



## North American resources\*



Image © Sarah Mason

This section is contributed by **Debra Prinzing**, an award-winning author, speaker and leading advocate for American-grown flowers. She is the creator of **Slowflowers.com**, a free online directory that helps consumers find florists, designers, studios and farms

supplying American-grown flowers. Debra's book *Slow Flowers: Four seasons of locally grown bouquets from the garden, meadow and farm* (St. Lynn's Press, 2013) received a Silver Award from the Garden Writers Association in 2014.

Debra is a contributing garden editor for the U.S. edition of *Country Gardens* magazine and her feature stories on architecture and design appear regularly in the *Los Angeles Times* Home section. She is a contributor to *Garden Design*, and her work has appeared in leading magazines, newspapers, online publications and blogs. Debra serves on the board of the Seattle Wholesale Growers Market, a farmer-to-florist cooperative. She is the producer and host of the *Slow Flowers Podcast with Debra Prinzing*, which is available for free download on iTunes or at [debraprinzing.com](http://debraprinzing.com).

Note: All addresses given here are based in the U.S., unless otherwise stated.

### Know your zone

Many suppliers will indicate the USDA Hardiness Zone for a plant. The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. It is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree Fahrenheit zones. To determine the USDA Zone in your own garden (by zip code), visit: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/phzmweb>

## Seeds and bulbs

Here are some of my favorite sources of seeds and bulbs for the cutting garden. These retailers supply in quantities you would expect for the residential garden, and some will supply in bulk upon request.

### Seeds

#### **Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co.**

2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704

[www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)

Tel: +1 417 9248917

In addition to offering a fabulous catalogue and website, Baker Creek operates three retail seed stores. The Missouri store is located at the address above. Check the website to find the addresses, hours and contact information for the Petaluma Seed Bank (Petaluma, CA) and Comstock, Ferre & Co. (Wethersfield, CT).

Baker Creek offers the largest selection of rare, heirloom varieties in the U.S. and guarantees that all of its seed is non-hybrid, non-GMO, non-treated and non-patented. The company works with a network of about 150 small farmers, gardeners and seed growers to source its selections. Many flower varieties are offered in bulk quantities.

#### **Botanical Interests**

660 Compton St., Broomfield, CO 80020

[www.botanicalinterests.com](http://www.botanicalinterests.com)

Tel: +1 877 8214340

Known for the beautiful botanical illustrations and extensive information on its seed packets, Botanical Interests is a favorite among gardeners who value high-quality, heirloom and native varieties. The flower selection includes beloved old-fashioned cottage-garden varieties, as well as USDA Certified Organic, edible and native flowers.

#### **Johnny's Selected Seeds**

955 Benton Ave., Winslow, ME 04901

[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com)

Tel: +1 877 5646697

From ageratum to zinnia, the offerings at Johnny's are excellent. An employee-owned seed purveyor,

\*This is a more detailed version of the North American resources section given in the printed *Grow Your Own Wedding Flowers*.

Johnny's Selected Seeds is much sought after by DIY flower-growers and specialty cut-flower farmers alike. U.S., Canadian and international shipping options are available.

#### **Nichols Garden Nursery**

1190 Old Salem Rd NE, Albany, OR 97321  
www.nicholsgardennursery.com  
Tel: +1 800 4223985

A small, family-owned seed purveyor for more than 60 years, Nichols Garden Nursery is owned and run by passionate gardeners. There are more than 100 varieties of seeds in the online catalogue, including unique selections of ornamental grasses, broom corn and millet.

#### **Renee's Garden Seeds**

6060 Graham Hill Rd., Felton, CA 95018  
www.reneesgarden.com  
Tel: +1 888 8807228

Seed maven Renee Shepherd offers flower seeds based on easy culture and exceptional performance for the home garden. She hand-selects new, exciting and unusual choices of time-tested heirlooms, certified organic seeds, the best international hybrids and fine open-pollinated varieties. Flower seeds are chosen for the finest colors, forms and fragrances. All of Renee's Garden Seeds are tested and guaranteed for every major U.S. climate zone.

#### **The Gardener's Workshop**

P.O. Box 2987, Newport News, VA 23609  
www.thegardenersworkshop.com  
Tel: +1 888 9777159

Flower farmer Lisa Mason Ziegler grows and sells 10,000 stems of cut flowers every week between May and October. She also runs The Gardener's Workshop online store, offering popular cut-flower seeds and seed collections in quantities suitable for the home gardener. Here you will also find Lisa's books and her "Grow Your Own Bouquet" kits.

