

Fall Brides



Hair and Makeup Advice

Fall weddings have a magic all their own, with vibrant leaves, cozy color palettes and cool, refreshing air.

But that shift in weather can bring new beauty challenges, including dry skin to static-prone hair. With the right strategies, you can stay radiant and camera-ready from “I do” to the last dance.

HYDRATION IS THE FOUNDATION

Crisp autumn air may feel delightful, but it can be tough on your skin. In the weeks leading up to your wedding, switch to a more rich moisturizer or add a hydrating serum to your skincare routine. On the big day, start with a primer that locks in moisture and smooths the skin’s texture for flawless makeup application.

Chapped lips are another cool-weather culprit. Keep lips supple by gently exfoliating with a sugar scrub and applying a nourishing balm before lipstick. Consider layering a moisturizing lip color that won’t dry out over the evening.

MobileStyles recommends several popular techniques for fall weddings that can elevate your makeup. They include smoky eyes, monochromatic makeup, bold lips, soft contouring and dewy skin.

WEATHER-PROOF HAIR STRATEGIES

Autumn’s dry air and gusty



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breezes call for flexible, resilient hairstyles. Styles like soft waves, low buns and textured braids tend to hold up better than ultra-sleek looks that may frizz or flatten. Adding a light anti-humidity spray or texturizing product can help hair maintain volume and shape throughout the day.

If you plan to wear your hair down, have a few discreet hairpins or a travel-sized hairspray

on hand for quick touch-ups. Brides with natural curls should focus on hydration, using leave-in conditioners or curl creams to keep hair healthy, bouncy and defined.

GLOW ALL NIGHT

The cooler temperatures can sometimes dull your natural glow but you can easily bring it back. A dewy foundation or a few well-placed dabs of cream

highlighter can mimic that soft, lit-from-within look.

Dusting a light shimmer on your collarbones and shoulders can also enhance your overall radiance, especially in candlelight or golden fall sunsets.

Setting sprays designed for long wear are especially helpful in fall. They’ll keep your look fresh without needing constant touch-ups, even through hours

of dancing and celebration.

BONUS TIP: THINK AHEAD

With fall’s unpredictable weather, it’s wise to prepare a mini beauty kit with essentials like blotting papers, lip balm, tissues and a compact mirror. A cozy wrap or shawl can save the day if temperatures dip, keeping you warm without sacrificing your wedding-day style.

Blending Traditions

Weddings are an opportunity to weave diverse traditions into a heartfelt, one-of-a-kind celebration.

For couples coming from different cultural, religious or family backgrounds, embracing those heritages can turn a ceremony into a powerful reflection of love, identity and unity.

START WITH STORYTELLING

Before deciding which traditions to incorporate, many couples start by sharing family stories. Learning why a ritual is important — whether it's a Persian sofreh aghd, a Celtic handfasting or a Jewish breaking of the glass — helps couples connect personally with each custom. Those stories can guide decisions about what feels meaningful and authentic to their shared future. Creating a wedding program or signage that explains different traditions helps guests feel connected to the ceremony.

MIX, MATCH AND MODERNIZE

There's no rule saying couples must strictly follow traditional formats. Instead, many are blending rituals into a modern ceremony that feels personal and fresh. A couple might walk down the aisle together, light a unity candle, sip from a shared wine glass



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and have a family elder offer a blessing in a native language. Choosing a nontraditional officiant, such as a friend or family member who can weave together different cultural references, can create a deeply personal experience.

CELEBRATE THROUGH MUSIC, FOOD AND DECOR

Fall's rich colors and harvest themes naturally complement many global traditions. Couples might choose music that honors both heritages, such as

blending an Irish folk song with a Mexican mariachi procession. Reception menus can fuse favorite family dishes into a multicultural feast. Think tamales next to pierogies, or samosas alongside Southern barbecue. Decor offers another opportunity, with fabrics, flowers or heirlooms that reflect different cultures set against the vibrant hues of autumn.

HONOR FAMILY WITHOUT LOSING YOURSELVES

When families have strong

expectations, balancing tradition with individuality can be challenging.

Some couples opt to host a private ceremony with one set of customs, followed by a public ceremony that incorporates more inclusive elements. Others invite family members to lead a small ritual within the larger event.

Fall lends itself to symbolic acts of unity, such as planting a tree together or weaving ribbons into a shared tapestry.

