

# WEDDING GUIDE

## Work Magic With Winter Wedding Flowers

(NAPSA)—If your wedding is one of the most important days of your life, you want it to be beautiful. Some of the most beautiful weddings happen in the winter: Snow crystals softly falling and towering evergreens sparkling against an evening sky while indoors, the bride and groom exchange vows amidst flickering firelight, fragrant pine and fresh flowers.

Although only 13 percent of weddings take place in winter months, there are advantages to choosing this season. Churches, historic mansions and other sites are already festive for the holidays—and less likely to be booked for other weddings, as are your guests. You might even benefit from lower costs for wedding services at this time of year.

Whatever venue you choose, fresh flowers will be an essential ingredient for a truly magical winter wedding. Your choice of flowers can infuse the occasion with warmth, rich color and seasonal beauty. Even in the midst of winter, a vast variety of flowers and greens is available from California to make your wedding distinctive.

Red flowers are a favorite to bring vibrant color, velvety texture and dramatic beauty. Roses, lilies, callas, gerbera daisies and other popular wedding flowers are available in many red tones, from deep rose to burgundy. For a trendy twist to a classic bridal style, J. Keith White, a member of the American



**Left: A classic styling of Black Magic, Ruby Red and Bull's Eye red rose varieties in a collar of ruscus, encircled with a colored crystal garland. Right: Tree fern trimmed into a dome-shaped nosegay with coffee berry and conebush foliage. Golden angel hair and glass berries add sparkle.**

Institute of Floral Designers, suggests mixing two or three different varieties of red roses.

Don't overlook the importance of greenery. In bouquets and centerpieces, greens heighten the vibrancy of flower color. Plant foliage can also express a seasonal theme. A bridal bouquet of mixed white flowers, including roses, lilies and tulips, is an elegant choice at any time of year. White suggests encircling the flowers with a collar of green and white pittosporum, giving the feeling of holly. Eucalyptus, dusty miller and Australian pine are other foliages for seasonal themes.

Cones, berries and even stems of small fruits remind us of the natural beauty outdoors. Red peppercorn, orange coffee berry, and dark purple ivy berry add seasonal accents to wedding flowers. Conebush foliage bears small cones and berries in red, green and silver.

For a glittering finish, reflect the crystalline beauty of a winter wonderland. Small colored glass beads, pearlescent balls, even rhinestones add sparkle to wedding bouquets.

For more information on the magic of wedding flowers, visit the California Cut Flower Commission Web site at [www.cfc.org](http://www.cfc.org).