

Planting Party Seeds by Mark Beecher - Grapevine DJs & Entertainment

What if I could give you a pack of party seeds that would make your dance floor an irresistible draw - like bees to a field of flowers. Would you plant them?

Here are a collection of “seeds” that can do just that.

Create the right atmosphere - Lower the lights or draw the shades, and if possible try to have the room temperature below 72 degrees. Keep the hall doors closed and don't stand near them – Guests might think you are saying your good-byes.

The bar and photo-booth (if possible) should be in the same room as where the dancing is taking place. It's more fun to party with a large group rather than splitting everyone up.

Plan on strategically placing cocktail round tables near the dance floor. Guests will need a “rest stop” and place to put their drinks. High top small tables will encourage people to stay near the dance floor action and not return to their seats.

The way the reception is organized will have a major impact on how much your guests will enjoy the party. Your banquet director may help you create an itinerary, but they may make plans based around food and beverage service. A DJ who makes organization a #1 priority will help you create a time-line based on making the order of events entertaining. Be sure to get their input and assistance. Which leads to the seed below.

Make sure that the formalities and dessert are out of the way before the dancing starts. A good DJ will be working hard trying to create a momentum on the dance floor; interruptions will keep them from doing so. Try to have family photos taken before or after dinner and not during the dance time.

Put your DJ next to the dance floor and not in a corner – This enables the sound to be directed on to the dance floor and not played at a louder volume to “reach” the dance floor. Do not have tables between the DJ and the dance floor.

Which brings us to #7 - If you are having assigned seating, make sure that older guests are seated as far away from the speakers as possible. Many older guests are extremely irritated by music at any volume.

Be sure to create a list songs you are going to want to dance to but don't over do it. There is not a magic list of songs that will make everyone want to dance (believe me I wish there was!). Your DJ will need to read the crowd and make adjustments along the way.

Stay together! Past Grapevine couples know I stress this point a lot! Your guests are at your wedding reception to see you celebrate. You are the focus and you are the energy in the room. Every week I see that when couples stay together and are seen by the majority of the guests - it's ALWAYS a much better party on the dance floor. Hang out outside or at the bar, and that's where your guests will follow.

You don't have to dance the entire night, but you will probably notice a more crowded dance floor when you are dancing together. Bonus – It doesn't cost a dime and it will have the biggest effect on the party.

I'll add - Late night photos are awesome - But if you are missing for long you might be surprised how many guests left during that photo shoot. If it's going to take more than 5 minutes, schedule those shots after the party is over. (I just became unpopular with some photographers).

You may want to have the bar switch to plastic or acrylic glasses when the dancing starts. Broken glass, bare feet and clean up crews have a way of killing a dance floor in a hurry. Beer koozies are a good idea too.

Here is a little trick some DJs know about – Married couples often discuss leaving the reception at the top of the hour. If you are having a late night snack, make it 5 minutes before the top of the hour. I will usually try to play a slow song or do something fun and interactive 5 minutes before the top of hour. Doing this just might make that couple forget they were going to leave :)

Want more “seeds”? ask for our 35 fun ideas and tips that will help make your reception the one others will talk about for years to come!