

How to Make a Bridal Bouquet



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Bridal bouquets have about six moving pieces, and if you do at least three of them well, the result will absolutely stunning. These six things are:

1. **FOCAL FLOWERS** These are the showy blooms that catch your eye first in an arrangement. Every good bouquet has at least one type of focal flower, but usually no more than three. Garden roses, dahlias, peonies, poppies, and anemone are all good examples of focal flowers.
2. **FILLER & FLOATING FLOWERS** This supporting cast of flowers is every bit as important as their focal friends. Filler flowers provide a base for the showy blooms to shine. Floating flowers are delicate and ethereal blooms that dance above a bouquet. Lilacs, tulips, lace cap hydrangea, spray roses, astrantia, and standard roses are commonly used filler flowers. Cosmos, ranunculus, and poppies are all great floating flowers.
3. **FOLIAGE** I cannot stress to you how important it is to have a good greenery game! Sometimes I even think it's THE most important part of the bouquet. We love foraged greenery for the wild and airy look it provides, but sometimes the style of the bouquet calls for something a little more formal. For those bouquets we often select olive branches, lemon leaf, Italian ruscus, pittosporum, and ferns.
4. **SHAPE** Anybody can create a round bouquet, right? But to get a dancing and sprawling bouquet, you need to make space for the following: voids (intentional empty spaces), layers (don't be afraid to partially obscure a peony with another peony), asymmetry (strategically layering flowers off to the side and then creating a counter point), and rivers of color (placing flowers of like color in groups/lines to avoid a checkered look).
5. **COLOR** Layer warm and cool colors throughout your bouquet to create dimension and depth. A focal flower pops much better when it is contrasted slightly (or greatly) with the color of the filler flowers. Instead of contrasting light and dark, try contrasting cool and warm. Cool colors would be lavender, frosty pinks, lemon yellow, purples, and hot pinks, while warm colors would be salmons, corals, dusty pinks, and butter yellow.
6. **TEXTURE** Unexpected detail makes a bouquet sing. Think outside the box when incorporating texture. Grasses & weeds, feathers, berries, twigs, and fruit are all excellent contrasts to the softness of the flowers.

Good bouquets use good ingredients, but excellent bouquets use them strategically. What you choose in each of the above categories, and how you put them together is your own "signature style". So, go. Crank up some good tunes and get creating. I can not wait to see the beauty you are about to bring to the world around you!