

# Valuable floral arrangement tips from Wilton's florist in the know

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Stewart Flowers

If you're planning a wedding soon, you've probably perused the style and wedding magazines for flower ideas. Flowers enhance every setting and provide a key ingredient for romance.

While flowers can be expensive, they needn't break your bank account. Typically, the flower budget for a medium sized wedding (between 100 and 200 guests) will run between \$1,500 and \$3,500. Most of that budget is spent on table arrangements, compared to the bridal party and ceremony flowers. Here are five tips to make flowers work for your budget.

## Choose flowers that are in season.

Flowers that are bought in their natural growing season are always less expensive and plentiful. While more commonly grown flowers such as roses, lilies, and hydrangea are available year round, certain flowers are only available in their growing season. If your heart is set on lily of the valley, make sure your wedding is in May, or if you want peonies, plan for a June event. While flowers can be purchased out of their growing season, the cost is usually much higher and the quality is more unpredictable.

## Buy your own containers.

Sometimes you can find good deals or closeout sales on the internet or at discount stores. If you're discarding some of your wedding items, you may have the time to research, and you have



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20 or more tables to dress, it pays to look for bulk deals.

## Simplify the centerpieces.

A decent looking centerpiece will cost at least \$50 per table, which falls on the low end for a wedding. Most centerpieces run between \$75 and \$150, and much more if they are elevated or enhanced in some way. If your budget is limited, you can still create an elegant centerpiece without spending a small fortune. For a day wedding, beautiful cymbidium orchids floating in a low glass bowl provide color and understated elegance. Votives or floating candles further enhance the look.

## Try to get the reception venue to provide some of the ambiance.

Usually the venue will

provide votives or hurricane candles. You might also ask that they provide twinkle lights on any trees or potted plants at entry points or outdoors. Some venues provide these items at no additional charge and they can really go far towards enhancing an event.

## Go natural.

Natural is definitely in this year and your wedding can benefit from some creative uses of nature. Just look outside and see what Mother Nature can provide. For a fall wedding, weave grapevine and bitter-sweet into a wreath, set a hurricane candle in the middle, tuck in a few colorful leaves, and you've got a centerpiece. For a winter venue, collect some branches from the woods, spray paint them silver or gold metallic,

place them in an antique urn, and you've got an instant holiday theme. For spring, force some bulbs or branches, such as dogwood, and place in glass containers—voilà – you've brought nature inside.

I recently finished a small wedding of 30 guests for a young couple getting married in a beautiful home they had recently bought together. The bride is a fan of French country. We

ordered black and white toile tablecloths and black wooden chairs. Antique pink hydrangea and pink finesse garden roses gathered in round grapevine baskets adorned each table. We used the toile fabric on the bar and tied a few wine bottles in it. Around the house we used old tin watering cans the couple had in the garden that we filled with white hydrangea, larkspur, lisianthus, and

roses. We potted plants in a French bread basket and placed it on the mantle. The finishing touch—chalkboards with little love notes on them, scattered around the house at points guests would stop. It was simple, elegant, and very romantic.

Stewart Flowers and Gifts is located at 76 Old Ridgefield Road in Wilton. Call them at 800.735.2469 or 203.762.2468; or email [info@stewartflowers.net](mailto:info@stewartflowers.net). ☺



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