

Fall Brides





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Get Rich with Your Palette

Fall's colors allow you to get rich with your palette. Jewel tones, autumnal hues, and deep greens complement the season perfectly. Keep reading for ways to incorporate these colors into your wedding.

JEWEL TONES

These colors mimic the bright, vibrant colors of our favorite gemstones. Think ruby red, emerald green and the deep purple of amethyst. Wash your bridesmaids in these colors, which will contrast beautifully with your white or cream bridal gown.

You could even go a step farther and step out of the box and make your own gown in these rich tones. Your local bridal shop can give you great options for finding just the right shades.

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

When we think of fall, we think of the oranges, reds, yellows and rich browns of falling leaves. Work these into your celebration by using the leaves themselves in centerpieces, choosing flowers and candles in these colors. Want to make a stunning statement? Line up your bridesmaids in gowns of chocolate brown, especially for an evening ceremony.

GO GREEN

Another color that works

well with fall's splendor are deep greens. Bouquets of lush greenery adorning your site and your bridesmaids are easy on the wallet and the eyes. Table decor in velvety green is also lovely and work well with all flower colors. Green can also be a great choice if your wedding will be outdoors, working well with the natural beauty that surrounds you.

CREATIVE WAYS TO ADD COLOR

If you're looking for more

ways to add pops of your palette to the ceremony, here are some suggestions.

- Ask your baker about dumping the traditional white cake for a stunning creation in your chosen colors. If you were dreaming of an all-white confection, look to a florist for a beautiful cake topper in just the right colors.

- Make your ceremony Insta-perfect by setting up backdrops for your guests to take pictures with.

- Put your best foot forward with bright footwear.

Bring In the Season

Embrace fall with seasonal decor that includes pumpkins, leaves and other signs of autumn. Whether your tastes trend toward modern or rustic, there are ways to incorporate fall's best into your wedding.

RUSTIC

If you're shooting for a country look to your big day, then look to the outdoors. Leaves in gorgeous fall colors, fat orange and white pumpkins, cobs of multicolored corn can adorn tables, accent bouquets and star in centerpieces. Line the aisle with festive piles of decorative gourds and greenery. Use miniature pumpkins as paperweights for guest books, copies of invitations or wedding programs. Bales of hay can also do duty as places to sit — use an appropriate covering — as sign posts, or to separate one part of a ceremony for another.

MODERN

Set off a tasteful modern decor with artfully arranged branches in vases, as part of centerpieces, or even adorning a delightful arch. Use single leaves in rich colors to



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(safely) line candleholders, and dip your pumpkins in classic colors like gold and silver to give your ceremony a taste of the season. Pumpkins, when hollowed, also make excellent bowls to hold iced

drinks, soups, flowers, or, if you use a faux gourd, favors and more.

CHOOSING REAL PUMPKINS

Turn to your favorite craft

store for lots of fake pumpkins in a variety of colors and sizes, but if you only want the real thing, here are some tips for choosing the best ones. Modern Farmer says to look for pumpkins with thick, stur-

dy stems and no soft spots. And never carry the pumpkin by its stem. Keep the pumpkins out of the sunlight and in a cool place and drape the entire pumpkin in a damp towel to keep it fresh.

Get Out

F all's cooler — but not too cold — weather begs us to be outside and enjoy it. Given the glorious color in the trees, taking your vows outside may be the way to go.

Here are some things to consider when planning an outdoor ceremony in the fall.

COVER IT UP

Holding the ceremony outside is beautiful, but it also subjects you and your guests to the vagaries of the weather. Plan for a covered area nearby, whether it be a structure or a tent, that can hold everyone. If you're going the tent route, carefully consider the space and determine whether you need a large pole tent, which also comes with a dramatic roofline, or a smaller frame tent. Also ask for tent walls in case of rain.

THINK OF THE WIND AND SUN

A cooling breeze can be just the thing, unless it sweeps your guest books, escort cards and any other paper across the grounds. Make sure to use paperweights or ribbons to keep everything in its place. Also consider the effect the sun will have on delicate flower arrangements and on your guests. Don't leave either hanging around under the rays for too long.

BEWARE OF FALLING OR RISING TEMPS

Fall is gorgeous, but it can also mean sudden drops or rises in temperature that make it feel more like winter or summer. Ask an event company to also supply outdoor heaters for chilly days or fans if its too warm. In either case, offer warm or cool drinks pre-ceremony to help keep your guests comfortable.

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR VENDORS

Let your florist, caterer and all other vendors know upfront you're doing an outdoor ceremony and where. If possible, have them visit the site so they can be sure to offer you their best service there. Try to think of things like where the staff can change and rest, where the kitchen facilities are, any electrical needs and if there are enough restrooms on hand for all your guests plus vendor employees.



Favors of the Season

Fall is rich with flavor and food-centric holidays. Let your wedding be the same by picking unforgettable, edible favors.

JAMS, JELLIES AND MORE

Traditionally, harvest time is when summer fruits and vegetables were preserved for the scarcity of winter. You can customize labels and miniature jars with your wedding date and more. Tie off the tiny jar with a bit of twine and viola, all done.

