



DIY Bouquets & Boutonnieres Workshop

Purchasing your flowers

Options:

- Online Wholesaler (Blooms by the box, Fifty Flowers)
- Wholesale Warehouse (Potomac Floral)
- Grocery Store (Whole Foods, Trader Joes, Costco, Sam's Club)

Cost effective choices that are available year round:

- Roses, Mums, Carnations, Spray Roses, Hydrangeas (White/Green/Blue), Aster, Lilies, Alstroemeria, Babies Breath, Greenery

Consider the size of the flower:

- A hydrangea may cost twice as much as a rose, but it is 4-5 times larger than a rose

The least cost effective flowers (but ok to use sparingly!!)

- Garden Roses, Ranunculus, Mini Calla Lilies, Succulents, Scabiosa Pods, Freesia, Gardenias (if you see it on Pinterest, it is probably expensive)

*Purchase 5%-10% more than you think you will need. This will allow for any mishaps

* Timing is everything – do not receive your flowers earlier than 2 days before your wedding. (If your wedding is on Saturday, you should receive them on Thursday or Friday)

Prepping your flowers:

- Remove leaves from stems, Cut at least 1" off the bottoms of each stem, and place immediately into water. Do not use scissors, only use a very sharp knife (swiss army) or clippers specifically made for flower cutting (these can be found at any hardware store)
- Make sure buckets are clean and use floral preservative or a drop of bleach in the water
- Do not fill buckets more than halfway with water
- Keep in cool room, out of sunlight
- Do not overcrowd the buckets, make sure air can circulate

Assembling the flowers:

- Accept that your flowers will not be “perfect”. You can still have pretty arrangements! Embrace the imperfection!
- Have at least 2 people help you with the prepping and the arranging! Plan that each bouquet will take around 30 minutes to make, each boutonniere will take 10 minutes, and each centerpiece will take 30 minutes (Or practice beforehand and time yourself to see how fast you can work.)
- Arrange your bouquets in front of a mirror, that way you can see how they will look at different angles.
- Avoid the “soccer ball” look. Group like flowers together instead of spacing them out exactly in a pattern.
- Turn the bouquet a little each time you add a flower. This will help keep the bouquet balanced.

Once your bouquet is finished:

- Cut the stems to about 6” or 7” in length (this does not include the length of the flowers heads, just the stems)
- Do NOT put your bouquet in the fridge (unless you have an industrial size walk-in cooler!)
- Keep bouquet in water until you are ready to take pictures.
- Tie your bouquet with ribbon. Get creative and add personal touches like special brooches, necklaces, locket, pieces of your mother’s wedding dress, handkerchiefs, etc.