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Susan Fogwell
Floral Design Examiner

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Summer party planning using 'green' flowers

June 17, 3:58 PM · 1 comment

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If you're planning an outdoor party this summer, petite-size whimsical [centerpieces](#) are fun, easy to create, and fairly inexpensive.



Pink and Mini Green Hydrangea ©Susan Fogwell

Whenever I can, I use fresh flowers from VeriFlora, which are certified sustainably grown flowers. The program was established to provide stringent standards for growers and cut flower handlers; controlling pests and diseases with the least amount of impact to the environment, conserving water, greenhouse gas reduction efforts, and supporting the local community are just a few key points that meet VeriFlora's criteria.

When purchasing flowers look for the VeriFlora label on the floral sleeve, or if you're planning a 'green' wedding, request Veriflora flowers when ordering from your florist. Many florist wholesalers provide VeriFlora flowers.

For a recent 'green' pool party, I made twelve small, lush and simple centerpieces with a recession-friendly budget. The centerpieces are also perfect for a birthday party, luncheon or small corporate event.



Petite French Bouquets in Galvanized Buckets ©Susan Fogwell

To make the small hand-tied bouquets 'pop,' I used hot pink hydrangea surrounded by mini 'green' hydrangeas. Petite galvanized French buckets finished off the casual and rustic look. A touch of purple ribbon added a bit of whimsy.

Hydrangeas will suffer in direct sunlight and extreme humidity. For outdoor parties, be sure to place flowers under umbrellas or a tent. The petite French designs make perfect guest giveaways as well.

For more information on certified VeriFlora flowers, [click here](#).

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Floral Design Examiner

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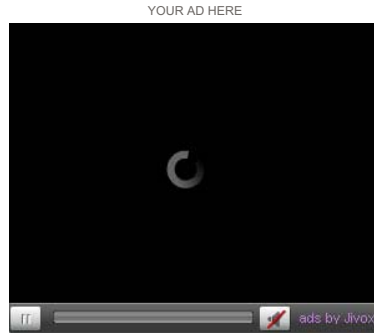
Susan Fogwell is a National Examiner. You can see Susan's articles on [Susan's Home Page](#).

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Kate (@Thegreenbrideguide.com) says:

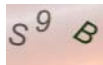
These are lovely arrangements! I am actually interviewing Gerald Prolman, who founded Organic Bouquet and who helped form the VeriFlora standards, in a couple of weeks. The interview will be posted on my site and will also be available through the Center for Business and The Environment at Yale - should be interesting. VeriFlora offers an important step in the transition to Organic. I am glad you support it!

June 17, 10:12 PM

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