

# STEMS FOR ALL SEASONS

Locally grown, in-season flowers guarantee the freshest blooms for your wedding. Here are your best bets for spring, summer, fall and winter "I dos."

BY LAUREN KAY PHOTOGRAPHY BY HEATHER PAYNE PHOTOGRAPHY





## SPRING

A time of rejuvenation and rebirth. The melting frost brings about a bevy of fragrant and colorful blooms.

### { Price by Stem }

- \$ 1–2 dollars a stem
- \$\$ 3–4 dollars a stem
- \$\$\$ over 5 dollars a stem

#### 1 *Garden Rose*

Long considered a symbol of beauty and love, roses are widely available and come in almost every color.

**COLORS** red, cream, yellow, orange, pink and purple

**PRICE** \$\$\$

#### 2 *Dahlia*

Dahlias are great for centerpieces—they have no scent so they won't compete with your menu.

**COLORS** shades of pink, purple, red and orange

**PRICE** \$\$

#### 3 *Lisianthus*

Each stem has multiple blossoms and buds, plus serious lasting power.

**COLORS** pink, purple, white and green

**PRICE** \$\$

#### 4 *Zinnia*

The daisylike bloom is perfect for casual garden arrangements. It can also stand up to hotter temps.

**COLORS** white, chartreuse, yellow, orange, red, purple and lilac

**PRICE** \$

#### 5 *Foxglove*

Bell-shaped flowers add a delicate note to bouquets and centerpieces.

**COLORS** white, pink and various shades of purple

**PRICE** \$

#### 6 *Stock*

Dense clusters of soft petals pack a serious punch. Stock also has a spicy, clovelike fragrance.

**COLORS** pastel shades from cream to lavender

**PRICE** \$

#### 7 *Chocolate Cosmos*

A fragrant addition to a bouquet, this sweet-scented bloom smells like candy.

**COLOR** red-brown

**PRICE** \$

#### 8 *Heuchera*

Wiry stems with tiny blooms are a great choice for just-picked arrangements, and give texture and visual intrigue.

**COLORS** pink, purple and deep red

**PRICE** \$



### *Grand Gesture*

Oversize arrangements, like this collection of garden roses, can anchor an escort card table or flank an altar.



### *On a Pedestal*

"Compotes are great vessels for centerpieces. Their low profile and wider opening make them perfect for large, low bouquets," says Erin Benzakein, a farmer florist.



### *Single Stem*

"I love the fact that 'locally grown' can define not only what's on wedding guests' plates, but also the flowers that fill the table centerpieces," Benzakein says.

# SUMMER

The hottest of all seasons, the summer months mean longer days and lots of sunshine—perfect growing weather.



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## Nature's Bounty

"Late summer is my favorite season to design in—our fields are bursting with flowers in July and August. There are so many blooms to choose from, giving me total creative freedom," Benzakein says.



### 1 *Astilbe*

Densely packed astilbe has a feathery, wildflower look. It's a hearty stem, great for boutonnieres or for a touch of texture in a rustic or romantic bouquet.

**COLORS** white, pink, mauve and crimson

**PRICE** \$

### 2 *Mock Orange*

Despite having "orange" in its name, this fragrant flower blooms white. But its scent is thought to resemble that of orange blossoms.

**COLOR** white

**PRICE** \$

### 3 *Clematis*

This flower grows like a vine, with carefree twists to its stems. The blossom has delicate petals and an eye-catching center.

**COLORS** purple, pink, blue violet and cranberry

**PRICE** \$\$

### 4 *Garden Rose*

The big-headed blooms on these stems are perfect for making a bold statement or adding romance to an arrangement.

**COLORS** red, cream, yellow, orange, pink and purple

**PRICE** \$\$\$



## FALL

Autumn bridges summer and winter, bringing about cooler temperatures alongside colorful leaves.

### 1 Crabapple

Hearty branches can add texture and height to centerpieces. The mini "apples" range in color from green to red as the season progresses.  
**COLORS** green and red  
**PRICE** \$

### 2 Raspberry

For a pop of color in an arrangement or the perfect finishing touch on a naked cake, try a late summer branch of berries.  
**COLOR** red  
**PRICE** \$

### 3 Dahlia

There are over 42 species of this native Mexican stem, all striking in color and shape.  
**COLORS** shades of pink, purple, red and orange  
**PRICE** \$\$

### 4 Strawflower

These Australian-native blooms are ideal for drying and work best in undone-looking arrangements.  
**COLORS** white, pink, red, yellow and purple  
**PRICE** \$

### 5 Nasturtium

This sweet-smelling, vinelike flower has a pretty, whimsical quality.  
**COLORS** cream, yellow, orange and red  
**PRICE** \$

### 6 Pee Gee Hydrangea

The cone-shaped hydrangeas turn pinkish with age on the bush. Their delicate yet hearty petals add a romantic element to arrangements.  
**COLORS** white and pink  
**PRICE** \$\$

### 7 Honeysuckle

These blossoms, filled with edible nectar, are a popular way to give a nice aroma to bouquets.  
**COLORS** white, pink, yellow and orange  
**PRICE** \$

### 8 Lily

Large star-shaped lilies fill out arrangements with ease. Their sweet, floral fragrance is intoxicating.  
**COLORS** white, pink, yellow, peach and lavender  
**PRICE** \$

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*There's something special about being able to incorporate ephemeral flowers that bloom just once per year into a bridal bouquet.”*

## *Long and Lush*

"To provide visual interest on rectangular tables, I opt for longer, lower centerpieces—typically footed compotes or rectangular boxes. I intersperse these with 'satellite' florals, which are short vases with a few flowers or groupings of three or five small bottles with single stems," Benzakein says.





## WINTER

The coldest months of the year bring about frost and snow, but also stems bold in color and rich with texture.

### 1 *Love in a Mist*

One of the few blue florals, this buttercup bloom has threadlike leaves, giving it personality and intrigue.

**COLORS** blue, white, pink and lilac  
**PRICE** \$

### 2 *Sweet Pea*

A delicate flower with a rich fragrance, each stem has a cluster of flowy petals.

**COLORS** white, pink, yellow, red and purple  
**PRICE** \$

### 3 *Poppy Pods*

These structured seed-filled pods add an element of whimsy to rustic bouquets and wild, undone floral arrangements.

**COLOR** green  
**PRICE** \$

### 4 *Forget-Me-Nots*

Incorporate a "something blue" in your bouquet with forget-me-nots. The soft petals give volume too.

**COLORS** blue, purple, pink, white and yellow  
**PRICE** \$

### 5 *Honeywort*

Named after its honeylike scent, these inch-long tube petals cascade beautifully in bouquets and centerpieces.

**COLOR** purple-blue  
**PRICE** \$

### 6 *Hydrangea*

This romantic flower has clusters of tiny blooms that come together to create a stunning, big-headed blossom.

**COLORS** white, green, pink, blue, purple and cranberry  
**PRICE** \$\$

### 7 *Bachelor Button*

Its name makes it a well-suited stem for boutonniere. This cascading flower has a button head and is actually edible.

**COLORS** white, pink, blue, magenta  
**PRICE** \$





## Table Talk

"Nothing's worse than centerpieces that don't allow for conversation," Benzakein says. Compact vases sit lower on tables, ideal for cross-table chitchat.



## Bridal Bunch

"I love the loose bridal bouquets that stretch horizontally rather than cascade vertically," Benzakein says. Personalize with some colored ribbon.



*About the Florist*  
**Erin Benzakein** is a farmer florist, writer and teacher living and growing blooms in Washington state.  
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Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden: Grow, Harvest and Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms, \$30, Amazon.com