NEW TRADITIONS FOR A NEW LIFE

Ultimately, an inclusive fall wedding is about starting a new tradition, one that honors the past but looks boldly toward the future. Whether that means blending rituals, inventing new ones or simply gathering loved ones under the golden leaves to celebrate, the most meaningful ceremonies are the ones that feel true to the couple's journey. In the season of change and abundance, love itself becomes the greatest tradition of all.

Elopements and Micro-Weddings

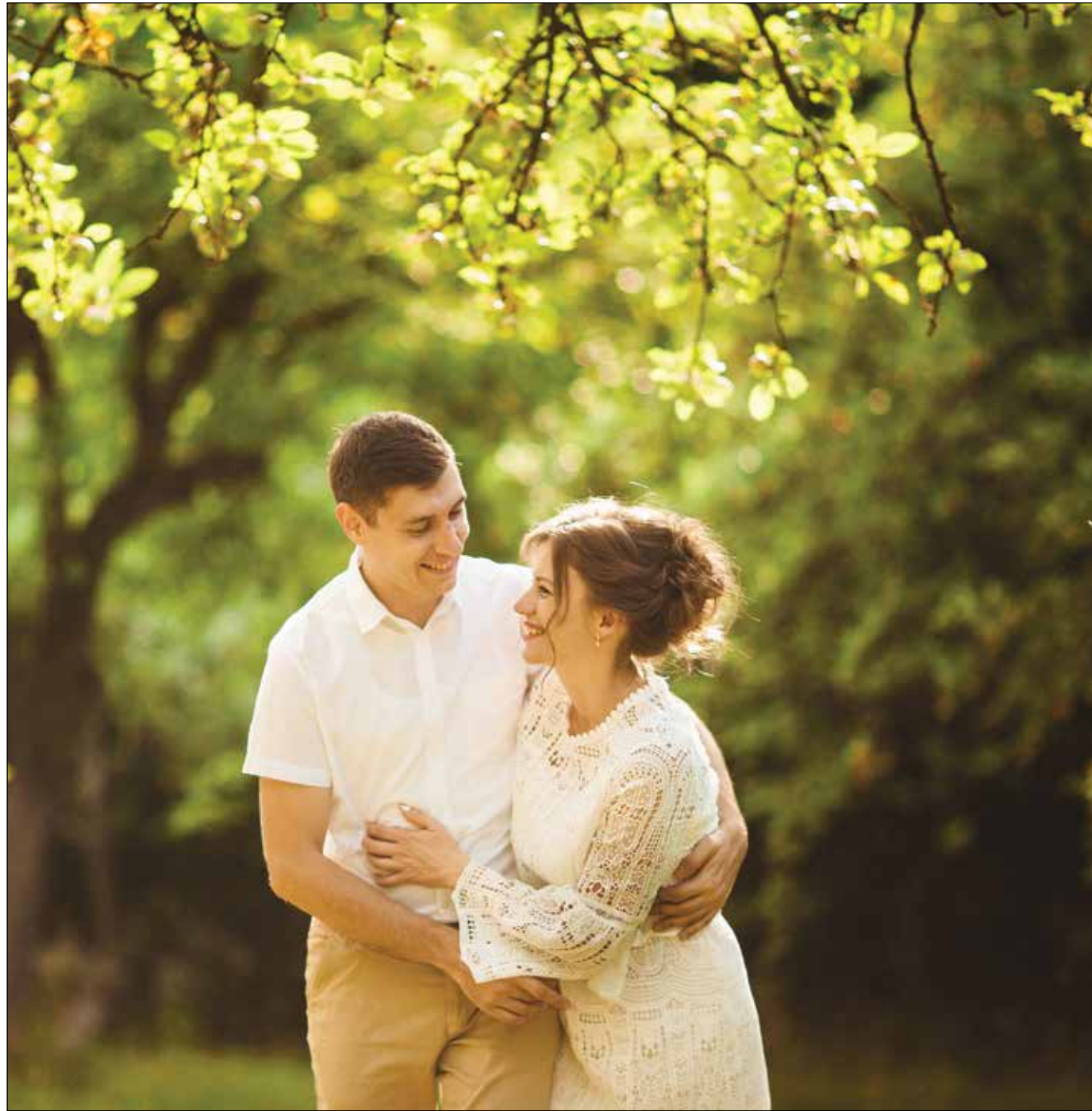
Couples are increasingly trading large, traditional weddings for smaller, deeply personal celebrations.

