

# FALL BRIDES



# Choosing the Right Hairstyle

**W**hen choosing that perfect hairstyle for your special day, there are plenty of things to consider. Your hair will define you as a bride, so your selection must be considered carefully.

Thankfully, whether you are going for elegant and traditional, or totally unique, the possibilities are virtually endless.

## MATCH THE DRESS

It is important to be consistent with your overall bridal attire, so picking a hairstyle that compliments your dress is key. A simple gown would be outshined by an overly complicated hairstyle, so stick with something sleek, such as a knotted bun.

Finger or Marcel type waves are also an excellent choice if you are looking for timeless simplicity. If your dress is more intricate, bouncy spiral curls or an elaborate up-do may be better suited for your look.

## FACE SHAPE

Keep in mind that every hairstyle is not flattering on everyone. Consider your face shape and features. Stay away from styles that may look harsh from certain angles.

A modern tousled up-do can be achieved with hair of many different lengths and textures and can compliment any bride's appearance.

If your hair is too short for this, add some elegance with accessories. Veils, tiaras and decorative hair pins can transform even the simplest of styles into the look of your dreams.

## EXPERT WORK

Make sure you book your appointment with a trusted or well-reputed hairdresser with plenty of time before your wedding to allow time for any changes or adjustments.

Discuss in detail how you want to look to ensure they have a full understanding. Bringing in photos can help the stylist visualize your dream hair, and make sure you get exactly what you want on your big day.



# All About Color

## CREATE A RICH AND VIBRANT TAPESTRY FOR FALL WEDDINGS

June may be the most popular month for weddings, but many brides are choosing to tie the knot in the fall instead.

There are many reasons why autumn weddings are gaining in popularity, from the greater availability of popular venues to lower costs and less hassle.

A fall wedding also gives brides and grooms the chance to choose from some of the most vibrant parts of the color palette.

The autumn season is known for its beautiful colors, when the leaves on the trees create a magnificent show. Planning a wedding in the fall allows you to take advantage of all that natural beauty.

### AUTUMN HUES

Fall wedding colors are obviously dominated by the rich earth tones for which the season is justifiably famous. Planning a wedding in the autumn of the year means picking from a vast range of hues, from deep dark browns and greens to vibrant reds and oranges.

The fact that the basic colors of fall can be mixed and matched in so many creative ways is one of the best parts of planning a wedding at this time of year.

Another great thing about

planning a fall wedding is that you do not have to limit yourself to the traditional colors of the season.

### ADD VIBRANCY

While fall weddings may be dominated by those wonderful earth tones, they are by no means the only colors available.

You can accent those rich colors with vibrant greens, deep blues and pastel colors to create a tapestry you will be proud of on your special day.



# The Butterfly Release

## DON'T WANT RICE OR BIRDSEED? HERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT

One of the most popular and visually powerful trends in today's weddings is the inclusion of a live butterfly release in lieu of rice or birdseed throwing.

Often thought of in terms of beauty and change, butterflies have always been a symbol of good luck. They also represent the metamorphosis involved in joining the lives of two people into one new life.

### WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Well, fortunately, you don't have to catch your own butterflies. There are actually butterfly farmers who raise healthy butterflies specifically for releasing at weddings and other occasions.

Generally, butterflies can be ordered online and are delivered in Styrofoam coolers to your door at a specified date. Despite their delicate appearance, butterflies require minimal care.

Butterflies are cold-blooded creatures, so they go into a dormant state while being transported in the coolers. They will become activated again and ready to fly as they warm up.

