

# HOW TO SURVIVE IF THE FLOWERS DON'T ARRIVE



## Use fruit.

Stack seasonal fruits in glass vases: cherries and navel oranges for spring weddings, strawberries and blueberries for summer, apples for autumn, or holly and pinecones for winter.



## Borrow flowers.

Good hotels will have beautiful, ornate floral arrangements in the lobby area, in public spaces and sitting areas, and in the bar/restaurant. Dressed in your wedding attire, approach the manager to explain your situation. Tip generously.



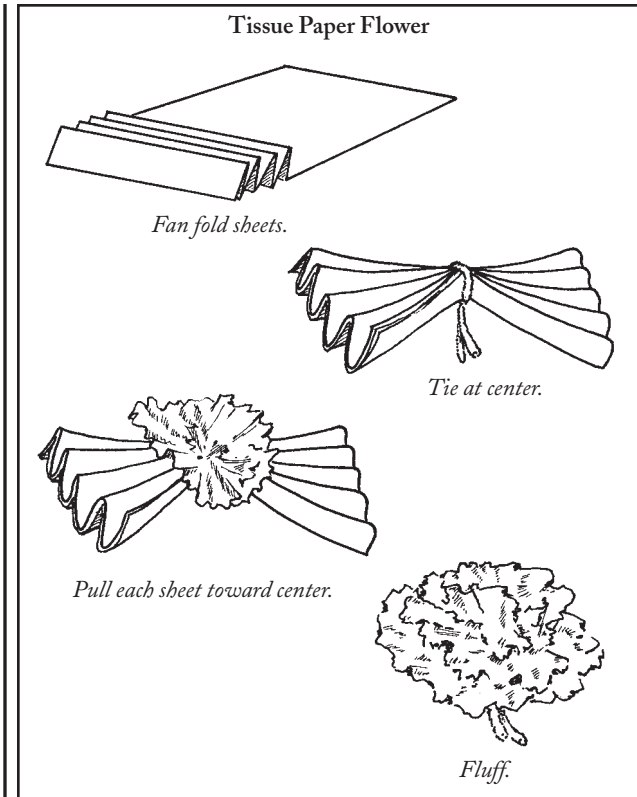
## Borrow from another wedding in the hotel or reception hall.

Ask someone in the other wedding party if you can use flowers from that wedding. Do not be choosy—don't decline some arrangements because the colors are wrong or you don't like them—and don't approach the bride and groom, since they probably will be busy.



## Knock on neighbors' doors.

Explain your situation to people in nearby houses. Ask to borrow flowers from their gardens and construct bouquets and small arrangements.



## Make flowers from tissue paper.

- Stack three sheets of 6-x-12-inch tissue paper. Each piece should be a different color. If you don't have tissue paper on hand, open a few gifts—most will include tissue paper in the box.
- Make a 1-inch-wide fold up from the bottom (shorter) edge of the pile, then continue fan folding the sheets to the top edge.

- Fold a pipe cleaner or twist tie in half. Place the tissue paper inside the fold of the twist tie, then twist the ends together just under the sheets. The pipe cleaner or twist tie will act as the stem of the flower (you may need two twist ties to achieve the proper length).
- Fan the tissue pieces out, then carefully pull up each crease, starting with the top layer and continuing with the next two to form the petals of the flower. Fluff the paper to add volume.
- Repeat.



### **Borrow from a nearby cemetery.**

Scout out graves with very large headstones, monuments, or other elaborate markers, which are likely to have more impressive arrangements. Find a fresh arrangement at a location with no one around. Before taking the flowers, take careful note of the grave's location so that you can return them after the wedding.

### **Be Aware**

- If the flowers are severely drooping or nearly dead, re-cut the stems and place them in cool water. Make a 45-degree cut at least an inch from the bottom of the stems and remove all leaves and thorns below the water level. Add half a teaspoon of sugar to the vase to keep the flowers fresh; use lemon-lime or other clear soda if sugar is not available. Do not use cola. Then use a well-shaken bottle of sparkling water to spray the petals and

leaves with water. Avoid club soda, which contains sodium.

- Virtually all flowers dislike drafts, whether hot or cold. Keep arrangements away from doors, open windows, air conditioning and heating vents, and radiators.

## **HOW TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY BOUQUET**

You will need 5 long pencils or pens, invisible tape, 5 colorful neckties, scissors, and curling ribbon from several large wedding presents.

### **1 Prepare a pencil or pen.**

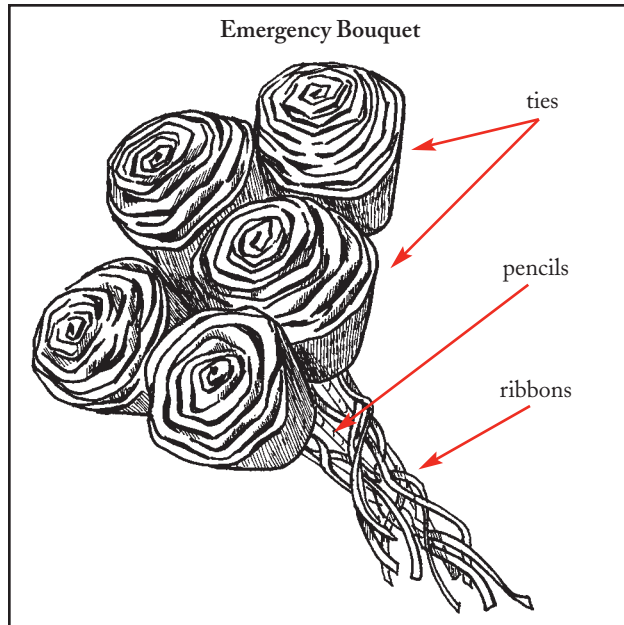
Wrap a piece of tape around the eraser-side of each pencil, with the sticky-side of the tape facing out. Secure the tape in place with another piece of tape so it will stay at the top of the pencil.

### **2 Roll a necktie into a rosette.**

Affix the skinny end of the tie to the sticky tape at the end of the pencil. Tightly roll the tie over on itself, around the pencil, forming a tie rosette. As you continue to roll toward the thicker end of the tie, be sure to keep the top edge straight so the spirals create a rosette.

### **3 Secure the end with tape.**

When you've run out of fabric, secure the end of the tie in place with a piece of tape.



**4** Repeat steps 1 through 3 with the remaining pencils and ties.

**5** Tie the “flowers” together with ribbon.

Construct a bouquet by fashioning all of the tie rosettes into a makeshift bouquet. Wrap the pencils with several long strands of curling ribbon and tie a knot to hold them together. Allow some of the curly ribbon to hang low for a pretty effect.

### Be Aware

For a more demure bouquet, cut the ties in half for smaller rosettes.

**WORST-CASE  
SCENARIO.**