

glossary of commonly used floral bouquets terms

Cascade: A waterfall-like spill of blooms, often composed of ivy and long-stemmed flowers, that is wired to cascade gracefully over the bride's hands.

Classic bouquet: A dense bunch of blooms that can be anchored in a bouquet holder, wired, or hand-tied.

Composite: A handmade creation in which different petals or buds are wired together on a single stem to create the illusion of a giant flower.

Crescent: Composed of one full flower and a flowering stem, often orchids, wired together to form a slender handle that can be held in one hand. Designed as either a full crescent -- a half circle with a central flower and blossoms emanating from two sides -- or a semi-crescent, which has only one trailing stem.

Nosegays: Small, round bouquets, approximately 16 to 18 inches in diameter, composed of densely packed round flowers, greenery, and occasionally herbs. Nosegays are wired or tied together.

Pomander: A bloom-covered ball suspended from a ribbon. Ideal for child attendants.

Posies: Smaller than nosegays but similar in design, posies often include extras like ribbons or silk flowers. Perfect for little hands.

Presentation: Also known as the pageant bouquet, this is a bunch of long-stemmed flowers cradled in the bride's arms.

Tossing: This copy of the bridal bouquet is used solely for the bouquet toss ritual.

Tussy mussy: From the Victorian era, a tussy mussy is a posy carried in a small, metallic, hand-held vase. Today, the term is often used in reference to the holder itself.

other flowers

Boutonniere: A single bloom or bud (or several small buds) attached to the left lapel of the jacket. Boutonnieres can be worn by grooms, attendants, ushers, and the bride's and groom's fathers.

Corsage: A single bloom (or small cluster of blooms) arranged against a lace or tulle doily and/or accented with ribbon. Corsages come in pin-on, wrist, and hand-held styles and are typically worn by mothers and grandmothers. Orchids and gardenias are popular choices.