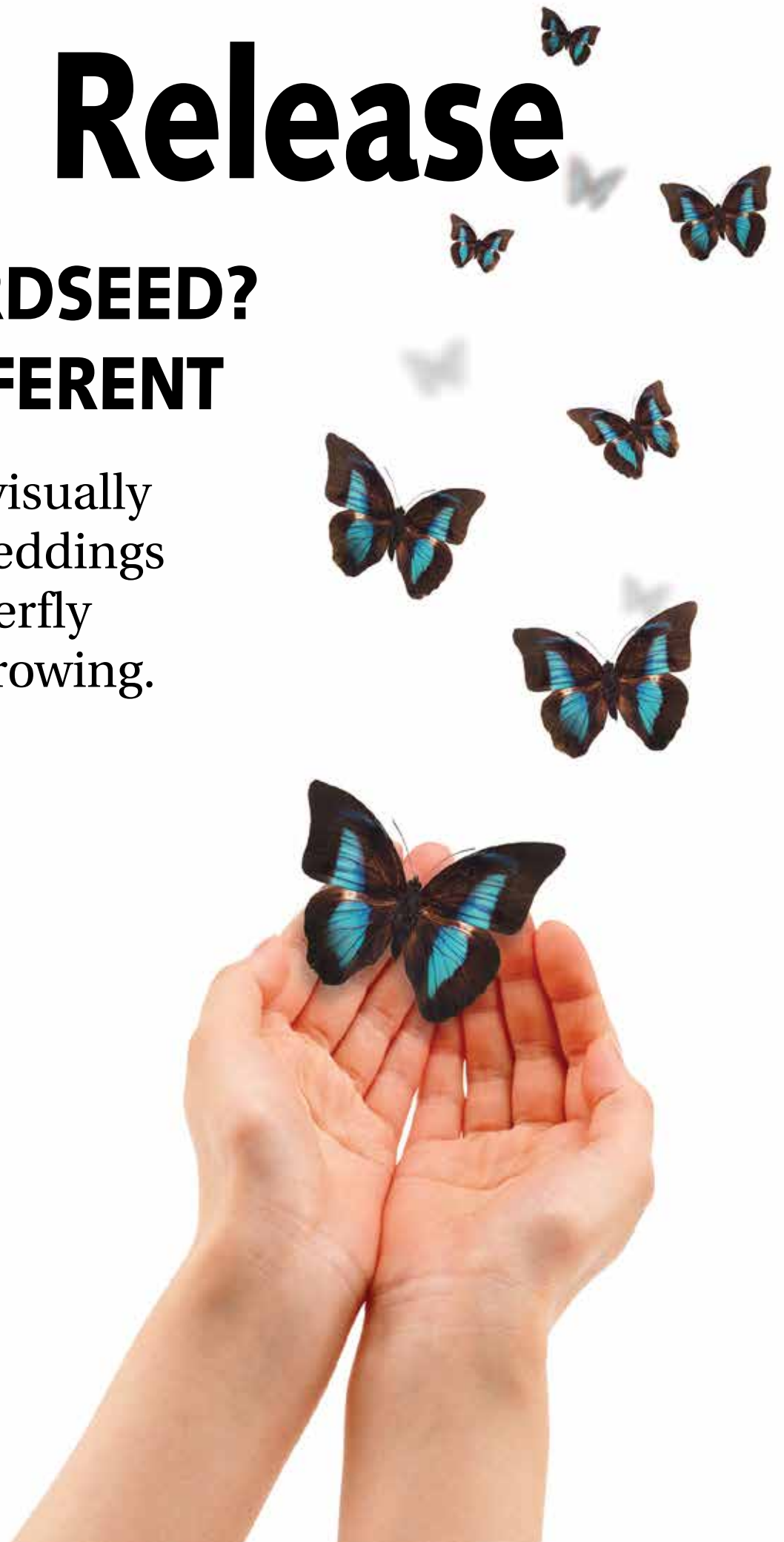
Complete care instructions will accompany your butterflies. Remember that butterflies must be released during daylight hours and in temperatures above 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

### HOW MANY?

Many people are under the impression that more butterflies are better, but a mass of butterflies can actually be distracting and overwhelming.

Another thing to consider is that butterflies don't necessarily just fly away. They tend to flit around the area, and they will even light on guests. Typically, just a few will be enough to make a memorable statement at your wedding.

Whether your wedding is small and informal or large and ceremonial, a live butterfly release can add a beautiful, environmentally-responsible, and unique element to your wedding.



# Five Favor Ideas You'll Love

There's nothing like a fall wedding. The crispness in the air brings to mind romance, tenderness and long nights in front of a roaring fire.

Capture the coziness of the season for your guests with wedding favors that embrace the best that autumn has to offer. Here are a few ideas.

