

For a Women’s Day event, pair several shades of purple with green foliage and choose containers suited to the room and tables. Keep table flowers low enough for people to see each other, and arrange them near the event so they stay fresh.

Select flowers and set a color palette

Choose a purple flower as your starting point, then add blooms that complement its shape. Roses create a rounded look, while lisianthus brings looser, open flowers. Purple chrysanthemums are useful if you would like more texture in the display.

Mix light lavender with a richer violet to add depth. White blooms can make the colors feel lighter, and foliage creates separation between flowers so the purple does not read as one solid mass. A large number of varieties is not necessary: two or three flower types, along with greenery, can give you a display that feels full.

Take the room’s colors into account, too. Light-colored flowers are easier to notice on a dark tablecloth, while deep purple blooms can stand out against a pale one. If other decorations are already planned, take a small sample of their color with you when selecting flowers.

Choose containers for each space

Use short vases or low bowls on dining tables. Their height leaves room for conversation and helps the flowers sit comfortably beside place settings. On a long table, several small containers spaced along its length may fit more easily among plates and glasses than a single large centerpiece.

A taller vase can work on a welcome table, provided it does not cover signs or obstruct people walking past. Check that the container is steady and that its opening can hold the stems you have chosen. An opaque vessel is a practical choice if you would rather not show the stems or water.

Before preparing all the tables, arrange one full place setting next to a finished vase. Look at the space available for food, drinks and personal belongings. This simple check can show you if the centerpiece needs to be smaller or moved.

Arrange the flowers and keep them fresh

Clean each vessel and add fresh water. Remove leaves that would end up beneath the water's surface, then trim the stems before putting them in. Begin with a small amount of foliage to set the arrangement's width. Add the larger flowers next, and use smaller blooms to fill open spaces. Turn the container as you work so the arrangement looks balanced from the directions guests will view it.

Until it is time to set the tables, keep the flowers somewhere cool and out of direct sunlight. Before guests arrive, top up the water if needed and take out wilted stems or damaged petals. Give every vase a little breathing room on the table rather than packing it tightly between other items.

Common questions

How many colors work well?

Two purple shades, green foliage and a small amount of white provide variety without making the flowers look busy.

Is it fine to arrange them the day before?

Yes. Leave the flowers in clean water in a cool place overnight, then inspect them and check the water before the event.

What height should a centerpiece be?

Choose a height that lets seated guests see across the table. Sit in a chair and check the view before you consider the arrangement finished.

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