you want them to for the price you can afford if you learn yet another tongue: the language of the florist.

This means describing your forthcoming wedding in as much detail as possible in order for the florist to arrange flowers that reflect your tastes.

**Working together**  
A good florist recognizes that each wedding is born from the feelings of the bride and groom-to-be, and is willing to discuss their plans and whims.

The first question you're likely to be asked by the florist is: what colors are the bride's and bridesmaids' gowns? Be equipped to answer with swatches of material.

If you rely merely on description ("Well,

my gown is sort of pinkish-yellowish-beige-ish"), the florist might arrange a bridal bouquet of salmon-colored carnations to match a gown that's really coral. Disastrous.

The next question is: what sort of mood do you want to set?

A formal, traditional atmosphere is enhanced by tall and imposing gladioluses, large potted plants, deep red roses next to crisp white babies'-breath and exotic flowers such as orchids with intricately curled petals.

By contrast, sprays of daisies, carnations and pert bachelor buttons create an atmosphere that's casual and playful.

Before you can discuss table decorations for the reception hall and flowers for the church,

the florist will want to visit these places with you to get a feel for their design. It's best if you can supply the florist with floor plans.

#### Discuss costs

Finally, state clearly and directly what you plan to spend, and the florist will determine what can be done for the price. There's no average cost for wedding flowers because there's no average wedding.

Total costs depend on the kinds of flowers and number of bouquets desired, their sizes and their styles. Traditional round clutches cost less than intricate cascades or bouquets with built-in corsages.

The heights of the bride and bridesmaids are other determining factors. Tall women need large bouquets, whereas women

with small builds can get away with small, less expensive clutches.

One way to reduce church and reception decorations is to order small arrangements, instead of lavish, grandiose ones, and set them on pedestals. Many churches and reception halls can provide them.

Flowers in season are the best bargains because florists are well stocked with them and can easily order more.

Shop around before choosing a florist. Get more than one estimate of price. Talk to newly wedded friends about their florists.

## Choosing the cake

The cutting of the cake is a traditional feature of the wedding reception. Family and friends take special notice of the beauty in this symbol of union.

When everyone takes a bite of your wedding cake, they will be sharing in the joy of the occasion. You will want your cake to be attractive to look at as well as satisfying to the palate.

Start shopping the bakeries as soon as you set the date. Consider professional bakers and friends of the family as well.

A home-made cake can be just as delicious as one purchased from a store.

Consider the cake offered in your caterer's reception package. It's often cheaper and more convenient than shopping for one on your own.

## Some unique shower ideas

Almost anyone can host a shower (except members of the bride's and groom's immediate families of course), and almost anything can be the theme.

A little ingenuity can result in a shower the bride and her guests will remember and smile about forever.

Here are some great

new shower ideas.

To give the guest of honor the "Red Carpet" treatment, plan a party to shower the bride with lavish, indulgent gift items.

Gifts of scented bath oil, a bottle of champagne, a certificate for ice cream or a sparkling pair of earrings for the wedding day are ap-

propriate presents for this type of gathering.

For the couple who are destined to become "Mr. and Mrs. Fix-It," a shower for women, and for men too, with a hardware theme is fun and different.

Make a table out of sawhorses and a wooden plank (the couple can use it in their new home till

the furniture is delivered), and plan a hearty meal of roast beef, cheeses, hero rolls, and salad. Serve oil and vinegar in oil cans. Dish out apple pie for dessert.

Dress the couple up in hard hats before they open the presents. With gifts of tool chests, tape measures, paint brushes and screwdrivers, the pair will be ready to start putting together their new house or apartment.

A "Round-the-Clock" shower gives company the opportunity to show their creative and humorous side. Each guest is assigned an hour of the day, then brings a gift to match.

To start the creative juices flowing: an alarm clock at 7 a.m., coffee mugs at 8 a.m., and an apron at 9 a.m. for the breakfast chef — the bride's husband!

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## Home hints

Once you've walked down the aisle, you step into a whole new world of caring for a home. What to do — and how — can be bewildering.

Here are some basic tips that can help you make light of housework:

- Set up a schedule. Probably, you both have full-time jobs, and time is precious.
- If you set aside an hour each evening for laundry, vacuuming or whatever — and arrange in advance who does what — you'll be able to accomplish household chores without hassles.
- Make sure you know what materials your possessions are made of — wood, glass, chrome, plastic and the like — so you don't make any mistakes when cleaning them.

Clean-up can be accomplished quickly and easily if you can use the same cleaner for several chores. For example, Glass Plus glass, appliance and cabinet cleaner is right for washable surfaces such as glass and formica tables, cabinets and counters, windows and glass or china curios.