## LUXE CANDY APPLES

Caramel apples are the quintessential autumn indulgence. Why not treat your guests to an upscale version of this childhood favorite?

Dip apples in rich caramel, and then roll in an assortment of delicious toppings for a decadent treat. Think pecans, toffee, graham crackers or white chocolate chips. Then wrap your luscious favors individually and tie them with ribbons that match your wedding colors.

You might want to consider handing these out as people are on their way home so that they can enjoy them without getting sticky caramel all over their evening wear.

## SOFT PASHMINA WRAPS

It's no secret that ladies will often sacrifice comfort for the sake of beauty. Chilly autumn evening weddings are no strangers to groups of women in wisps of silk dresses, huddled together in search of



PHOTO: SNOKID / YAYMICRO.COM

warmth.

Beautiful and warm, soft shawls make well received wedding favors from your female friends. Choose wraps that compliment your wedding's colors, and personalize them with your newly wedded

initials.

## SCENTED CANDLES

Some of the best parts of fall are the scents that fill the air. Soy candles in colors like

burnt orange, rust and apple red make fantastic place holders. They also look wonderful tucked into small boxes wrapped in ribbon matching your wedding colors.

For a true autumn feel,

choose scents like pumpkin spice, firewood or crisp night air, and let your wedding guests take home a little bit of fall to enjoy on their own.

## JARRED GOODNESS

Whether homemade or store bought, jars of treats are unique autumn favors that not only look fantastic, but taste delicious as well.

Apple butter, hot cider mix, pumpkin pie spice or candied pecans all look beautiful in mini glass or mason jars. Top each sealed jar with fabric in your wedding color, and finish with a thin piece of raffia and a thank you note.

## MINI MAPLE SYRUP BOTTLES

What could possibly represent the autumn season better than rich, golden maple syrup?

Wrap miniature maple syrup bottles with a piece of raffia or a ribbon as a thank-you gift for all those people who made your wedding a memorable event.

It's guaranteed they'll think of you every time they taste its sweet deliciousness.

# Greening Your Wedding

**START A NEW LIFE TOGETHER BY FOCUSING ON THE PLANET**

**F**rom “Save the Date” to “Thank You” notes and everything in between, a lot of choices need to be made throughout this adventure in wedding planning.

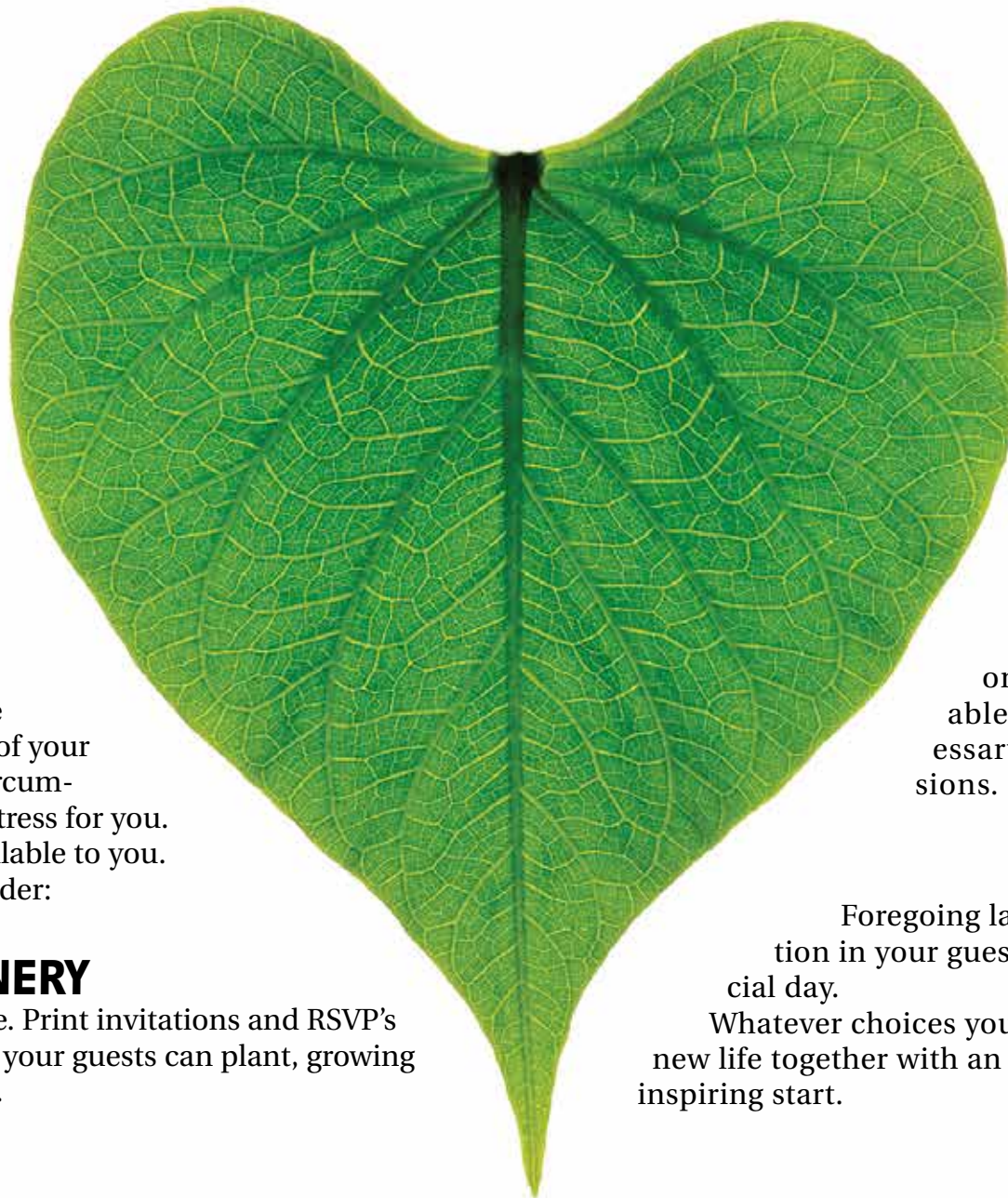
Why not start the process and your new life together in an environmentally friendly way?

