



THINK IN COLOUR
 "Good flowers for cutting include sweet peas, cornflowers and cosmos. Remember to think about the colours – you'll want them to look good in a bunch together. As well as my favourites, I always try something new and this year it's 'Café au Lait' dahlias."
Nicola Robertson of Foxgloves & Roses (foxglovesandroses.co.uk)



Britain IN BLOOM

As the UK sees more brides wanting homegrown flowers, **Rona Wheeldon** asks the experts for their tips on growing your own and looking local



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SPACE
 "If time and space are limited, stick to growing varieties that can't be sourced from elsewhere. Concentrate on the flowers which work hard for their plot – annuals are great as they will grow again once they've been cut. Foliage of all colours and textures is a great way to fill out your arrangements, so, if you have space, grow shrubs. They're low maintenance and some even have scented flowers in the winter months." **Chloe Plester of Bare Blooms (bareblooms.co.uk)**



HAPPY HERBS
 "Embrace your growing conditions and plant flowers and herbs that will thrive in them. Our sloping, south-facing plot is great for Mediterranean herbs, so we've created terraces filled with rosemary, oregano, lavender; thyme and sage. These all work with the trend for relaxed, informal and unstructured bouquets with a mix of colours and textures. You can even add easy-to-grow surprises, such as buttercups." **Fiona Pickles of Firenza Floral Design (firenzafloraldesign.co.uk)**



KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE
 "My advice for anyone toying with the idea of growing their own flowers would be similar to growing your own vegetables; only grow the things you know will be much better when freshly picked or varieties that aren't readily available. Bear in mind, you need to have your eyes on the garden all the time!"
Susanne Hatwood of The Blue Carrot (thebluecarrot.co.uk)



BEAUTIFUL AND BOTANICAL
 "We favour unusual garden varieties grown for their scent and colour. Many couples are choosing wild flowers and foraged wedding designs and botanical installations for their venues, which works well with the style of British blooms. Trust the knowledge and experience of the florist providing your flowers. If they can pick the best from the flower garden that morning, you will enjoy the most incredible results on your wedding day." **Natalya Ayers and Fiona Inglis of Pyrus (pyrusflowers.co.uk)**



EMBRACE BRIT STYLE
 "To create a 'just-picked' bouquet for the summer which reflects the British countryside, combine different textures and flowers of various sizes. Adding tanacetum (daisies) to bouquets creates an instant feel of summer fields, as well as a combination of herbs and grasses. Scented foliage, such as lemon balm, mint, lavender and – my favourite – scented pelargoniums, are an amazing combination with garden roses and sweet peas."
Katherine Craft of Florist in the Forest (floristintheforest.co.uk)



WILD THINGS
 "When using British-grown flowers in your wedding arrangements, you have to accept them as a different product to the imported ones. They're a lot more characterful, with twisted stems, mottled petals and a more natural colour. For something simple, blooms such as sunflowers, dahlias and cornflowers are easy to grow at home. They take minimum effort, with a high yield. Sweet peas can be temperamental, but well worth the effort for scent if you can manage it!" **Jay Archer (jayarcherfloraldesign.com)**



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