

I am often asked by brides if there are any flowers available for the winter wedding. My answer is, of course! There are a variety of species which are lovely in winter, although some flowers, roses for instance, may be more expensive.

There are some lovely varieties that thrive in the cool. For instance, the Hellebores, also known as the "winter rose" are gorgeous now and give a sensational look in a bridal bouquet.

Don't forget the Cymbidium Orchids. They too are lovely at this time of year and orchids come in many vibrant colours. When opting for orchids, be sure to keep them in a closed room where bees and flies cannot get to them. If they become pollinated they die rapidly! If they have been pollinated you will notice the throat of the orchid turn pink.

Lillies are very popular for all weddings. Florists often want to know the best time to order lillies to have them in full bloom for the Big Day. I recommend that lillies be purchased a week ahead of time or even ten days ahead of time if temperatures are very low.

Cut the stems down close to the required length. Place the flowers in warm water in a quiet room and perhaps put the heater on slightly to keep the room warm. Check on the flowers daily and don't forget to pick out the pollen as the blooms open. If the flowers are racing open, place in the cool room till needed.

Happy flowering!