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## Having a Fall wedding? What's Hot for 2009

Though not the most common time for a wedding, the idea of a wedding during the cooler fall months is growing increasingly popular. Fall invokes thoughts of falling leaves, brightly colored foliage, and warmer days with frosty nights. Fall weddings create a warm, cozy atmosphere that no guest will fail to remember.

Late September until mid-October are the best days to capture the vibrant colors of autumn in an outdoor wedding. The weather, while cooler, isn't freezing cold yet. However, if you do decide on having an outdoor ceremony and/or reception during this time of the year, plan on putting up large party tents and renting outdoor space heaters, just in case. The weather can become somewhat unpredictable at this point.

### Choosing Fall Colors

Brown is not the most attractive of colors, yet with a background of rusty foliage, brown bridesmaid attire can be quite beautiful. Dark orange, bright yellow, gold, and dark red are also fall colors that will suit many skin tones and hair shades.

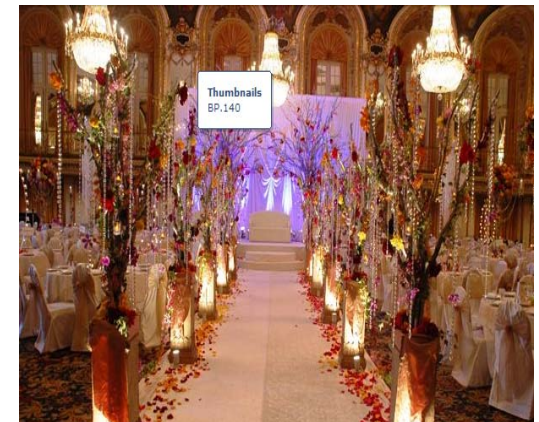
Many fall brides find that the popular colors of chocolate brown and a yellowy green become perfect choices for the groomsmen attire and bridesmaids' dresses. Faux fur wraps can ensure the bridesmaids remain warm during an outdoor ceremony. The bride can wear a tiara or comb decorated in dried flowers instead of a traditional veil.

### The Fall Wedding Location

In the fall, a traditional church wedding can be nice, but consider other alternatives. Hosting your wedding in a clean barn, a local vineyard, a private inn, or an outdoor location with a backdrop of foliage are all options. Horse and carriage can take the bride to the wedding site. Be sure you have an alternate plan if you do choose an outdoor location as fall weather can cool considerably and rain with a moment's notice.

For fall church weddings, consider dressing your aisle with wheat shafts, bright flowers with berries added to the bouquet and colored ribbon or large potted fall flowers such as spider mums or dahlias.

Natural branches are becoming more popular lining the pews, creating a beautiful and warm scene. A big part of Fall themed weddings is using what is available around you. And it can be very inexpensive, allowing the budget to be used in other areas of the wedding.



Courtesy of Yanni Design Studio

## Flowers

The hottest trend in fall wedding flowers is lush, richly hued arrangements with lots of interesting texture. Instead of using just two or three types of blooms in centerpieces, try a wide mix of flowers coordinated with your color scheme. For example, you could start with a base of classic flowers and mix in feathery crocosmia and velvety coxcom. Or you could add non-floral accents such as viburnum or hypericum berries, lotus pods, fiddlehead ferns, or wooly lamb ear leaves to make the arrangements more remarkable. For a distinctly fall touch, poppies with dark centers add visual depth and dramatic elements that announces that Fall is here. Also hot for fall weddings: antique hydrangeas in greens and purples, and deep crimson calla lilies.



## Decor

Forget the clear glass vases and go with ceramic vases or antique lanterns filled with fall flowers or lit by candle. Although gold's reputation has down spiraled, Fall is an excellent time to get it back in style. Not really a gold person? Try pewter, copper or bronze for that fall effect. Add flair to any space with chandeliers (they can be hung from the ceilings of tents too). Consider a modern piece dripping in Swarovski crystals, or vintage varieties filled with candles. If the weather requires you to stay indoors for the reception, but you want to add a natural element, rim the room with potted deciduous trees showing off their most electric fall colors or sprayed Manzanita trees dripping in colored crystals. Add sparkle to the beauty of nature. If less is more for you then rather than tons of tiny votives, make a statement with thick pillar candles in rich hues displayed in beds of big crystals for a glitzy and glam effect.



## Linens & Fabrics

This season, wedding decor is all about texture. That means tablecloths in tactile, visually intriguing materials like quilted or ruched silk, linen, velvet, or even Ultra suede. Use fabric with a crimped look or multiple textures (like organza embroidered with bits of chenille), or layer two tablecloths (think sheer velvet on top of taffeta). Go all out with rich: chocolate brown burn-out velvet table linens, brown velvet curtains and chair cushions, and brown beaded candleholders for the cocktail tables.

## The Invitations

Wedding invitations are easy to tie into a fall theme. Many options abound from those with trails of falling leaves to beige backgrounds with chocolate brown ribbons. Many companies offer invitations that revolve around a fall theme or you can create your own. It's easy to do. Incorporate an autumnal icon such as a maple leaf or pinecone. Send your invitation in a velvet pocket featuring stitching of your first names. Use metallic gold paper to give any color scheme a fall feel.



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## Menu

For a fall wedding reception, consider roasted turkey, cooked squash and a variety of fall vegetables and fruits such as cabbage, carrots, winter squash, corn, and apples) Fresh bread with melted cheddar cheese and tomatoes provide a satisfying appetizer. Hot apple cider can be jazzed up with a bit of rum or left plain for those not drinking. Or try a soup bar with a variety of soups to warm the cool Fall nights. Use small pumpkins and butternut squashes as bowls for creamy pumpkin soup. Use colorful seasonal produce in interesting ways — serve a bright red beet puree or a salad of miniature vegetables. Give a nod to Halloween by serving chocolate martinis with Hershey's Kisses, or green-apple martinis with apple-flavored Jolly Ranchers.

## The Cake

The wedding cake can be a delicious carrot cake with cream cheese frosting decorated with fall flowers or fresh berries. Two other alternatives are apple cake with butter cream frosting decorated in sugar-frosted grapes or chocolate-fudge cake decorated with silk leaves in fall foliage colors. Grapes are typical available in the fall months and should be easy to find and afford. Try a basket-weave style cake topped with fresh seasonal berries. Go for drama with a four-tier confection wrapped in dark chocolate fondant and covered in green sugar-paste apples. Opt out of a traditional wedding cake and serve slices of apple, cherry, and pumpkin pie instead. A more modern cake design includes hexagonal and square shaped cakes, square cupcakes. Top it off with real flowers in Fall colors. Check out April's Cakes at [www.aprilscakes.wetpaint.com](http://www.aprilscakes.wetpaint.com).

## Mood lighting

Don't forget one of the most important details of weddings... lighting. Lighting sets the mood for the party. For church weddings, fill the altar with lit candles at different heights or in different fall colors. In the evening, try having a candlelit aisle, a lit fireplace and lit centerpieces with LED Floralytes that sit on a mirror to reflect the light. Keep the overhead lights down low to create that fall romantic feel. By using LED light fixtures, you can easily change the mood for different portions of the party. Start cocktails with a sunny effect; move to pink and purple sunset tones on the walls and ceiling during dinner; and then slowly morph into a deep blue with white "stars" as you and your guests take to the dance floor. Another way to bring the season indoors: illuminate the dance floor or the ceiling of a tent with a branch pattern (created by a gobo lighting effect) and warm amber light. It will look as if the early evening sun is streaming through the trees.



*Need help with reception décor? Call 812.483.8325 today and let us turn your event into something spectacular!*