



Things to Consider While Planning an Outdoor Reception

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- 1. Let Nature Decorate for You.** Let the setting speak for itself – don't compete with the natural elements. Depending on your setting, use natural items like shells, pinecones, berries, vines, leaves, and grasses for inspiring centerpieces. Don't forget the strings of lights or lanterns in the trees and torches in the grass.
- 2. Hold the Mayo:** Be careful with the menu you offer at an outdoor wedding. Food with mayo can only be outside for an hour without spoilage. Choose wisely.
- 3. Weigh Down the Veil:** Tiny fishing weights can be sewn into the hem of a veil to keep it from blowing hard in the breeze. You can paint the weights with white paint before you sew them in and no one will see them.
- 4. Banish Bugs:** Ask your venue to spray for mosquitoes before the event and have citronella candles burning during the reception.
- 5. Keep the Flame Going:** If you use candles, cover them with glass hurricanes so the wind doesn't blow them out.
- 6. Keep the Icing on the Cake:** Don't let the sun melt your cake. Consider using fondant or marzipan instead of butter cream as the icing.
- 7. Keep Everyone Hydrated:** Make sure you have plenty of water on hand for your guests on hot days. Lemonade and ice tea with mint leaves are also refreshing. In cold weather, have coffee and team on-hand.
- 8. Fan-tastic Favor:** Hand out fans as a wedding favor they will enjoy at the wedding and at home.
- 9. Fun and Games** - You're not limited to a traditional band or DJ to entertain the crowd. Outdoor games like horseshoes or croquet can be a fun and unexpected twist.
- 10. Tent Your Event:** Check to see if a tent is available in case Mother Nature has her own plans for your special day. Make sure the tent has surrounding sidewalls and eaves over the walkways.

