

How to find that perfect bouquet

Fresh-cut flowers or fabric buds?

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Floral arrangements at a wedding — are they fresh-cut or fabric replicas?

Some brides today choose fabric over fresh. As florist Pete Raymond looks at it, "A bride sees it as a gift to her attendants. She, too, can keep her bouquet."

Fabric flowers — commonly called silk flowers because at first they were made of silk — look just like the fresh-cut kind, but last and can be arranged as easily as fresh flowers.

They have no scent, of course.

"You can buy scented flowers," Raymond said, "but the fragrance is not true — it's like those room deodorizers."

Raymond also said fabric flowers don't weigh as much as the fresh-cut ones. "A dozen roses tends to get heavy."

Many arrangements of fabric flowers are on the wall of the bridal selection room of

Raymond's florist shop. There are orange roses with brown foliage, a nosegay of pastel daisies, flowers in a plastic carrying container, orchids on a white lace fan wired to a frame, flowers flow-

ers, but the price has come down," Raymond said. "They're about half what they were five years ago. They're competitive with the fresh-cut flowers, but then, too, the price of fresh flowers has

risen."

Fabric flowers allow a bride to choose any flower she wants any time of year. With fresh-cut flowers, Raymond said, some may be unavailable or difficult to obtain out of



season.

A December bride who wants a seasonal wedding stands a better chance of using fabric poinsettias in her arrangements than live ones, he said. When their stems are cut, a milky liquid escapes and the flowers wilt, he noted.

Color is also no problem with fabric blossoms. A florist can dye or tint them to match the bride's color scheme.

"You can spray them and they hold the colors so well," Raymond said.

He said popular colors today are mauve and wine — the mauve ranging anywhere from a pink to a purple wine, and wine is a deep purple.

Raymond's personal preference is fresh-cut flowers because they add "something special" to the wedding. But he has found that he has to go with the wishes of the bride.

"They're (fabric flowers) starting to catch on," he said, estimating that fabric flowers are used in about 10 percent

of weddings. "You've got to go with the times. I just hope the silk flowers never overtake the fresh flowers."

He sees one advantage for himself. If he's swamped with orders, he can make fabric arrangements several weeks ahead of time. Fresh-cut arrangements are made the night before or the morning of the wedding.

Fabric flowers are used for bridal party bouquets, boutonnieres, pew markers and at the reception.

"We do everything except the altar pieces," Raymond said. "Altar pieces are large and showy and you can get into a lot of money. And who wants to keep it anyway?"

An economy-minded bride who can arrange flowers herself can buy kits at a craft store to make her own floral pieces.

Raymond said some brides who buy kits find them hard to use and end up taking them to a florist.

Where to go for that fun honeymoon

United Press International
The perfect honeymoon resort? It all depends on the couple. There are as many different kinds of people getting married as there are different kinds of resorts.

Some locations are tried-and-true favorites; others are relatively new in the honeymoon business.

Florida and California — Consistently logging more honeymoon arrivals than any other states, each represents great variety in type of destination and range of accommodations.

California has San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the northern ranchlands, Monterey and Carmel for atmosphere, the beaches and Disneyland.

Florida has Miami and the beach, a great spring-summer honeymoon value; the sunny Keys, Palm Beach, the country-club sports enclaves — Marco Island, Amelia, Boca Raton, all sorts of shorelines and Disney World, whose Epcot Center may give it a slight edge this year.

The Poconos — It's easy for blasé Eastern types to laugh off Pennsylvania's Poconos, but never mind. Despite the heart-shaped bathtub jokes, young honeymooners still love the idea of a super-luxurious place whose latest skylit triplex suites have deep carpets, glass floors, a round bed and your own round swimming pool.

Hawaii — It still means aloha and romance, especially on Maui and the Kona Coast. More and more couples are arranging to be married at sunset on the beach. Hotel social and catering staffs and local wedding specialists can make arrangements with as little as a day's notice. Hotel advisory services are free and local specialists will arrange for necessary papers, site, minister, flower leis, champagne and even supply two witnesses, for about \$185.

Mexico — It still holds that old South of the Border romance and warmth, and the lure of foreign flavor. The devalued peso continues to mean genuine bargains.

Canada — Especially the French-accented cities like Quebec and Montreal. And the Laurentians, the Rockies' National Park country, British Columbia, Toronto and Niagara Falls. The Canadian side is beautifully manicured and honeymoon certificates are in English and French. The 80-cent Canadian dollar means more for your money, especially in the Maritimes — Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Jamaica — It always has been lush, beautiful and romantic. Now the good feeling is back.

More things to do than the Caribbean islands — rather parties, Governor's train ride. And some very package buys for mooners.

Barbados — Spectacular scenery, both serene and lively, lingering memories of great houses, que churches and historical sites. Wide choice of land-sea sports, good restaurants, nightlife. Honeymoon packages range from beachside apartments to luxury resorts.

Bermuda — Still great with lots of fresh, clean charm and traditions. If not after neon dazzle or nightlife, it won't disappoint you.

The Bahamas — Honeymooners who really love the Out Islands will love the Bahamas — only 90 minutes an hour's flight from Florida.

Virgin Islands — The British — Reliable, great sailing, accessibility, and beaches.

The U.S. Virgin Islands organized sports facilities, golf, diving; shopping; law removes duties from different categories of tax luxuries; and crewed boat operations.

The British Virgin Islands lovely, laid-back way of life. Honeymooners are president's residence, Cayetaville. Their most important inside back. You Tell Love." The list: — Love respect for each other. — Sharing who are re

Europe — For anyone can master the air-fare situation. The continuing strength of the U.S. dollar makes Europe a great buy — especially for those who plan in the countryside.

Tahiti — The place to watch, especially from the Coast. It is cheaper than people think if you use good planning, and the outlands beyond Papeete are Paradise.

Of course, this list isn't complete. Honeymooners want to choose Eleuthera sports, beaches; the Abaco Exumas for sailing; or Antigua and San Salvador for diving.

Harbour Island is small, and has one of the world's most beautiful beaches. On the land side, Paradise Island has to have most going for it.

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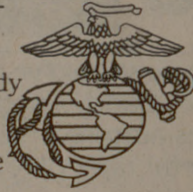
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