#### **W. Atlee Burpee & Co.**

300 Park Avenue, Warminster, PA 18974  
www.burpee.com  
Tel: +1 800 8881447

With a comprehensive line of vegetable, herb and flower seeds, Burpee has sold seeds to American gardeners since 1881. There are nearly 100 varieties of flower seeds, including a wide selection of both

new hybrid and heirloom seeds, as well as a few USDA Certified Organic varieties.

#### **West Coast Seeds**

4930A Elliott Street, Delta, BC, V4K 2Y1  
Canada  
www.westcoastseeds.com

Tel: +1 888 8048820  
Specializing in heirloom, heritage and organic seeds, West Coast Seeds sells 200 varieties of annual flower seeds, as well as flower bulbs.

#### **Wildflower Farm**

10195 Hwy. 12 W, R.R.#2, Coldwater, ON, L0K 1E0  
Canada  
www.wildflowerfarm.com  
Tel: +1 866 4769453

Wildflower Farm has supplied organically grown, non-GMO, native North American wildflower seeds, native grasses and wildflower seed mixes since 1998. Co-founder Miriam Goldberger is the author of *Taming Wildflowers*, which shares her secrets about growing wildflowers from seed, planning a wildflower cutting garden and assembling gorgeous wildflower bouquets.

## **Bulbs**

#### **Brent and Becky's Bulbs**

7900 Daffodil Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061  
https://brentandbeckysbulbs.com  
Tel: +1 877 6612852

Owned and operated by bulb experts Brent and Becky Heath and their son and daughter-in-law Jay and Denise Hutchins, Brent and Becky's is a comprehensive source for unique, healthy and robust bulbs (they also sell companion plants). Look for uncommon cultivars of all-time favorite flowering bulbs. You'll find the photography on Brent and Becky's website and in the beautiful catalogue especially useful in choosing the best varieties for your own planting scheme.

#### **Easy to Grow Bulbs**

2521 Oceanside Blvd. Suite A, Oceanside, CA 92054  
www.easytogrowbulbs.com  
Tel: +1 866 7255361

This company was created to provide flower bulbs for warm-climate gardeners. If you garden in

USDA Zones 7-11 and are looking for beautiful and healthy flower bulbs for your garden, Easy to Grow Bulbs is a great resource.

#### **Eco Tulips LLC**

3320 Lillards Ford Rd., Brightwood, VA 22715

[www.ecotulips.com](http://www.ecotulips.com)

Tel: +1 434 2426369

EcoTulips is the only supplier of certified organic tulip bulbs in the U.S. The company is also beginning to grow organic tulips and has launched the Organic Tulip Festival on Long Island in Riverhead, NY, where the public is invited to tour and pick their own flowers for purchase.

#### **John Scheepers**

23 Tulip Drive, P.O. Box 638, Bantam, CT 06750

[www.johnscheepers.com](http://www.johnscheepers.com)

Tel: +1 860 5670838

Serving America's gardeners since the early 1900s, John Scheepers offers more than 750 varieties of Dutch flower bulbs.

#### **Old House Gardens**

536 Third St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

[www.oldhousegardens.com](http://www.oldhousegardens.com)

Tel: +1 734 9951486

Known as America's source for heirloom flower bulbs, Old House Gardens was founded by landscape historian Scott Kunst. The online and print catalogues are packed with historical narratives describing the provenance of spring- and fall-planted bulbs. Virtually all of Old House Gardens' peonies, irises and daylilies, three-quarters of its gladioli and more than one-third of its dahlias come from 22 small growers in 14 U.S. states. This practice ensures fresher bulbs that are well adapted to U.S. gardening conditions.

## **Roses**

In addition to the following reliable mail-order sources, independent garden centers are often excellent sources for potted rose shrubs and bare-root roses.

Visit [www.helpmefind.com/roses](http://www.helpmefind.com/roses), which provides information on roses, rose gardens and commercial sources.

The American Rose Society's website is full of information on the cultivation of garden roses:

[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

The Canadian Rose Society can be found at:

[www.canadianrosesociety.org](http://www.canadianrosesociety.org)

#### **Antique Rose Emporium**

9300 Lueckemeyer Rd., Brenham, TX 77833

[www.antiqueroseemporium.com](http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com)

Tel: +1 800 4410002

A nursery source for pioneer and old roses, the Antique Rose Emporium sells and ships fragrant, own-root roses throughout the continental U.S.

