

# Spring Brides



# Showers of Flowers

Yellow is having a moment this year. One of Pantone's colors of the year is Illuminating, a bright yellow that's spirited and energetic.

If you've picked sunny tones for your wedding palette, the good news is that there are plenty of blossoms that will give a pop to your bouquets, boutonnieres and more.

## ROSES

Yellow roses are classic additions to wedding bouquets. There are hundreds of yellow rose varieties. Each has their own shading, fragrance and bloom shape. The National Gardening Association says there are several forms of rose blooms, including the spherical cupped shape, high-centered blooms, flat blooms, quartered blooms, rosettes, pompons and globular blooms. With so many shapes to choose from, it's easy to find the right rose for your look.

## HELLEBORES

Looking for a bloom of a different color? Hellebores have pointed, leathery leaves with textured centers that range in color from white to purple, including a variety of shades of green. Some yellow hellebores can even have edging or centers in other colors, including a stunning deep purple.

## LILIES

Showy, trumpet-shaped lilies are stunning stars of any bridal bouquet. Many varieties also have a pleasant fragrance that festoons many a spring wedding. You can get classic, star-shaped Asiatic lilies, Golden splendor trumpet lilies, dramatic Caucasian lilies and the classic, vase-shaped calla lily.

## TULIPS

Tulips are spring classics.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow and their simple cup shape and long stems make them perfect for elegant bridal bouquets. Tulips come in many shades from a creamy, buttery tone all the way to neon yellow. Looking for more drama? Ask your florist for ruffled or double tulips.

## DAISIES

If you're going rustic for your nuptials, consider a bouquet of daisies. Gerbera dai-

sies have big blooms that can get up to five inches in diameter and are more budget friendly than other flowers. Also look for black-eyed Susans. Their brown centers give your bouquet texture and depth, especially when paired with plenty of greenery.

## YARROW

These flat-topped bunches of tiny golden blooms are perfect to accent larger blooms in your bouquet. Yarrow can be

arranged dried or fresh. Yarrow also has fern-like leaves that can be used in your arrangements.

## SUNFLOWERS

There may not be a more yellow flower than sunflowers. They can get up to dinner-plate sized and make great cut flowers. With their dark centers and showy, sunny petals, these flowers make for beautiful bouquet centerpieces and lovely table arrangements.



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# Show Your Favor

Wedding favors let your guests know you care and provide them with a tangible memory of your big day.

Wedding website The Knot says the average cost of favors is about \$400, so it's not a small part of your budget, either. Here are some great ideas for showing your guests that they're your favorite on your wedding day.

## TINY TOTS (NO, NOT THAT KIND)

Find miniature bottles of liquor, wine or beer to give out to your guests. Look for a brand that comes from near the site of your wedding. You may even be able to order customized tags for your big day. Don't forget to offer a non-alcoholic option, too, for those who don't imbibe.

## DRINKWARE

This category runs the gamut, but think along the lines of koozies if you live in a warmer area and have a list full of out outdoorsy guests. For more upscale venues and budgets, look for customizable shot glasses, mugs or julep cups. These are great ways to give a reusable gift that can remind your guests of your big day.

## CUSTOMIZED PLAYING CARDS

If your friends and family never met a game they didn't



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like, customized playing cards may be an ace in the hole. You can get cards with pictures of you and your love through customization sites such as Shutterfly.

## LIVE PLANTS

Setting an outdoor scene?

Let your guests take some of the gorgeousness home with them in the form of live plants. That way, your love can grow in everyone's home. Look for succulents (trendy and easy to care for), seedling trees and more. Visit a local nursery for ideas on native

plants that will do especially well in your climate.

## DESTINATION FAVORS

Hitting the road for your I-dos is a lot of fun and gives you a great opportunity to select some amazing wedding favors.

You can choose to go the travel route and pick items like luggage tags, hand sanitizers or some travel snacks. Or you can choose items specific to your destination, such as giving personalized jars of sunscreen out at a beach wedding.

# Out-of-Town Guests

There are a million details to consider when planning your wedding.

One of them is the guest list and the part of the guest list that may get overlooked is how to treat your guests coming in from out of town.

Keep reading to find out how to treat your out-of-town guests.

