

Popular bouquets range from local to exotic

BY MIKE COULING

Special to the Record-Eagle

A rose may just be a rose, but when it comes to wedding flowers, the rose still reigns in popularity.

Kelly Lively of Leelanau Flowers has been developing her own rose garden for the upcoming season.

"That's what I'm most excited about," said Lively. "These have a bigger flower

and are longer-lived in a vase."

Bigger-flowered roses are hot this year, as are flowers grown locally.

"I'm seeing more colors, bolder colors and mixtures and textures," she said.

Lively specializes in organically grown flowers such as peonies, snapdragons and Queen Anne's lace. Chartreuse Bells of Ireland

are also at the top of the brides list this year.

"I always tend to mix in very fragrant flowers and herbs," Lively said.

Herbs that will find their way into hand tied bouquets include rosemary, thyme,

sage and marjoram.

"Locally-grown flowers mean less overhead cost and it's fair for me and the bride," she said.

Margaret Edgington of the Flower Station in Traverse City also points out clutch

hand-tied bouquets as a 2005 favorite.

"So much of it is up the individual girl," Edgington said. "Roses are right on top in reds and dark reds. They are everybody's favorites."

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