#### **David Austin Roses**

15059 State Hwy. 64 W, Tyler, TX 75704

[www.davidaustinroses.com/american](http://www.davidaustinroses.com/american)

Tel: +1 800 3288893

All David Austin roses sold in the U.S. are grown in the U.S. Roses are supplied as premium bare-root, grafted onto Dr. Huey rootstock.

#### **Regan Nursery**

4268 Decoto Rd., Fremont, CA 94555

[www.regannursery.com](http://www.regannursery.com)

Tel: +1 800 2494680

The largest online selection of Grade #1 roses from producers all over the U.S. and Canada, including Bakker Nurseries, Certified Roses, Hortico, Jackson & Perkins, Pickering (Old Garden Roses), Star Roses and Weeks Roses.

## **Dahlias**

#### **Corralitos Gardens**

295 Alitos Dr., Corralitos, CA 95076

[www.cgdahlias.com](http://www.cgdahlias.com)

Tel: +1 831 5960323

Kevin Larkin and Karen Zydner operate a mail-order business specializing in approximately 400 varieties of dahlias, sold as rooted cuttings rather than tubers. They have developed a shipping container that ensures the intact arrival of these high-quality, easy-to-plant dahlias.

#### **Dan's Dahlias**

994 South Bank Rd., Oakville, WA 98568

<http://shop.dansdahlias.com>

Tel: +1 360 4822406

In 1983, at the age of 10, Dan Pearson started growing dahlias that he sold to people driving past his family's dairy farm. Trained as a landscape architect, Dan has continued to grow and sell high-quality dahlia tubers, offering more than 300 varieties.

#### **Swan Island Dahlias**

995 NW 22nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013

[www.dahlias.com](http://www.dahlias.com)

Tel: +1 503 2667711

Swan Island Dahlias has been in business for nearly 90 years. It is the largest dahlia grower in the U.S., with 40 acres open to the public during blooming season (an ideal time to see dahlias at their peak before you choose which tubers to grow). The best time to visit is during Swan Island's six-day Dahlia Festival, featuring more than 400 dahlia arrangements on display. From mid-July to September, you can also order cut dahlias by mail to addresses in the continental U.S.

## Peonies

#### **A&D Nursery**

P.O. Box 2338, Snohomish, WA 98291

[www.adpeonies.com](http://www.adpeonies.com)

Tel: +1 800 6689690

A&D Nursery supplies generous divisions of healthy plants that are true to name. They ship bare-root plants in the fall only. Local customers are also able to purchase potted plants (call ahead to schedule a visit). In addition to herbaceous peonies, the nursery stocks tree peonies and daylily roots.

#### **Adelman Peony Gardens LLC**

5690 Brooklake Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

<http://peonyparadise.com>

Tel: +1 503 3936185

A family-owned nursery since 1993, Adelman Peony Gardens grows 20 acres of peonies and features nearly 250 varieties with profound color variation, as seen in its online store. You can also find Itoh and tree peonies, as well as a custom peony fertilizer.

#### **Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm & Nursery**

13101 East Rye Road, Avalon, WI 53505

[www.songsparrow.com](http://www.songsparrow.com)

Tel: +1 800 5533715

The Klehm family has been involved in the growing and hybridizing of peonies since the early 1900s. Today, the nursery features beautiful choice peonies, as well as tree peonies, clematis, hostas, daylilies, many perennials and woody ornamental shrubs. Mail-order only, but do check the website for special Open House days, when the public is invited to shop in person.

#### **Peony's Envy**

34 Autumn Hill Dr., Bernardsville, NJ 07924

[www.peonysenvy.com](http://www.peonysenvy.com)

Tel: +1 908 5783032

A nursery and display garden, with one of the most extensive collections of tree, herbaceous and intersectional peonies in the Northeast. The nursery ships peonies nationwide from September through May. It opens to the public for the spring planting and bloom season, and again in the fall for bare-root sales.

## Supplementary stock

### *Wholesale flower markets open to the public*

Of course, you want to grow every stem in your bridal bouquet. But it's comforting to know that there are supplemental sources to complement what your cutting garden provides. Here are some of the best places to find locally grown flowers in the U.S. Few large wholesaler flower centers make it easy to purchase flowers without a resale license, but some of the best you can visit are listed here.

Note: "Country of Origin" labeling is rare, so be sure to ask vendors to disclose the source their flowers. Don't assume that all of the product is locally grown or American-grown.

