

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian **Bouquets for the Big Day!**

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PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS

1. Have a frank discussion with the couple to determine their theme, color scheme, style, and flowers they are seeking.
2. Choose flowers that have staying power. Popular choices include sunflowers, hydrangeas, roses, lilies, orchids, succulents, dahlias, clematis, iris, zinnia, callas, peonies, herbs, delphiniums, iris, tulips, anthurium, snapdragons, freesia, foxglove, hollyhock, gladiola, and seasonal favorites.
3. Write down the names of each person who will need a bouquet, boutonniere, or corsage. If there are too many people and you are already feeling stressed, this is the time to decide exactly what you are willing to do. If you want to make just your daughter's bouquet and purchase the rest, that's totally fine and liberating.
4. Buy a swatch of fabric from the store that matches the bridesmaids' dresses. Put your swatch in a zip lock bag to carry in your purse ... everywhere! You'll add the ribbons and other swatches as you go along.
5. Ask if they have any special flowers or greens they specifically want incorporated.
6. Determine whether you will grow the flowers and greens, buy them from a flower source, or engage a combination of the two.
7. Re-read my article, *The Wild Bunch*, as it is filled with tips on how to keep flowers and greens fresh. You can find it online at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0718/Digging-Deep-with-Cynthia-Brian-The-Wild-Bunch.html>.
8. Go to a crafts store or floral supply to buy green floral tape, wire, rolls of clear wrap, and ribbons that will coordinate with both the bride's gown and the bridesmaid dresses.
9. Organize your tool bag. Include scissors, pruning shears, water buckets, masking tape, zip lock bags, rubber bands, hot glue gun, mister, floral tape, wire, clear wrap, ribbons, and cotton balls. Make sure to have a broom for clean-up.
10. Experiment with designing several different bouquets and boutonnieres at least a month in advance of the wedding. Take photos of your creations to share with your daughter, son, and anyone involved in the project design. Ask for feedback.
11. Log how long it took you to make each item. It will take at least that amount of time, if not more, before the big day.



A lush DIY bridal bouquet of dual colored calla lilies flanked by peonies reflecting the color scheme of the wedding.



A dramatic table arrangement of white hydrangeas, blue delphiniums, and apricot tulips.



Holiday bouquet with traditional red and white roses, gerbera, lilies, snapdragons, and gladiolus.



Succulents, tulips, and orchids are low centerpieces for this event.