

## **DIY Flower Buckets**

~The Basics to Creating Beautiful Designs~

We offer buckets of flowers for those interested in doing their own arranging. DIY flower buckets are a perfect way to add floral arrangements to many of life's special celebrations, such as weddings, backyard BBQ's, anniversaries, birthday parties, graduations, and memorials.

We offer Grower's Choice buckets for \$100, and Color Specific buckets, curated to your color preference for \$120. Flower variety is farmers' choice and seasonally dependent on what flowers are blooming the week of your wedding. Each bucket includes at least 60 stems of round focal flowers, secondary accents like spikes and small composite flowers, airy sprays, and foliage to make a lush, textured and appealing presentation when arranged together.

If you are working with quality seasonal flowers, it's easy to arrange beautiful designs, the flowers speak for themselves. You do not need to be a trained floral designer to create lovely designs. Buckets are a great option for people who have a tight wedding budget, and would like to save on the labor costs of hiring a floral designer.

### **Our Commitment**

We prepare buckets using the freshest, highest quality flowers blooming in our fields the days up to your wedding. We harvest and post-process flowers at the correct maturity and using skilled techniques so they are healthy, hydrated, and on time to be fully open during your event. We pack buckets with consideration for what you plan on designing, to make sure you have relevant ingredients to work with.

### **Calculating the Number of Buckets Needed**

During the start of your planning process we are happy to give you advice on how many buckets you need to order to fill X amount of vases or designs. We do not offer lengthy consultation for DIY orders as we would for full-service design orders. You are ultimately responsible for making sure you order enough flowers and have the tools for design you've committed to. To calculate bucket count, write down all the wedding items you will be creating ( personal flowers, rehearsal and ceremony) multiplied by their quantities, then multiplied by the flower stem 'recipe' count for each floral item. For example: 12 wide mouth canning jar centerpieces x 15 stems each ( 5 focal flowers + 10+ fillers and greens) = 180 flower stems divided by a min. 60 stems per bucket = 3 Flower Buckets.

Approximately one bucket can fill 5 to 8 wide mouth 3" canning jars ( depending on how full or airy you make the arrangements). This is about 7 to 15 stems per arrangement. Bud vases are also a common vessel used for their ease and ability to have a big floral impact across a tablescape with less flowers. A narrow 1" to 1.5" opening bud vase can fit an average of 3 stems. If you are making handheld personal flowers one bucket can make about 3 to 5 small to medium size bridal bouquets, depending on your stem count per bouquet.

## **Vase Sizes**

The amount of flowers needed for centerpieces depends on the diameter opening of your vases. For example, the wider the vessel opening the more flowers you will need to fill the arrangement proportionate to the vase size (ex: a 7" wide bowl or compote vase will create a more elaborate design and will need a lot more flowers and time to design than a 3" wide mason jar). For easy and quicker designing use vessels that are deep enough to anchor stems without the need for other mechanics like floral tape, floral frogs, or chicken wire. Canning jars or similar size vases are easy to design in, so are bud vases. Shallow bowl vases that have wide openings require more mechanics so stems stay anchored and don't float up out of the water.

Always overestimate on stems to take into account designing mishaps and to make sure you have enough to go around.

## **Timing and Helping Hands**

Make sure you plan ahead and leave yourself enough time to design the flowers. You will likely need at least one friend or family member helping, if not a crew of helping hands for larger scale designing. Some of our brides have a floral designer friend in their wedding party they delegate to. If planned out, flower arranging can be a fun activity to do with family or friends 1-3 days before the wedding.

I recommend delegating someone to take charge of picking up, designing, delivering and setting up the flowers at the venue on the wedding day so you can focus on getting ready and enjoying your special day. If you have a lot to design, you will not have enough time to do this on your own. Do not leave the flower arranging until the day of your wedding.

## **Seasonal Flower Availability**

In the Floral Agreement we will give you an estimated flower availability list with varieties that are *likely* to be blooming at the time of your event. We do not promise specific flower types. We will do our best to accommodate flower requests, however, we cannot guarantee specific flowers in the buckets. The varieties included in your bucket depend on mother nature and what is blooming the week of your event.

## **Flower Care Tips**

We will provide all the flowers agreed upon in time for your event. We harvest only the freshest, highest quality flowers, grown and harvested from our farm and conditioned properly for correct maturity and full blooms on your special day. Once the flowers leave our farm they are your responsibility. Our flowers typically last one week or longer if cared for properly.

Store flower buckets and completed arrangements in an air conditioned or cool room, ideally 50F-60F until your event. If it's really hot outside (over 85F) you can store them in the basement. Store flowers out of direct sunlight until the time of your event.

This may seem like common sense but I do have to say it: Keep flowers in water at all times. This includes during the designing process.

Make sure vases have enough water. Flowers are thirsty and water level can go down quickly if vases are packed with many stems or the temperature is hot. Don't be stingy with water level and check it daily. We fill our vases full with water leaving just an inch or two at the top to take into consideration any water movement during transport.

### **Supplies**

Make sure you have clean vases, sharp clippers or scissors, clean water, and an adequate workspace. For more elaborate designs you may need floral tape, floral frogs, or chicken-wire. We do not rent out vases for bucket orders.

### **Flower Bucket Pick-up and Transportation**

Make sure you have a vehicle that can fit all the flower buckets you are picking up and that can also safely deliver arrangements to the venue. Bucket orders can sometimes overflow into a couple more buckets than the count you ordered (we don't like to cram flowers too tightly), so give your vehicle some extra room. As an example a subaru with the back seats folded down and entirely emptied can fit 12 buckets of flowers. We will help you safely load them into your vehicle. Make sure your vehicle is air-conditioned and the flowers are out of direct sunlight.

If you are creating designs off-site you may need boxes, cardboard, or packaging material to help secure arrangements for travel to the venue. Some venues may have a work space for you to design arrangements on site and either keep them in a cool shaded wind-free location or store in a walk-in cooler until they can be set on the tables, thus avoiding the need to pack and transport your designs.

Flower bucket pickup is by appointment at our farm, 139 Snyder Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326. We recommend picking up buckets 1-2 days before your event, depending on how much you are designing. We can arrange to deliver buckets to local orders, but we will charge a delivery fee based on mileage.

Buckets have become an expensive tool for our farm. We greatly appreciate any buckets that get returned to us. Buckets can be dropped off at our farm following the event, or at our stall at the Cooperstown or Schenectady Farmers' Markets.