Choices Range From Gardenias To New Glamellias

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Since ancient Greeks offered ivy to the gods to insure nuptial happiness, flowers have been part of the traditional wedding attire. Your wedding bouquet is the final dash of drama as you walk down the aisle to the strains of Lohengrin.

The type and size of wedding bouquet should be determined by the size of the bride, the style of her gown, and the type of wedding. Flowers should compliment, not dominate the scene. Therefore, the smaller the stature of the bride and the shorter the gown, the smaller and simpler the bouquet should be. Also, smaller arrangements should be carried in semi-formal and informal weddings.

Rules of proportion do not greatly limit the bride's choice of flowers. Many flowers, such as tea roses, long-stemmed roses and calla lilies, are grown in both regular and miniature sizes. Even large blossoms can be arranged into dainty, simple bouquets. Many wedding bouquets are designed with an orchid center that can be slipped out and used as a going away corsage.

The bridesmaids' flowers should be chosen as carefully as the bride's. Again a rule of good proportion should be used to avoid overpowering the girl or her dress.

Begin planning early by showing your florist a picture of your wedding gown and a sample of its material. She can suggest suitable flowers which will go into one of three basic arrangements — colonial, crescent, or cascade. Most florists offer a great variety of flowers. Bridal flowers are traditionally white; but, occasionally, colors may be used. If the wedding gown is a pastel, the flowers should harmonize with the tint of the dress.

Popular wedding bouquets include orchids, butterfly orchids (smaller in size), roses, sweet peas, shattered carnations, calla lilies, gardenias, or camellias. Also favored are chrysanthemums, snapdragons, and stephanotis — a waxy star-shaped flower resembling orange blossoms. Recently popular flowers, especially for larger bouquets, are glamellias. They are gladioli which have been wired blossom by blossom to resemble camellias. Less formal flowers, well suited to spring and early summer weddings, are white violets, lily-of-the-valley, tulips, lilacs, narcissi, and daisies. The maid of honor's bouquet may be slightly more elaborate than the bridesmaids' bouquets.

Bridesmaids may carry novelties such as artificial fruit, ropes or garlands of flowers, flower-covered parasols, or baskets spilling over with vibrant color. The groom pays for the bride's flowers, but the bride pays for her bridesmaids' bouquets.