#### **Los Angeles Flower District**

766 Wall St., Los Angeles, CA 90014

[www.laflowerdistrict.com](http://www.laflowerdistrict.com)

Tel: +1 213 6273696

The Flower District of Downtown Los Angeles is a six-block floral marketplace, consisting of nearly 200 wholesale flower dealers operating under three distinct vendor groups. The public is welcome to shop here during restricted hours for a nominal fee per visit (see the website's "Hours-Regular" tab).

#### **San Francisco Flower Mart**

640 Brannan St., San Francisco, CA 94107

[www.sfflowermart.com](http://www.sfflowermart.com)

Tel: +1 415 3927944

This is a historic farmer-owned flower market, named "the best in the country" by *Martha Stewart Living* magazine. There are more than 50 vendors, both California flower farmers and importers of flowers from other markets. Open to the public from 10am to 3pm, Monday through Saturday.

#### **Seattle Wholesale Growers Market**

5840 Airport Way S, Suite 201, Seattle, WA 98108

<http://seattlewholesalegrowersmarket.com>

Tel: +1 206 8381523

A progressive farmer-owned cooperative that others are emulating around North America, the Seattle Wholesale Growers Market was founded in 2011. It provides the very best the Pacific Northwest has to offer in cut flowers, greens and ornamentals, from 14 Washington, Oregon and Alaska flower farms. Its mission: To foster a vibrant community marketplace that sustains local flower farms and provides top-quality products and service to the floral industry of the Pacific Northwest. Open to the public from 10am to noon, Fridays.

#### **West 28th St. New York Flower District**

Located mostly between 6th and 7th Streets, New York, NY

There is no umbrella organization that oversees the many small and large floral businesses located in Manhattan's Flower District, but the intrepid DIY floral designer can buy direct from many of the wholesale houses. Always ask about the origin of the flowers – assume that most are imported, especially the roses.

Increasingly, due to demand, many of the wholesale florists are buying American-grown flowers. Plan on shopping early in the day (some of these

vendors open before 5am) and bring cash. Do your homework and compare choices before spending.

## **Online sources**

### **Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers**

[www.ascfg.org](http://www.ascfg.org)

ASCFG is a membership association for commercial cut-flower growers. The organization has more than 750 members across the U.S. and in several other countries, and it publishes *The Cut Flower Quarterly*. You can search the online database of members who sell direct to the public.

### **Certified American Grown**

[www.americangrownflowers.org](http://www.americangrownflowers.org)

A farmer-driven program that verifies the origin and assembly of flowers that carry its label. The marketing initiative is most evident in supermarkets, where mixed bouquets or bunches are packaged in sleeves that carry the label. Many U.S. floral wholesalers also sell Certified American Grown, and the brand is continuing to add flower farms small and large. The website includes a listing of all Certified farms. While most do not sell flowers direct to consumers, you can inquire about their distribution channels.

### **Slowflowers**

<http://slowflowers.com>

With nearly 600 vendors in all 50 states, Slowflowers.com is a directory of American-grown flowers and the farms and florists who specialize in using home-grown flowers. Its members will help you supplement your stock if you need extras for your home-grown wedding. You can search by zip code to find sources in a specific part of the country, and search under "National Shipping" to find farms that will send their just-picked blooms to you.

## **Floral design supplies**

Most flower wholesalers offer vases and floral supplies, but you can also find good suppliers online. For the bride on a budget, eBay.com and Etsy.com are wonderful resources, especially for vintage goods.

## Vases and accessories

### The Arranger's Market

[www.thearrangersmarket.com](http://www.thearrangersmarket.com)

Tel: +1 804 3081908

A mail-order resource for easy-to-use but hard-to-find containers, vases and vessels.

### Dorothy Biddle Service

[www.dorothybiddle.com](http://www.dorothybiddle.com)

Tel: +1 570 2263239

A national mail-order resource for flower arranging, gardening and houseplant supplies and accessories. This is the only U.S. manufacturer of flower frogs – pin holders (kenzans) and hairpin holders.

### Jamali Floral & Garden Supplies

149 W 28th St., New York, NY 10001

[www.jamaligarden.com](http://www.jamaligarden.com)

Tel: +1 201 8691333

A go-to source for New York City wedding and event designers, Jamali's online store is a valuable site for DIY brides. You'll find an extensive container and vase collection, including styles in quantities suitable for large events. Visiting in person is a plus.

## Mason jars

Floral designers are quick to dismiss the ubiquitous Mason or Ball jar, an American-made glass canning jar that is an affordable vase for garden weddings. But no great alternative has emerged – and you certainly can't argue with the price. Rather than shopping vintage and taking their chances on finding the quantities they need, DIY brides are still choosing the glass canning jar.