A lot of waste can happen in planning and executing your big event, but you can reduce your eco-footprint while reducing your expenses. The key is to rethink your idea of the perfect wedding and rid yourself of any traditions that just add to the landfills and not to your experience.

Your wedding will inevitably have some environmental impact. Some things cannot be helped and others may be out of your control, but do not let those circumstances create any additional stress for you. Just make the best choices available to you. Here are some ideas to consider:

## STATIONERY

Send ‘Save the Date’ via eVite. Print invitations and RSVP’s on recycled, seeded paper that your guests can plant, growing flowers in honor of your union.



## FLOWERS

Enlist friends and collect wildflowers, pinecones, magnolia leaves, and whatever is available locally and seasonally. Support a local organic flower grower.

Buy centerpiece items from thrift and antique stores. Bring the lot to a floral designer and pay for his or her design services.

## FOOD

Find an organic caterer, or purchase your own food from local organic sources. Only use disposables for service when absolutely necessary, and purchase eco-friendly versions.

## CLOTHING

Foregoing landfill favors for a charitable donation in your guest’s name can help to green your special day.

Whatever choices you are able to make, beginning your new life together with an eye on the planet makes for an inspiring start.

# Stave Away the Jitters

**W**eddings are significant in anybody's life. It's a day when you commit yourself to another human being, and you normally do this in front of a large audience.

Traditionally, it is a day full of festivities and gaiety, but for the modern bride it can also be overwhelming.

Standing up in front of hundreds of people and making a life-altering commitment can be staggering. These days, the pressure for weddings to be extravagant and flawless seems insurmountable. Since the bride often does most of the organizing, she feels a tremendous burden to make the wedding perfect.

Brides who do not thrive on pressure and attention — do any of us? — may feel intimidated by all this pressure. Your friends and mother may brush your feelings aside as “pre-wedding jitters,” but that doesn't mean you need to suffer through.

Take some steps to make the day as calm as possible.

## ORGANIZE

Plan ahead. This is a given for a wedding, but it can't be stressed enough. Plan ahead.

The more prepared you are, the less you have to worry about. That means you need to take care of you.

Get everything organized in advance and clear your schedule the day before the wedding. Even better, clear it two days before.

