

Get Your Party Shaking Like Shakira's Hips With Flowers

Shakira's hips won't be the only thing shaking this summer-with flowers your backyard parties can really shake, too! Flowers are the ultimate party decoration and accessory because they are so versatile. They can be used to decorate, as prizes, as party favors, and even as fashion accessories.

Your florist can double as your party-planning assistant.

Florists are trained to design flowers for any occasion. They are highly creative professionals who have experience in making any day brighter and more exciting using flowers in a variety of innovative ways. And, it doesn't matter what theme your party is, your florist is sure to have some great ideas for you. He or she can also help you choose flowers that will best withstand the outdoor weather conditions in your area so that your arrangements stay as fresh as possible throughout the event.

Here are just a few of the ways flowers can be used to enhance your backyard theme parties:

 * Tropical Theme: Offer your female guests a large, brightly colored bloom to tuck behind their ears. Have a variety of colors on hand so that they'll match almost everyone's attire. If you plan to pass out leis purchased at a party supply store, but there's a guest of honor at the party, have your florist create a special lei made of real flowers for that person. To decorate with flowers, float large blooms in the punch bowl and spread brightly colored petals around dishes on the buffet table.

 * Fiesta Theme: If you're throwing a Mexican fiesta, your florist can help you choose flowers in spicy reds, yellows, and oranges. He or she can also incorporate accessories in arrangements, such as miniature chili peppers, sombreros, and maracas. If you'd like to give out a door prize, you could use a large, beautiful arrangement as the prize for a drawing. Ask your guests to write their names on slips of paper and drop them into a big sombrero. Be sure to draw for the prize before guests begin to leave. Or, stick a note under one chair and ask your guests to check their chairs after everyone is seated.

 * Traditional Picnic Theme: Beautiful casual arrangements can be a great way to enhance even a simple picnic theme. Use simple glass containers, such as canning jars, tall water glasses, or bottles as vases on each table. Fill them with loosely arranged daisies, sunflowers, lilacs, or tulips. Place a single flower across each plate or slip one through the napkin ring of each table setting. Or, as your guests leave, hand each of them a single flower tied with a ribbon and a thank you note.

Shakira might have all the dance moves, but with flowers, you can have the right moves to make your party a success.

About the Author

Wesley Berry is member of the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF) and President of Wesley Berry Flowers, a successful multi-million dollar floral business that was established in 1946. He is also the Headmaster of the Professional Florists' Institute, a floral design school located in Michigan. Visit Wesley Berry Flowers on the web at <http://www.800wesleys.com> .

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