Wildly Connected Photography's blog reports that elopements are on the rise and in 2025, the top trends are adventure elopements, eco-friendly elopements, nature elopements, destination elopements, eloping alone with a big party afterwards and handfasting. Meanwhile, Lena Christine says that vintage elopement weddings are on the rise.

Helzberg Diamonds conducted a survey a few years ago of 1,000 U.S.-based engaged couples. They found that 62% were open to the idea of eloping, with 69% of women interested.

"Modern couples are motivated by elopements because of cost efficiency and intimacy of the environment," said Lauren Gravelyn, Helzberg Diamonds ordained associate."

Cost was also a factor. The average wedding cost, Helzberg Diamonds reported, was \$33,204 in 2022 and 26% of couples thought they were spending too much. They also learned that older couples are more likely to consider eloping as they are responsible for all of their wedding expenses, whereas younger millennials and Gen Z respondents are



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more likely to have a larger wedding as they have financial support from parents and grandparents.

THE ALLURE OF FALL ELOPEMENTS

Eloping isn't just a spur-of-the-moment decision anymore. Many couples thoughtfully plan fall elopements that still

feel adventurous, while reflecting their personalities and values. Popular fall elopement destinations include national parks bursting with autumn color, historic towns with charming backdrops or even cozy family cabins tucked deep into the woods.

Because fall tends to be less crowded than summer,

couples often find more flexibility with locations and vendors. Some choose to hike to a mountaintop to exchange vows surrounded by golden leaves, while others opt for urban elopements filled with crisp air and historic architecture. No matter the setting, the season's natural beauty ensures that even the simplest

ceremony feels extraordinary.

MICROWEDDINGS: SMALL GUEST LISTS, BIG EXPERIENCES

For couples who want a celebration without the size and stress of a traditional wedding, micro-weddings strike the perfect balance. Typically hosting 10-50 guests, microweddings allow couples to splurge on details that truly matter, such as a custom farm-to-table dinner, live acoustic music or elaborate fall-themed decor.

Fall microweddings can offer more venue flexibility. Think private gardens, local vineyards or even outdoor art spaces decorated with pumpkins, mums and vintage lanterns. Couples can get creative with activities too, from cider tastings to hayrides or even bonfires complete with s'mores.

Everly Events shares the statistic that microweddings have increased by 40% in the past year as couples embrace minimalism.

MAKING IT MEANINGFUL

One of the greatest strengths of fall elopements and microweddings is how personalized they can be. Couples often write their own vows, incorporate family heirlooms or create new traditions that blend their cultures and stories. Some invite just their immediate family or closest friends, while others turn it into a weekend getaway packed with cozy meals, hikes and shared memories.

Fashion for Every Body

No matter your size, shape or gender identity, there are stylish options for every couple walking down the aisle.

Fall weddings offer the perfect backdrop for personal style to shine. As leaves turn and the air cools, wedding attire trends shift toward rich textures, deeper colors and layers that blend beauty with comfort.

Bridal designer Jackson Wiederhoeft told Brides that inclusivity when it comes to wedding wear means many different things, including designing beautiful outfits for plus-size people, petite people, and trans and non-binary people. “Size inclusivity means finding ways to support all these experiences and more,” he said.

Wiederhoeft said size inclusivity and body positivity go hand-in-hand. He also said everyone is different. “Two people with the exact same measurements can carry weight in totally different ways and have completely different body types,” he said. “Especially for the wedding look, it needs to be immaculately made to perfectly fit and support you.”

CELEBRATE YOUR SHAPE

The key to great wedding fashion is fit, not size. Custom tailoring ensures your outfit flatters your body, whether you are rocking a ballgown, a sleek suit or something uniquely you. Many boutiques now offer inclusive sizing and custom designs that highlight what you love most about your silhouette. Fall is a perfect season to experiment with luxurious fabrics like velvet, brocade and satin that drape beautifully and feel amazing.

NONTRADITIONAL LOOKS FOR NONTRADITIONAL MARRIERS

Not every person fits a traditional mold and neither should their outfits. Nonbinary, gender-fluid and trans people have more options than ever for

creating a look that feels authentic. Mix elements like structured jackets with flowing skirts, play with bold color choices, or layer accessories like statement jewelry, hats and scarves to personalize your outfit. Fall colors like deep plum, forest green and burnt orange can make a striking statement beyond classic white.

FINDING THE PERFECT WEDDING OUTFIT

Once you know what you want and what your body needs, there’s still the matter of finding a retailer who can accommodate those looks. Enaura recommends several steps.