I am not the only one enamored with Ball's "Heritage Collection", which includes popular glass colors from the past reissued for today. There's teal blue, grass green and the newest – amethyst purple – available in 6-pint or 6-quart packs. And of course, if you want variety, the clear glass Ball jars come in even more sizes.

See: [www.freshpreservingstore.com](http://www.freshpreservingstore.com)

## Workshops

You might like to spend a day or two attending a workshop, which will give you confidence in growing, cutting and perhaps arranging your wedding flowers. [Slowflowers.com](http://Slowflowers.com) includes a "Floral Workshops and Classes" category, which allows you to search for hands-on design education in your community. The following are some of the most accessible places to take ongoing workshops.

### Filoli

86 Cañada Rd., Woodside, CA 94062

[www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)

Tel: +1 650 3648300

The adult education department of Filoli, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation located just south of San Francisco, offers numerous floral design workshops and a floral design certificate program.

### Flirty Fleurs

<http://flirtyfleurs.com>

Florist and floral design blogger Alicia Schwede offers professional-level workshops at several locations across the country, with most taking place in or around Seattle, Washington, where she is based. Flirty Fleurs is also an inspiring blog, presenting comprehensive product and floral design information for professional and DIY florists.

### FlowerSchool New York

213 W 14th St., New York, NY 10011

[www.flowerschoolny.com](http://www.flowerschoolny.com)

Tel: +1 212 6618074

Created by Eileen Johnson, FlowerSchool New York is perhaps the most extensive U.S. center for floral design education geared to both professionals and non-professionals. The calendar of workshops and courses ranges from a few hours to an entire curriculum. If you're heading to NYC for a vacation, take advantage of this resource, which allows you to study with the top floral designers from North America, the U.K. and Europe.

### Flower Duet

2675 Skypark Drive, Suite 205, Torrance, CA 90505

<http://flowerduet.com>

Tel: +1 310 7924968

Based just south of Los Angeles, Flower Duet offers workshops led by partners and sisters Casey (Coleman) Schwartz and Kit (Coleman) Wertz. Several times each year, there is a series of workshops on bouquets, centerpieces and personal flowers for DIY floral designers, as well as guided shopping tours of the Los Angeles Flower District.

## More inspiring resources

### Field to Vase

<http://fieldtovase.com>

Christina Stembel is the creator of Farmgirl Flowers, a successful online floral service that is committed to using only American-grown flowers. Field to Vase is her blog, in which she features interviews and profiles of flower farmers across the U.S.

### Floret Flower Farm

[www.floretflowers.com](http://www.floretflowers.com)

Erin Benzakein is a great grower in the Pacific Northwest. Her blog is full of flower-growing inspiration as well as floristry tips.

## Books

### For more on growing cut flowers:

*Cool Flowers: How to grow and enjoy long-blooming hardy annual flowers using cool weather techniques*  
Lisa Mason Ziegler

St. Lynn's Press (2014)

A commercial cut-flower farmer shares her secrets to growing cool-season floral crops.

*The Easy Cut-Flower Garden*

Lisa Mason Ziegler

The Gardener's Workshop (2011)

A flower farmer's guide to a season of fresh-cut flowers from a three-by-ten-foot garden. For the beginner as well as the seasoned gardener.

*The Flower Farmer: An organic grower's guide to raising and selling cut flowers*

Lynn Byczynski

Chelsea Green (1997; second ed. 2008)

Considered the essential guide for aspiring cut-flower farmers.

*Taming Wildflowers: Bringing the beauty and splendor of nature's blooms into your own backyard*

Miriam Goldberger

St. Lynn's Press (2014)

The ultimate DIY book on wildflower gardening, including a primer on growing wildflowers for your floral arrangements and wedding bouquets.

### For more on wedding floral design:

*Bella Bouquets*

Alicia Schwede

Flirty Fleurs (2011)

Floral designer, instructor and blogger Alicia Schwede showcases vibrant full-color photographs of over 100 stylish wedding bouquets. Each includes a detailed description of the flowers used, with featured bouquets organized by color. This visual reference offers a wide variety of wedding flower designs, including elegant, modern, rustic, traditional, dramatic and romantic.

*Fresh from the Field Wedding Flowers*

Lynn Byczynski and Erin Benzakein

Fairplain Publications (2014)

A complete guide to using local flowers for weddings. This book was created for the eco-conscious couple committed to having a greener wedding, the passionate gardener who wants to grow flowers for events, the floral designer who wishes to jump in on the locally grown trend, and the specialty cut-flower farmer providing flowers for weddings.