

Summer Weddings

It would seem that summer weddings would be the easiest to plan, since June, July and August are traditionally favorite months with brides.

But girls today want to get away from a cookie cutter look, so it pays to think outside the box when planning a summer wedding.

One of the joys of the season is the use of light, airy colors which are rarely appropriate during the rest of the year. Think of beach colors, and combine a soothing blue, beige and white color scheme. For a lake or oceanside wedding, you can use nautical décor in the subtlest of ways (sand dollars to accent the napkins, seashells around the centerpieces).

Or try for a delicate Gatsbyesque look, with your girls in ivory, white or the palest pink, in floaty fabrics. Be daring and be the first in your set to add broad-brimmed summer hats with flowing ribbons or big floral accents at the crown. Your bridesmaids can wear them or carry them in lieu of a traditional bouquet.

Think about a light brown or tan fabric that can be accented with almost any color under the sun. Try pairing a pale beige with fabulous hot pink or purple or even yellow.

Or go tropical, and dazzle your guests with dresses and flowers in turquoise, bright green, cantaloupe, magenta, or lemon yellow. This is the time of year when bird-of-paradise and orchids can add magnificent color to your bouquets and centerpieces.

No rules say that you must use light or bright colors, however. A dramatic black summer dress can be accented beautifully with the flowers of the season. A deep magenta bridesmaid dress looks fabulous with pouffy pink hydrangea bouquets. Or opt for traditional navy blue dresses, which can be accented with crisp white accents or with elegant red roses. Navy also looks fabulous with lime green pom poms or chartreuse cymbidium orchids.

The new “hot” color is said to be a cool gray, which is so neutral as to be accented with any color you love. The experts are suggesting yellow, but you have almost any color palate from which to choose.

The joy of modern weddings is that brides can give full sway to their imaginations. Time was when spring brides usually chose pink or lavender, fall brides selected brown or gold with autumn shaded flowers, and winter brides went with holiday red or green. Back then, black was a no-no, for bridesmaids and guests alike,

Those rules are long gone, and contemporary brides are free to choose any



color they like, in any season. But the summer bride still has more leeway with gorgeous summer fabrics and shades—so take advantage of the season and your own imagination!