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Tips on picking the right florist

By: Associated Press

HACKENSACK, N.J. ---- How to find the right florist for your shindig? WedAlert.com, a wedding planning Web site, advises brides to start looking for a florist six months before the date, since good ones will be busy.

You might start by asking the hall where you are having the reception for any florists they recommend, the site says. Also get suggestions from friends and family.

Other tips:

-- Get price estimates from prospective florists and go see their work. Bring some fabric from your bridesmaids' gowns so the florist can help with the colors and types of flowers to use.

-- Consider using a florist who has worked in the hall where your wedding will be. They may have a better sense of what works there.

-- Remember that you may need to work with the florist on many items, including the bride's and bridesmaids' bouquets; boutonnières; corsages; the flower girl's basket; aisle decorations; altar decorations; candles for the ceremony; table centerpieces; cake table; chair covers.

-- Don't feel bad about negotiating the price, and ask whether delivery and setup are included

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in the price. Ask about what flowers are in season.

-- Don't hesitate to ask for references.

-- Get a contract of exactly what will be provided.



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