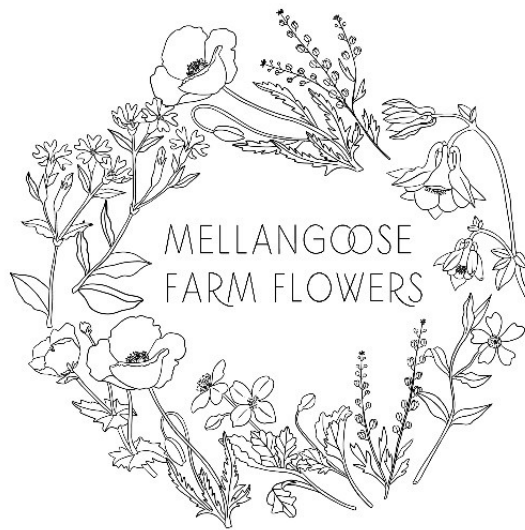




The Mellangoose Farm Flowers Guide to

DIY Wedding Flowers



If you're dreaming of having beautiful, seasonal flowers at your wedding, this guide is for you. It's designed to help you decide what to order, the practicalities of the flowers and bringing together the final look.



Things to consider before you order

When it comes to planning your wedding flowers, it's easy to be swept up by the incredible displays on platforms like Pinterest. But professional looking setups require a lot of time and experience. If you're keen to do your own flowers but you're not a florist, make an impact with beautiful seasonal flowers, but we recommend keeping things simple.

How many flowers do I need?

At Mellangoose Farm Flowers, our DIY wedding flowers are sold by the bucket. Each bucket contains a mixture of 40-45 stems of seasonal garden flowers in the colours of your choice and 10-15 stems of seasonal foliage. There are approximately 50-60 stems in total per bucket.

(We also offer foliage bunches of 10 stems in either 50cm lengths [£5] or 1m lengths [£10]. These are a great option for making larger arrangements. They are also a cost-effective way to 'pad out' the flowers but still give a very seasonal look.)

Bud vases can have anywhere from 1-10+ stems in them depending on vase size and how flowery you want the look to be. We personally feel about 5 stems looks best. One bucket would therefore fill approximately 10 bud vases.

Pew End flowers can either be arranged in water (such as jam jars) or as tied bunches, often hung upside down. We recommend approximately 5-10 stems for these arrangements. Jam jar arrangement are popular as they can be moved to the reception venue and used again as

table flowers etc. If choosing the tied bunch option, we recommend keeping the arrangements in water until just a few hours before needed to avoid too much wilting.

Jugs, vases, meadow boxes and flower bowls require about 20-30 stems. One bucket would be enough for two arrangements into these kinds of vessels. For meadow boxes, extra foliage can often be useful to fill gaps if you want a 'fuller' look.

Bouquets require foliage that will support an arrangement and flowers that will hold out of water. If you intend to create your own bouquets, let us know so we can choose appropriate stems. We recommend one bucket for the bridal bouquet. It's possible to make two bridesmaid's bouquets from a single bucket.

Buttonholes only need a few stems. 5 or 6 is usually sufficient. We recommend letting us know if you intend to make up buttonholes so we can select stems that work out of water.

Pedestals and archways are usually large installations and require many stems. We recommend using our foliage bunches as a base. If you'd like to create your own floral installations, let us know your plans so we can choose stems for height and impact. The number of flower buckets required depends on the overall look you want to create and the size of your installation. An arch could take upwards of 3+ buckets. We recommend one bucket per pedestal arrangement.

Collection and Delivery

Because our flowers are organically grown, they need to remain hydrated.

Collection

You'll need to bring buckets with you to the farm to transfer your flowers into. We also recommend bringing some boxes or old blankets/towels to pack around the buckets to avoid them tipping in transit. If you're ordering a larger number of buckets, you'll need to ensure that you have enough space in your vehicle to fit the flowers and buckets comfortably.

Delivery

If we're delivering your flowers, you'll need to have buckets or equivalent vessels for the flowers to be transferred into when we arrive. By prior arrangement, buckets can be hired

from us at 50p a bucket and returned to the farm within 5 days from the delivery date. Please note we also take a refundable damages deposit if you wish to use this service.

Preparing to work with your flowers

Your flowers will need to remain cool and hydrated until you're ready to use them. Store them in clean, fresh water somewhere like a garage or the coolest part of your home/venue.

You'll need secateurs or floristry scissors for anyone who's working with the flowers. Allow plenty of time to make up the arrangements as it always takes longer than expected. It's usually best to make up the flowers the day before the wedding.

If you're making **buttonholes**, these can be placed in an airtight box and put in the fridge overnight to keep them fresh. Don't forget you'll need dress pins to fix them to the clothing. For **bouquets**, make sure you have some large jam-jars or small vases handy so they can remain in water until it's time for them to be used.

We recommend that **bud vases** and other smaller arrangements should be kept cool overnight and put out into their final position a few hours before the wedding to ensure they stay as fresh as possible. This is particularly important for marquee weddings during warm weather.

If you're creating more complicated arrangements or installations like meadow boxes, pedestals and bouquets and you're not an experienced florist, it's a good idea to practice before the wedding. Research your mechanics- we use chicken wire for our arrangements and installations. We don't recommend floral foam due to its catastrophic environmental impact.

A final note

We're here to make sure you have the very best flowers for your requirements. The more information you can give us on what you'd like to do with the flowers, the better informed we'll be when selecting your stems from the cutting garden. We welcome Pinterest boards if you wish to send them as they can be a great guide to the colours and style vibe you want to achieve.

And finally, don't forget to enlist friends and family to help with the flowers. It can be a lovely way to bring you all together before the wedding.