



Like 127k Follow

HOME NEWS INVESTING PERSONAL FINANCE MY MONEY REAL ESTATE CAREERS AUTOS TAXES

saving & budgeting credit & debt loans retirement insurance taxes your money

GET QUOTE

DJIA 13,029.26 +65.16 +0.50% NASDAQ 3,000.45 -7.11 -0.24% S&P 1,378.53 +1.61 +0.12%

Scottrade: Open an Account.

U.S. markets closed



Save a bundle on wedding flowers

You don't have to break the bank for beautiful bouquets. Use these ideas to create a lovely ceremony and reception.

By Donna_Freedman 21 hours ago

Share 12



Like

1



Planning a wedding? Get ready to drop a couple of thousand on pretty things. According to The Knot, a wedding website, the average bridal couple drops \$1,988 on flowers and décor.

But a little imagination and creativity lets you cut costs without sacrificing effect.

For example, my daughter bought her wedding flowers from a couple of supermarkets with quality floral departments. My niece, who previously worked in the industry, turned the blossoms into lovely bouquets and boutonnières.

And here's a new way to spend money: the "throw" bouquet. Seems a new custom is to buy a replica of the bride's flower arrangement -- which isn't cheap -- in order to throw it at the unmarried female guests. Really? (Post continues after video.)

Emily McCollin of Occasions By Emily in Charlotte, N.C., has a way around this pricey trend: "Use a bridesmaid's bouquet, rather than paying for a (duplicate)."

Truckloads of flowers are essential to some. To others, the number of blooms is negotiable. Decide what you want, then use these tips to bring your dream in under budget.

Cheaper by the dozen?

April Masini of the "Ask April" online advice column suggests ordering directly from a rose farm. Vases stuffed with roses "shriek 'luxury.'"

Don't want roses? Do an online search for other types of flower farms that sell to the public.

The cheapest flowers are generally those currently in season. West Palm Beach, Fla., event planner Rhonda Davis suggests three nontraditional choices:

- Hydrangea: "Very large and requires less to make a statement."
- Carnations: "When clustered together, (they) look sophisticated."
- Tulips: "In vases of different styles and heights, (they) add drama and impact."

Marisa Manna of So Eventful recommends that you "supersize" your arrangements with larger blossoms. "Choosing bigger buds means you'll need fewer stems," says Manna, who's based in San Francisco.

But don't overdo the flowers at the church: "Have two large arrangements at the altar. This will direct everyone's attention to exactly where you want them to focus: the bride and groom."

Table talk

AdChoices

Feedback

WHAT IS FRUGAL COOL?

Donna Freedman's Frugal Cool blog is for readers who want to live cheaply -- whether due to necessity or a lifestyle choice. It explores living sustainably and making life more meaningful at the same time.

ABOUT DONNA FREEDMAN



Donna Freedman, a freelancer in Seattle, writes the Frugal Cool blog for MSN Money. She won regional and national prizes during an 18-year newspaper career and earned a college degree in midlife without taking out student loans. She also writes about the frugal life for her own site, Surviving and Thriving.

RECENT POSTS

Save a bundle on wedding flowers

You don't have to break the bank for beautiful bouquets. Use these ideas to create a lovely ceremony and reception.

Help save the planet -- and your wallet

4 ways to kill impulse buying

When frugality goes too far

Cheap veggies, all summer long

Coffee that tastes better -- and costs less

"Floral" doesn't necessarily mean a cut bloom. Use flowering branches (forsythia, cherry) or branches of curly willow, suggests New York City event planner [Karen Brown](#). If you're lucky, friends or relatives have these trees on their properties.

- **Bing:** [Why do we have flowers at weddings?](#)

Or skip florals altogether. Jan McBee of [La Fete](#) in Atlanta suggests decorating tables with pillar candles of varying heights, floating candles, or "citrus fruits, pine cones, shells and other items from nature (in) vases surrounded by candles."

Stephania Andrade, who's helping her sister with a summer wedding, says guests will enjoy framed photos of the bride and groom, from childhood up through engagement.