## EARLY AND OFTEN

The traveling part of your guest list needs to know your date and other plans as soon as possible so they can start saving for and plan their travel. You can also help plan their trip. Give them information on where to go while they're in town, including shopping, dining and local attractions they shouldn't miss. You'll also want to repeat this information on a variety of platforms. Mail traditional invitations and information, but also set up social media sites, send emails and make all your information as accessible as you can to your traveling guests.

## GIVE OUT GOODIES

Your out-of-town guests are taking a lot of their own time to be there for your big day. Consider leaving them a bag in their hotel rooms to make them feel welcome and show your appreciate. Go beyond the old standbys of water and mints. Include things people often forget while traveling,



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like a toothbrush. Also drop in some hand lotion or soap from a local maker.

## TRANSPORTATION TIPS

Arrange for transportation for your guests insofar as you can. You don't have to rent them cars, but you should at

least arrange for transportation to and from the ceremony and any related events. Organize carpools, use a shuttle, limo service, whatever your budget allows for. You can also arrange for trips from the airport, especially for infrequent travelers or

people that don't drive.

## THROW A PARTY

You've got a lot to do before your big day, so ask a friend or family member to host a welcome party for your out-of-towners. It can be a laid back affair with just drinks

and appetizers or a full-blown meal, depending on your schedule and the independence of the people on your guest list. You want to strike a balance between letting your guests have time on their own and leaving them without anything to do.



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# Why Do We Throw Rice?

Tossing rice or other grains at the newlyweds is a tradition as old as the hills.

Rice, Brides magazine says, symbolizes fertility and prosperity for the new couple. Tossing the rice means you're blessing them with wishes of fruitfulness and wealth.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

The ancient Celts, Brides says, threw rice, millet and other grains to appease their gods and ask for blessings on the newlyweds. Ancient

Romans tossed wheat while in Morocco, they toss dried dates or figs. In India, it's a rain of flower petals.

In more recent years, tossing rice has met with objections that the leftover grains can harm wildlife. The state of Connecticut even introduced a bill in 1985 to ban throwing rice to save birds. However, Brides says that Audubon officials in the state

never heard of rice killing birds and subsequent testing has shown it to be safe. What rice can do is be a slip hazard for your guests. So someone should be tasked with cleaning up after the rice throw to keep things picked up and safe.

## HOW AND WHEN

Before your ceremony, have small packets of rice ready for your guests. They can be distributed by your ushers, tied to your programs or left on chairs.

You should task people with letting people know when you would like rice to be tossed and also list it in the program. The rice toss can be when the couple walks out of the ceremony, during a group photo or when the couple arrives at the reception.

## ALTERNATIVES

There are several reasons why you want to skip the rice toss. Maybe you and your partner aren't planning to have children. Perhaps you'd like to avoid the safety haz-

ards with rice or want a greener option. Here are some alternatives to consider.

- Bird seeds.
- Dried flowers.
- Herbs.
- Flower petals.
- Biodegradable confetti.

You can also pass out small bells to have guests ring or ribbons to wave. There are lots of options that can match your wedding theme, venue and personality. Get creative, just make sure you pick up after yourselves and have a safe celebration.

# Bridal Jewelry: Time to Shine

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

All of your bases can be covered by bridal baubles.

Jewelry is an integral part of your bridal ensemble, and not just your ring, either. Here's how to make sure you shine on your big day.

## START AT THE TOP

Every little girl dreams of being a princess on their big day and some of that dream can come true with a tiara. Tiaras can range into the hundreds of dollars and more, just like other kinds of jewelry. They can be luxe or minimalist, and are always a great way to dress up even the most simple dress. When choosing a tiara, keep your hairstyle and veil in mind. You may want to let your stylist know you're planning on a tiara and have it on hand when they try out your hairstyle.

## EARRINGS

If you're going with a tiara, you'll want your earrings to coordinate. This may be a great place to get your something old (maybe a family set of simple diamond studs or pearls) in.

And, just like with the tiara, you want to coordinate your earrings with your hairdresser. They'll want to show off par-



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ticularly dangle styles.

## BASE YOUR LOOK ON YOUR BORROWED PIECES

Don't let your aunt's pearls down. Instead, make them the centerpiece of your jewelry. And, experts at Brides say, it's perfectly acceptable to mix your metals and gemstones, so

don't be afraid to make your look your own. If a piece is being given to you, not just loaned for the big day, Brides suggests working with a jeweler into remaking it into a piece you really love.

