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How to Significantly Lower Your Wedding Flower Costs

By Candice Barrigher

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When planning a wedding, it is vital to keep in mind that approximately 5–10% of the budget may be consumed by floral costs. Whether your budget is \$5000 or \$15,000, this percentage is a significant amount considering all of the other things that are battling over your hard earned dollars (or, your parents' hard earned dollars!) Although the thought of spending so much on an element of your wedding that may not last past the day itself may depress you, flowers add the power of elegance and richness to your event.

"So, what do I do?" is a question that I have been asked. The answer is quite simple; you must find ways to cut costs and maintain the same desired effect. What most do not find simple is discovering ways to cut the costs. Well, here are a few tried and true ways that will allow you to incorporate one of nature's most glorious creations without breaking the bank.

1) One word...SILK! Silk flowers today appear to be so life-like, that I have actually had to touch and smell a bouquet just to be sure! They come in huge variations of blooms and colors. You are most certain to find silk flowers in exactly the same bloom and color you desire for actual flowers at a fraction of the costs.

2) Purchase flowers that are in season at the time of your wedding. The prices and choices available may vary across the country, but, the guide below is general and may apply in most states.

Summer Blooms

Lilies
Asters
Straw Flowers
Stephanotis

Winter Blooms

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Holly
Poinsettias

Fall Blooms

Sunflowers
Orange Blossoms

Spring/Summer Blooms

Calla Lilies
Freesia

Magnolias
Lily of the Valley

Annual Blooms

Baby's Breath
Gerbera Daisies
Daisies
Freesia
Carnations

Spring Blooms

Lilacs
Tulips
Violets
Irises

3) Use decorations that do not require flowers. With a little bit of creativity and compromising, you can create gorgeous centerpieces that are not floral at all. Candles have made some of the best centerpieces I have seen yet. One idea is to place pillar candles in hurricane lamps of varying sizes and place tulle and glitter/confetti around the setting. Candles can create a romantic ambience and will cast a warm, peachy glow on the smiling faces of your guests!

Candice Barrigher is a Home Entertaining expert, as well as a Certified Bridal Consultant. She has been assisting clients offline for 4 years now and has decided to take her presence on the web in February. The web presence of UniqueEntertaining will contain a plethora of entertaining tips, ideas, advice and many wonderful items that will allow clients to have beautiful and memorable events. She can currently be reached at Candice_Wedding@Consultant.com.

Using Silk Flowers – Should I?

By Ginger Ruoff

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Many of the silk flowers available for bridal bouquets today look so real only the bride knows for sure whether they are. Using silk flowers in the bridal bouquet may not be for every bride, but many are taking a second look at the advantages.

One of the best reasons for choosing silk flowers for the wedding bouquet is that the beauty of the flowers will remain the same for many tomorrows as it looks today. Too often with a fresh cut bouquet, saving it means drying the bouquet. If you are not adept at drying flowers, they may even end up with mold spots. Even if they are dried appropriately, the colors will be faded. You can get a fresh cut bouquet freeze dried to perpetuate the true colors, but it must be done by a professional and can be expensive. Silk flowers will not wilt, mold, or fade on your wedding day or over the years that pass.

If you choose to have a silk flower wedding, you can plan and order your bouquets far in advance of the wedding. Most brides are very busy in the month before the wedding. Having to coordinate with a florist to have fresh cut flowers delivered to the wedding venue is just one more pressure point on the countdown. Also, if the fresh cut flowers do not look like you envisioned, when you get them it is often too late to change anything. When you order your silk flower bouquets as far in advance as six months before the wedding, you have plenty of time to ask for changes or to order extra pieces if other honored guests appear on your list.

Finally, in terms of the wedding budget, a silk flower wedding can be more economical than fresh cut flowers. The flowers you like are always "in season." Prices are not bumped by seasonal changes. Also, because you will be able to order at a time that you wish to, you can pay for the flower expense months ahead of other expenses that will necessarily come right before the wedding.

Whatever choices you make about your wedding flowers – silk flower or fresh cut – a good wedding flower designer will help you create beauty in your wedding bouquet.

Ginger designs custom–styled bridal bouquets and wedding packages for brides. Visit her website <http://www.bridalsilkbouquets.homestead.com> for ideas.



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