HOW SWEET IT IS

Fall also brings us Halloween and its bounty of sweets. Pick classic favorites or candies with fall flavors, like the rich taste of pralines, caramels, cinnamon hard candies or any one of the legions of pumpkin flavored candies that come out in the fall. Bundle them up in adorable favor bags.

SEASON'S BOUNTY

You can also pick a peck of lovely gifts with seasonal fruits like fall apples and pears. For

a decadent favor, find a candy shop that makes custom candied apples. Wrap them and order up or make custom tags for a crisp and sweet fall treat. Don't forget other traditional favorites like caramel corn, popcorn balls and kettle corn.

Work with local vendors and farmers to pick the finest ingredients and give your ceremony a sense of place and time that your guests won't soon forget.

More ideas for edible favors:

- S'mores fixings, bagged up and ready to use, especially if you will have a nighttime reception lit with fires or fireplaces.
- Hot chocolate mix.
- Miniature bottles of maple syrup or local honey.
- Cookies, doughnuts, or miniature pies or cupcakes from a local vendor, customized in shapes and colors that complement your palette.

Work with local vendors and farmers to pick the finest ingredients and give your ceremony a sense of place and time that your guests won't soon forget.



Warm It Up

Get cozy at your fall wedding by using these tips to keep you and your guests warm and comfortable throughout the event, especially if your big day is later in the fall towards the winter.

HOT BEVERAGE BAR

Make one of your beverage stations a hot bar that serves coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider or other warm beverages. Give your guests plenty of garnishes and mix-ins for variety. Also offer virgin drinks for children and those who don't drink.

Some decadent but fun ideas include shaped marshmallows, chocolate covered stirring sticks or spoons and favors that recall the event, like personalized mugs or packets of hot cocoa mix.

SNUGGLE UP

Offer guests favors like mittens, gloves or scarves. Scatter blankets around the venue, especially if your ceremony is outdoors. Larger items, like pashminas, make beautiful bridesmaids gifts that will be welcome both at the ceremony and after.



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DECORATE WITH CANDLES

Nothing says hygge — a Danish word meaning cozy and comfortable — like a variety of warm, flickering

candles. Pick both colors on your palette and colors that complement, and make sure to choose a variety of sizes and heights for visual appeal. Keep all of them unscented,

however, you don't want to overwhelm the event or bother guests with allergies. You can also choose candle holders that complement your decor. Metallic finishes up the

warmth factor.

If you're worried about so many open flames, look for LED candles with flicker and flash just like the real thing but without the heat.



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Strike the Perfect Light

Whether indoors or out, there are a variety of options for setting up your ceremony in the perfect light. Read on for tips and tricks to finding that perfect golden hue.

KEEP YOUR PHOTOS IN MIND

Walk through the venue with your

photographer beforehand so he or she can see how it's lit during different times of day and from different angles. Pick out locations for pictures and also talk about what, if any, lighting you will be adding to the space.

TINY LIGHTS

There are gorgeous options for adding tiny lights on metallic or nearly invisible strings. Bonus: Many are also battery operated. Think of wrapping strings around arches, trellises, around light fixtures, tent poles and

frames, or tables.

THINK METALLIC

Shiny surfaces, such as metal and mirrors, magnify any available light. Warm up your venue with gold or bronze accents. Place candles on mirrored charges or on shiny metallic candlesticks.

LANTERNS AND LAMPS

Get creative with your lighting. Use a variety of lanterns, either battery-powered or traditional oil or can-

dle-powered to light up dark corners or line aisles or long tables (go battery powered if they're anywhere they might get knocked over). You can also hang lanterns from long chains or ribbons to bring the eye up and cast a warm glow.

Arrange traditional electric lamps where people will gather and talk, next to a grouping of comfy chairs or by couches. You can even have groupings of lamps on a theme, say all Tiffany-style lamps, for more visual impact.

Blooming Ideas

One of the big ticket items for a wedding is the flowers. Here's how to pick the best fall blooms that will complement your color palette and make your ceremony one to remember.

HOW TO CHOOSE A FLORIST

The Society of American Florists has a list of questions for you to ask a potential wedding florist. They include:

- What flowers will be in season?
- What flowers are available that will fit my budget and color preferences?
- Do you have pictures of other weddings you've done in my price range?
- How will the flowers be handled, set up and delivered?
- Do you preserve bouquets after the wedding?
- Do you offer rental items like vases or will we need to get them from another company?

Get in touch with your florist early, at least three months in advance, the society says. If you're getting married a peak season for your area, you may even need to allow up to a year. Bring any pictures you like and pictures of your dress and bridesmaids' dresses so your florist can create a spectacular event that is also in your budget.

FALL ACCENTS

Add some seasonal accents to your bouquet no matter your color palette. Berries, oak and maple leaves, twigs, wheat and other grasses all make gorgeous additions. To stretch your budget, work with your florist to choose flowers in season. Teleflora says some flowers that bloom in fall are Asiatic and calla lilies, dahlias, chrysanthemums, roses and yarrow. Your florist will be able to give you more ideas about what is popular in your area.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOUQUET

The Society of American Florists also suggests some non-traditional uses for flowers. Send flowers that match your wedding theme as welcome gifts for out-of-town guests and wedding party members or as thank you gifts. You can also use flowers to decorate the wedding transportation, in floating arrangements, or as hair accessories.