## NECKLACES

Match your necklace to your neckline, Brides says. That

means pendants with a V-neck, chokers and statement necklaces with strapless or sweetheart necklines, and so forth. The necklace should sit on your skin if any skin is showing.

Remember, though, don't feel pressured to do anything. Make your look your own, whether it was old, new, bor-

rowed or blue. And don't be afraid to stand up to friends or family members to make your wedding day your own. You can also switch things up at any time, even the day of. If you find a jewelry piece or a look you love, find a place to wear it at the reception or a party or shower before or after your wedding.

# Hot Registry Items

Marshall Field's in Chicago started the first bridal registry in 1924 as a way for the happy couple to indicate chosen crystal, china and silver patterns to their friends and family.

Since then, the registry has come a long way. Couples can register online for any number of things for their new household or even for their honeymoon. Here are some of the hottest gifts to register for according to The Knot.

## SMART APPLIANCES

Coffee pots, vacuums and even the lowly toaster all have high-tech brains nowadays that connect them to the internet of things. The Revolution 2-slice high-speed smart toaster (\$299) has 63 settings with technology that uses intelligent heating algorithms to sear rather than bake your baked goods for a crisp outside and a soft, chewy inside.

## LUGGAGE

As more places open up post-pandemic, more couples are hitting the road. A set of luggage is a great, traditional gift for the adventurous couple. Make sure you choose a set that fits your lifestyle. If spend a lot of time camping, you should choose duffel bags instead of those hard-sided bags with a built-in charger.

## LINENS

Towels, sheets and other goods are also standbys on the wedding registry. What's new is the popularity of high-tech fabrics that are more sustain-

able and last longer than traditional choices. Make sure to make color and pattern choices that are classic and will last you for years.

## ELECTRONICS

Today's houses are high-tech, as we've seen before with the toaster, so it's not unusual to add some electronics to your wedding registry. Think of things such as soundbars, robotic vacuums and air purifiers. Consider the Cuisinart convection toaster oven (\$179), which puts the power of a convection oven right on your countertop. It's a budget-friendly way to get the versatility of the convection oven without having to replace a major appliance.

## KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Beyond the smart appliances, many couples are also registering for some appliances that may not have been on your mom's wedding registries. These include things like air fryers, espresso machines, electronic pressure cookers and immersion blenders. Another popular option is the Nomad six-quart traveling slow cooker (\$74). It looks like a lunch cooler, but it cooks on the go. It features a nonstick surface for easy clean-up and has a cool-touch surface for safe handling.



# COVID-Friendly Receptions

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend avoiding large events and gatherings.

Weddings and receptions, however, may be possible in areas that permit such gatherings or with a pared-down guest list.

## BEFORE YOU PLAN

Don't set your heart on a huge blowout without first considering the number of COVID-19 cases in your community, the CDC says. High or increasing levels of coronavirus infection or in the areas people are traveling from to attend your wedding can pose a danger to your community.

Outdoor events are less risky, the CDC says, as are shorter events. Make sure you have enough room for people to circulate and social distance. Make sure you can encourage mask-wearing and hand washing. You may also need to consider any extra rules your venues have in place.

## CREATIVE IDEAS FOR A COVID-FRIENDLY RECEPTIONS

Here Comes the Guide listed these creative COVID wedding ideas.

- **A drive-in movie.** Set up your wedding and host a drive-in with the ceremony



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happening live but also projected onto a big screen and live-streamed for other guests. That way, each family could stay with their own group but still celebrate.

- **Social distancing wristbands or pins.** Offer your guests pins or wristbands that let them communicate their comfort level with socializing.

- **A wedding tailgate.** Guests parked their cars and

stood with their household while the newlyweds walked through the rows to greet everyone. Afterwards, there was as car parade.

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PARED-DOWN GUEST LIST

Instead of despairing about possibly having fewer guests at your wedding ceremony, consider that a smaller guest

list means more opportunity to have a really unique wedding day. Things like intimate, personalized toasts and speeches, a more luxe venue that may not have originally been in your budget or an updated reception menu may all be on the table.

## PLAN A SECOND CEREMONY

Many brides are opting for

a second, larger ceremony after their coronavirus-limited ceremony, says wedding dress designer Karen Willis Holmes.

"We can't recommend enough that you do something extra special to take the attention off of the things you can't do and put focus on making the absolute most out of your big day," the designer says on her website.