May Is Raining Roses

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May Is Raining Roses

by Marilynn Bratten, H. Jl. 2

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verything's "coming up roses" this month for the girl who's about to be a bride. Cupcakes are in bloom with pink frosting flowers; paper posies are budding on party trees; and in the punch bowl, a splash of rose water lends its delicate fragrance and flavor. Who's behind the rosey glow? — you, of course, with your green party thumb, coordinating the prettiest shower of the season for a friend who is going to be married.

What could be a nicer surprise than giving the bride-to-be a shower in her residence, where her close friends can all attend? If you plan the event carefully, she will say "Thank you!" for one of her loveliest pre-wedding parties.

First, check with the residence housemother for permission to use the parlors or living room (and the kitchen for making the refreshments). If you wish, ask her to help you with preparations — she'll probably be your best worker and will be able to give you some tips to make the shower a guaranteed success!

How To Grow Paper Roses

Roses grow quickly when three friends help you. One girl can cut all the paper and make the leaves. You'll need about nineteen packages of pink crepe paper for roses, and less than a package of green for the leaves. One girl can roll and cut the tubes, two can shape and wire the roses and pin them on. Just follow these steps.

1. Unroll a package of crepe paper and fold it in half, then in half again. Cut along the fold lines to make four pieces. From each of these pieces you can make four paper roses.

2. Roll crepe paper around a broomstick. The grain of the paper should be parallel to the handle. Roll evenly and tightly, but not too tightly or paper won't crush down easily.

3. Hold the end of the broomstick against a table top and slide your hands down the stick, pressing the rolled crepe paper into a firm and evenly crumpled tube.

4. Slide the crumpled tube off the broomstick and cut it into four equal tubes. Unroll each tube and trim off one corner — to make a rounded petal for the end of your finished rose. Fold over the other corner and begin rolling your rose from this folded corner.

5. As you roll the rose, hold your fingers below mid-line and gather in the paper near the base in tiny pleats, so that the upper petals will flare out and your rose will have fullness.

6. Wind cotton-covered wire around the base of the rose and slip off the excess paper. You don't want your roses to be too tall so wind wire just below the center.

Make A Rose Tree

The simplest way to form the tree to pin your roses on is to purchase a large ball of styrofoam, available at any dime store. Make a hole in the ball to hold the trunk (a broom stick) and pin the paper roses on the ball. When all of the roses are in place, add the green paper leaves.

Plant your tree in a large flower-pot or bucket. Add sand or earth to root the tree firmly in place. Cover the container with crepe paper or cloth. On the night of the shower, place the tree in the center of the room, and place the gifts around it.

Refreshments

The type of refreshments you serve depends largely on the cooking facilities which you have available. If you have access to an oven, then try your luck at making cupcakes topped with red frosting. (Use red food coloring). Save half of the frosting to use for making roses, which are squeezed from a pastry bag onto the top of each cupcake. (Directions for making roses and other frosting decoration come with a pastry bag or can be found in pastry cook books).

For a beverage, make rosy-pink punch. The following is a simple recipe:

2 cans (46 oz. each) Hawaiian Punch
8 bottles (7 oz. each) lemon-lime carbonated beverage
2 tablespoons rose water. (Rose water may be purchased at your local drugstore.)

Chill beverages thoroughly before preparing punch. Pour Hawaiian punch into a large party bowl. Add lemon-lime and rose water. Stir. Add ice cubes. Makes about thirty-six four-ounce servings.

Invitations

For written invitations, the tiniest "pretend" rosebud stapled to the corner of plain notepaper makes a flowery showing. Tie ribbon streamers to the stem of the bud.

When the initial surprise is past for the guest of honor, introduce her to her bounty, neatly piled beneath the rose tree.

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