First, they suggest looking for retailers who specialize in size inclusivity. Find a store that has a range of bridal gown samples. A store specializing in size inclusivity will have staff who knows what looks good on different body types.

Secondly, they encourage brides to be open to different styles. While you may have a favorite style for regular clothes, wedding dresses are different. Experiment with a range of styles and cuts and trust the process and the expertise of bridal stylists. Communicate which of your body features you want to draw attention to.

They also stress it is important to communicate weight loss plans with the bridal shop and that it isn’t necessary to lose weight for your wedding day. You can celebrate your beauty no matter what size you are. It is typical for a bride to shop for a dress at least eight months before the wedding. It is easier to take a dress in than it is to let it out, so it is better to go with a slightly larger size than a smaller one. Consider getting a made-to-measure dress rather than buying a premade size off the rack.



Second-Time-Around Weddings

Love has no expiration date and fall is the perfect season for celebrating new beginnings.

Whether it's a second marriage or a vow renewal, couples who have weathered life's seasons often bring a deeper sense of joy and meaning to their celebrations. Planning a second-time-around wedding offers the freedom to toss out old expectations and design a day that reflects the journey ahead.

PERSONALIZE THE CEREMONY

One of the best parts of planning a second wedding or vow renewal is that there are no rigid rules. Some couples prefer small, intimate gatherings, while others throw lively parties with family and friends. Autumn's natural beauty provides a stunning backdrop for outdoor ceremonies, with golden leaves, cooler temperatures and cozy settings adding to the magic. Consider exchanging vows under a canopy of trees, in a vineyard or even in a family backyard dressed in fall finery.

Including children and grandchildren in the ceremony is another popular way to personalize the event. Some couples involve family in unity rituals, like planting a tree together or blending different colored sands to symbolize the



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merging of lives and histories.

DRESS FOR CONFIDENCE AND COMFORT

Second-time brides and grooms often feel freer to

choose attire that reflects their personalities and style, rather than traditional expectations. Whether that means a sweeping colored gown, a tailored suit, or a cozy cashmere

shawl over fall-themed accessories, the focus is on feeling comfortable and confident. Rich fall tones like burgundy, navy, forest green and gold offer elegant alternatives to

traditional bridal white.

For vow renewals, some couples choose to echo their original wedding day looks with a fresh, updated twist or go in a completely new direction that better fits who they are today.

MEANINGFUL CELEBRATIONS OVER BIG PRODUCTIONS

Many second-time-around couples shift the focus away from large guest lists and formalities, instead emphasizing meaningful experiences. A sunset ceremony followed by a harvest dinner, a weekend getaway with loved ones or a relaxed brunch celebration can all offer special ways to honor the occasion.

Fall menus are particularly appealing for cozy, heartfelt celebrations. Think comfort foods like roasted vegetables, hearty pastas, apple cider bars, and mini pumpkin pies. Floral arrangements featuring autumn leaves, sunflowers and rustic touches like wooden accents or lanterns bring warmth without fuss.

THE BEAUTY OF A NEW BEGINNING

Remarriages and vow renewals are a reminder that love is resilient. Every couple's journey is different, and every second-time-around celebration deserves to be as joyful, authentic and beautiful as the season itself. Fall's crisp air and brilliant colors offer the perfect setting for embracing the future, hand in hand, heart to heart.

Including Four-Legged Family

For many couples, pets are more than just companions, they're family.

It's only natural to want them included in one of life's biggest celebrations. With a little planning and creativity, you can involve your beloved pets in your fall wedding while keeping them (and your guests) happy, safe and comfortable.

ROLES FOR PETS IN THE CEREMONY

Pets can play a variety of roles at weddings, depending on their temperament and training. Dogs often serve as ring bearers, flower pups or simply make a heart-melting entrance down the aisle. Cats, rabbits and even parrots can join ceremonies too, especially in more casual or outdoor settings.

When assigning your pet a role, be realistic about their comfort level. A laid-back dog might love wearing a bowtie and escorting the flower girl, while a shy cat may be better suited to a few cute wedding portraits before spending the rest of the day relaxing away from the festivities.

KEEPING PETS COMFORTABLE AND SAFE

Fall weather is often ideal for pets. Cooler temperatures mean less risk of overheating. Still, it's important to make sure your venue is pet-friendly



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and has appropriate spaces for your animal to rest, hydrate and take breaks from the crowd.