"They'll become conversation pieces and will add that personal touch every wedding should have," the San Diego resident says.

Cut flower costs

Want flowers on the tables? Reuse the ones from the ceremony. At one wedding, photographer [Catherine Fiehn](#) saw decorative buckets hanging from the church pews. Later these buckets showed up as centerpieces.

"I've (seen) other ladies skip the bridesmaids' bouquets altogether and have each girl carry a single rose, which they one by one placed in an empty vase on the altar after coming down the aisle," says Fiehn, who's based in Darien, Conn.

And when the party's over? Event planner Afrin Khan of [Red Elephant](#) suggests arranging to donate flowers to a hospital, hospice or senior center.

"This simple, powerful gesture helps share your joyous day with others," says Khan, of Merrick, N.Y.

More on MSN Money:

- [Wedding feasts on the cheap](#)
- [Affordable places to get hitched](#)
- [Are maiden names really worth \\$500,000?](#)
- [The wedding gift as price of admission](#)

Tags: frugal marriage wedding

< [Back to Frugal Cool](#)

Share 12 7 Like 1

Write a comment...

1 Comment

- NEWEST**
- OLDEST
- BEST
- WORST
- CONTROVERSIAL

Larisa G. 15 hours ago

I am a wedding planner and a certified floral designer. There are many ways to handle your wedding flowers and a bit of information may be helpful. Please see my blog post "Confessions of a Wedding Planner: Not all flowers are created equal." <http://blog.momentsbywayne.com/2012/01/confessions-of-a-wedding-planner-not-all-flowers-are-created-equal/>. Hope that you find this information useful - there is no right or wrong - professional route or DIY. Pick the one that suits you best and know what you are signing up for in terms of cost and time.

0 0

Financial flub? How to move on

VIDEO ON MSN MONEY

TOOLS

How much will my savings grow?
Play with the factors that affect the size of your stash.

- How much should I save for college?
- Am I saving enough for retirement?
- Try the 50-30-20 budget
- Average U.S. savings by age, income
- More

SMART TAXES SMART SPENDING

- What to do if you missed the tax deadline
The IRS will still accept your return, but you may have to pay penalties for filing late and for paying taxes late.
- What if you can't pay your taxes?
- Tax Day deals and freebies
- Taxes and driving: A deadly combo?
- Wish you could skip taxes? Beware
- Owe back taxes? No travel for you
- The real effect of the 'Buffett rule'

- Search for:
- [silk flower arrangements](#)
 - [pictures of wedding flowers](#)
 - [flower delivery service](#)
 - [floral arrangements](#)
 - [wedding flower bouquets](#)

RELATED ARTICLES

Frugality: The right life choice- MSN Money
 The world's most frugal snack- MSN Money
 17 signs that frugality has gone too far- MSN Money

Frugal Cool- Frugal living and how to save money - MSN Money
 Stupid frugality tricks- MSN Money
 When a store's deal isn't a good deal- MSN Money

DATA PROVIDERS

Copyright © 2012 Microsoft. All rights reserved.

Quotes are real-time for NASDAQ, NYSE and AMEX. See delay times for other exchanges.

Fundamental company data and historical chart data provided by [Thomson Reuters](#) (click for restrictions). Real-time quotes provided by [BATS Exchange](#). Real-time index quotes and delayed quotes supplied by [Interactive Data Real-Time Services](#). Fund summary, fund performance and dividend data provided by [Morningstar Inc.](#) Analyst recommendations provided by [Zacks Investment Research](#). StockScouter data provided by [Verus Analytics](#). IPO data provided by [Hoover's Inc.](#) Index membership data provided by [SIX Telekurs](#).

Japanese stock price data provided by [Nomura Research Institute Ltd.](#); quotes delayed 20 minutes. Canadian fund data provided by [CANNEX Financial Exchanges Ltd.](#)

MSN MONEY'S MOST POPULAR

SHARED	COMMENTED
11.6k	Social Security on ex's record?
7.5k	The poorest counties in America
2.6k	Money in your 50s and 60s
2.6k	US barrels toward a fiscal cliff
2.4k	How birth order affects finances