

ENTERTAINING IDEAS

Trendy Bouquets For Spring Celebrations

(NAPSA)—Here's a party-planning tip: Whether you're celebrating Mother's Day, a wedding shower, graduation or even spring itself, fresh flowers create a warm, welcoming ambiance—plus, they're easy and fun to arrange.

A festive spring bouquet starts with your choice of flowers, says Rene van Rems, noted floral designer and educator in Vista, Calif. Bring the vibrant spirit of spring into your home with daffodil, narcissus and hyacinth, available from January to May. Irises and tulips also herald the season, along with daisies, freesia, lily of the valley and calla lilies. In fact, there are more than 200 different flowers and foliages available from California in spring—just choose your favorites.

Color is the second ingredient for dazzling bouquets, says van Rems. Spring flowers are brimming with vibrant, intense color. For a bouquet that will pop with bright, happy energy, mix yellow daisies, daffodils and ranunculuses with orange daffodils and calendula, as well as white narcissus and blue hyacinths.

Another approach is a bouquet of one outrageously vivid color. Treat your guests to a burst of spring sunshine with yellow daffodils, ranunculuses, tulips and roses.

Budding branches are a beautiful tribute to the rebirth that the season symbolizes. Place five branches of bright red quince blossoms in a clear glass vase, sug-



Bring the vibrant spirit of spring into your home. Make a bouquet that uses seasonal flowers such as tulips, lilies, hydrangeas and roses—all in shades of one vivid color.

gests van Rems. White cherry, pink crab apple and many other blossoming branches are generally available from California during March and April.

Here are some other tips for creating dynamic spring bouquets:

Wrap It Up

Wrap a glass cube container with ribbon, like a present. The ribbon grid across the opening will position the flowers.

Lime Punch

Include a few bright green flowers in pastel bouquets to punch up the color. Chartreuse button mums invigorate pink ranunculuses,

hyacinths and asters.

Keep The Water Coming

Most bulb flowers need lots of water as they continue to grow in the vase. Refill the vase frequently.

Want more inspiration? Visit the California Cut Flower Commission at www.cffc.org. The California Cut Flower Commission is a promotional organization for California cut flower growers.

Rene van Rems (www.renevanrem.com) is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers. He is a lecturer and the author of "Rene's Bouquets—A Guide to Euro-Style Hand-Tied Bouquets."