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English Inspiration
Wedding Inspiration

Country Fete

At a New Jersey wedding down on the horse farm, gingham and grilling, daisies and a dragonfly motif create just the right mix of charm and casual elegance



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKI DUISTERHOF EDITED BY LINDA HIRST

country theme, tall glasses of iced blueberry lemonade were served on top of rustic wine barrels in a shed that once housed sheep.

To make the reception tent in the middle of a horse paddock seem like an integral part of the outdoors, the caterer tied a dozen giant cedar trees to the poles; the floral designer used ferns to create a forest floor around them. Moss-hued gingham-print china and escort cards embellished with delicate dragonflies artfully complemented the pink-and-green plaid linens. In every aspect of the wedding planning, the bride wanted to draw upon nature—and to be resourceful. “We believe in waste not, want not,” she says. “My mom and I spent months looking for vessels for centerpieces in antique shops and flea markets. We’ll use them again.” They also put in a huge garden of wildflowers that will “always be there” and made sure many of the blooms selected for the bouquets and centerpieces could be planted in the garden each year. That way, they have a special reminder of a perfect summer wedding that was not only gracious and elegant but also as comfortable and inviting as the setting itself.

—Andrea Chambers



CAPTURE THE MOMENT

Above: To record precious memories, one-time-use video recorders (\$30 each, from CVS), wrapped in customized paper and ribbon from Doffray, are placed on each table. Below: The bride holds a bouquet of daisies, stephanotis, hypericum berries and plumosa by Country Flowers Antiques and Gifts.



NATURE-IN-THE-BOX

Above: To set the mood for a country wedding, this invite has a handmade paper cover and is bound with raffia and paper flowers and decorated with a hand-painted wooden dragonfly; it's set in a box lined in gingham-checked fabric on a bed of dried moss. Price: upon request, by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine.





CLIP ART

Above: The escort cards clipped to a line repeat the delicate dragonfly motif of the invitations. \$85 for 20 (includes calligraphy), by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine. Calligraphy by Jan Boyd Calligraphy. Clothespins and clothesline from Michaels.



PASTORAL PLEASURES

Above: Each table features a different rustic centerpiece such as this antique watering can filled with a spray of pink roses, Shasta daisies, hydrangeas, snapdragons and Queen Anne's lace from Country Flowers Antiques and Gifts. Table numbers, \$10 each, were created by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine. Rechargeable "Aurette" LED candles, \$25 each, from Philips, shed light at night. Left: The bride's niece, flower girl Caroline, and nephew, Jack, ride on an antique wagon bought by the bride's mom, who also made Caroline's dress.

