



Go ahead — go overboard on flowers

IF YOU EVER have been a bridesmaid, you remember the bouquet you carried.

"I studied it like it was a newborn baby," said Carol McPheland of Cincinnati. "I marveled at its ribbons and the tiny pastel flowers. And then I noticed how perfectly they matched my dress."

McPheland described how she held her bouquet waist high and looked at her reflection in the mirror of the bride's dressing room.

"The flowers added something nothing else could," she said. "Only the bride's bouquet was more beautiful."

When you are a bride, you'll look lovelier than you ever have — partly because of the flowers you hold.

The perfect bridal bouquet doesn't just happen. Like all aspects of a wedding, the flowers have to be planned well in advance.

CONSULT YOUR FLORIST as soon as you know your budget and the colors of your bridesmaids' dresses. Provide the florist with swatches of

dress material, if possible.

Be sure your florist is familiar with the site of the ceremony — church, synagogue, hotel or home. The florist needs to know interior color schemes, as well as how much space is available for floral decorations.

By all means, get carried away if your budget allows. It's hard to overdo flowers.

Consider garlands along the ends of aisles. Take your vows under an archway entwined with roses, carnations and ivy. Cut a cake adorned with orange blossoms and tiny tiger lilies.

If you're going to have flowers on your wedding cake, knife, wine goblets or pre-dinner hors d'oeuvres, give the florist the name and phone number of the caterer you are working with so they can coordinate their efforts.

Here's a suggestion from the Rose Information Bureau: "A thoughtful touch for the reception is to put a single rose in a small bowl at each place setting. Or, you may choose to float several roses in a large brandy snifter in the middle of each table."

While all of this is still a dream, decide on your personal style and how your flowers will express it. Which of the following best describes you and your ideal wedding?

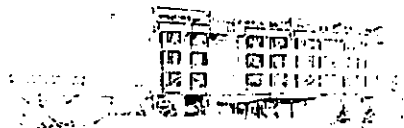
for friends and family. Children play on the grass. Rows of folding chairs are garlanded with daisies.

You try not to grin as you head for the altar. You're carrying a bunch of

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