Only do what is absolutely necessary, such as a rehearsal, before your wedding. This gives you time for yourself and also gives you a chance to catch any glitches that filter through. You'll be glad you have this extra time so you can fine-tune on a relaxed schedule.

## PAMPER YOURSELF

We know you have spent a lot of money on the wedding so you don't need to take a three-day retreat to a spa. However, you can spoil yourself before the wedding by splurging on a massage or facial.

If time or money is tight, have your partner give you a



PHOTO: VILEVI / YAYMICRO.COM

massage or gather your closest girlfriends over for a group facial. Keep it low-key with only people that make you feel comfortable. This is not the time for you to feel like you have to entertain.

## DELEGATE

That's right, you are the boss of your wedding. You

don't need to be a monster about it, but you do need to share the load.

The people who care about you want to help. Give them jobs to do throughout the planning stages, but especially before the wedding.

Remember those two days before the wedding? That's when your friends and family step in to help. They are the

ones correcting the caterer and getting your flowers on-site. You are taking a nap.

## VISUALIZE

Imagine yourself walking down the aisle. We know you've been doing this since you were a little girl, but this time you aren't fantasizing.

Think about how it will feel when you see everyone. Where will you be looking? And more importantly, how are you feeling? Imagine yourself feeling calm. Think of ways to calm yourself as you walk down the aisle.

Remind yourself that this day is about you and your partner. You aren't there to please everyone else. You are there to make a commitment to someone you love. That's all that matters. Everything else is trivial.

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

If you exercise, keep moving but don't overdo it. Drink plenty of water and get plenty of sleep. Eat food that makes you feel good. Don't eat food that will keep you awake or make you feel bloated or gassy.

Follow these tips and you'll feel more relaxed and in-control when the big day finally rolls around.

When it's over, you can look back on your wedding as a pleasant time with loved ones and not a frantic rush to get it over with.

# Dare to be Different

## CONSIDER OUTSIDE-THE-BOX WEDDING INVITATIONS

Today's weddings have grown to become uniquely personal events whereby couples express their personalities through both traditional and eclectic means.

Weddings are no longer simply proscribed formats that must follow tradition but have evolved to become singular events in the life of the couple. And since anything goes when it comes to contemporary weddings, a couple has many decisions to make when it comes to the planning of their big day — right down to the invitations they will mail to each one of their guests.

### VARIETY

Wedding invitations run the gamut from luxury papers with romantic script to hand-crafted cards in a plethora of shapes.

While traditional wedding invitations are white with black script and may feature embossed designs, while non-traditional invitations may employ things like handmade papers or unusual type-

setting or fonts.

### COLOR

Adding color to an invitation is one way to make it stand out from the crowd of other invitations. Color might reflect the bride's bouquet or the bridesmaids' dresses, but it could also reflect the wedding's season.

Invitations might simply employ color to accent a border or shade a design element, but they signify originality for the invite. Colors might also reflect the wedding's theme if there is one.

### PAPER

Using handmade paper will invariably add some dramatic texture to an invitation as well as color. Ivory paper threaded with gold or dotted with flower petals will make an invitation memorable and can



enhance the overall design of the wedding.

An invitation strewn with real rose petals, dried and incorporated into the paper, will certainly enhance a garden wedding, for instance.

### SHAPE

In some cases, the shape of the invitation can be used to reflect personal style. An invitation in the shape of a heart needs little explanation, but one shaped as an Asian fan could signify ethnicity just as one shaped as an Eiffel Tower might signify the place where

the marriage proposal took place.

Employing a unique shape is certainly not traditional, but it can reflect the personality of the couple who choose to use one.

### PERSONALIZATION

Finally, although any invitation is going to include the essential information needed to announce the wedding's couple, date, venue, etc., it can also include other elements.

Consider adding a favorite love poem or quote to the

invitation or a religious verse that celebrates the couple's commitment. Even a note explaining how the couple fell in love or why they chose a particular venue could add a surprising and endearing element to the invite.

Choosing wedding invitations is simply one of the many choices a bride and groom must make as they plan their eventful day. An out-of-the-box invite can be just as classy as a traditional example, but an eclectic invite has the potential to reflect the style of the couple in a more personalized way.