Hiring a dedicated pet

handler for the day can ease stress. They can escort your pet to and from the ceremony, manage potty breaks and even take your furry friend home

after their starring moment. If that's not an option, consider designating a trusted friend or family member for the task.

Also, consider your guests.

Clearly communicate any pet plans ahead of time, especially for those with allergies or fears. A little advance notice goes a long way toward making everyone feel comfortable.

STYLISH AND THOUGHTFUL TOUCHES

Dressing up your pet can add a charming touch, but it's important to prioritize comfort over fashion. Soft collars, harnesses with floral accents and lightweight outfits are adorable and practical choices. Skip anything too restrictive, itchy or elaborate.

For an extra-special nod to your pet, consider incorporating their likeness into other parts of the day, such as customized cake toppers, signature cocktails named after them or illustrated programs featuring their portrait. Fall-themed props like mini pumpkins or leafy garlands can enhance pet photos without overwhelming the scene.

MAKING MEMORIES

Including your pet is a beautiful way to make your wedding even more personal and joyful. Whether they trot down the aisle, pose for portraits or simply attend in spirit through fun details, pets bring an unmatched sense of love and authenticity to your special day.

With a bit of planning, you'll create lasting memories, not just for you and your guests, but for the furry, feathered or four-legged friend who's been by your side through it all.

Fall Wedding Themes

Autumn weddings often call to mind pumpkins, burgundy bouquets and rustic barns, but there is a whole world of unexpected themes that can make a fall wedding unforgettable.

Couples looking to break from tradition can find inspiration in the moodiness and richness of the season without sticking to the expected.

CELESTIAL MAGIC

Fall skies are often crisp and clear, making them perfect for stargazing. Celestial themes featuring stars, moons and constellations create a whimsical atmosphere. Think deep navy or black linens dotted with gold accents, shimmering silver table runners, and lighting that mimics a starry night. Invitations, signage and even cakes can carry star maps or lunar imagery for a cohesive look.

GOTHIC GLAMOUR

For couples who love drama and elegance, a gothic glam wedding embraces the darker side of fall. Deep jewel tones like emerald, plum and sapphire paired with dramatic black and metallic accents set the stage. Victorian-inspired attire, candlelit venues and opulent florals with dark roses and protea flowers can create a luxurious yet edgy vibe.

VINTAGE HARVEST

Imagine a vintage harvest celebration filled with antique details. Mismatched china, lace tablecloths, velvet ribbons and heirloom family recipes can all come together for a nostalgic, heartfelt day. Muted tones like dusty rose, sage green and antique gold enhance the feeling of stepping back in time.

ART DECO AUTUMN

The bold geometry and glitz of the 1920s pairs surprisingly well with fall's

rich palette. An art deco theme layered with burnt orange, gold and deep teal can bring vintage glamour to life. Think geometric backdrops, beaded gowns, jazz music and elegant cocktail lounges for a lively, unforgettable evening.

ENCHANTED FOREST

Instead of focusing on the typical rustic barn or pumpkin patch look, go deep into the woods for a moody, magical vibe. Twinkling fairy lights, mossy tablescapes and a rich, green-and-gold palette can create a dreamy atmosphere. Think lush, overgrown floral arrangements, velvet accents and signature cocktails with foraged ingredients like elderflower or blackberry. An enchanted forest theme feels cozy yet mysterious, perfect for couples who love nature and a little bit of whimsy.

VINTAGE TRAVEL ADVENTURE

Celebrate your love story with a theme inspired by grand adventures and old-world travel. Decorate tables with antique suitcases, globes and vintage postcards. Invite guests to “board” different destination-themed tables like Paris, Venice or Marrakech. Fall's natural colors work beautifully with worn leathers, faded maps and soft candlelight. A vintage travel theme is perfect for couples who love exploring together — and it invites guests to dream right along with you.

LITERARY LOVE

For couples who bonded over books, a literary-themed fall wedding offers endless inspiration. Decorate tables with stacked vintage novels, script



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your vows with favorite passages, and name tables after beloved authors or characters. Rich autumn hues like deep burgundy, navy and gold set a dramatic stage for storytelling magic. You could even offer cozy reading nooks with plaid throws and warm cider. A literary wedding brings

romance and nostalgia together; the perfect beginning to your next great chapter.

Whether inspired by the stars above, the elegance of bygone eras or the beauty of twilight, unexpected fall wedding themes allow couples to truly make the season their own.