**FALL FAVORITES**

> In Fort Myers, Fla., where fall temps rarely dip below the 70s, freelance designer Sylvia Bird, AAF, AIFD, PFCI, gravitates to flowers that capture the season’s rich hues, but give a nod to the state’s subtropical climate.

Products with an exotic feel, such as strelitzia, heliconia, *leucadendron*, ginger and *pincushion proteas* pair beautifully with terracotta-colored roses, such as ‘Leonidas’, ‘Cherry Brandy’ and ‘Coffee Break’. For added interest, she finishes with ‘Mango’ callas and *orange gerberas*.

“We can get the same variety of flowers as the rest of the U.S.,” she says, “but why not do something different?”

Antique hydrangeas work wonders in fall arrangements at Starbright Floral Design in New York City. “We often pair these with brown *hypericum berries*, camel-colored roses and *ornamental kale,*” says creative director Tom Sebenius. “It’s more muted than most fall palettes, but it’s a very elegant combination.”

For Sebenius, though, “the true hallmark of fall floral designs is texture.” Incorporating items such as dried lotus, poppy pods, seeded eucalyptus, wheat and cattails lets him represent the season using “almost any color combination.”
BJ Dyer, AAF, AIFD, of Bouquets in Denver has a long list of autumn favorites: dahlias, zinnias, amaranthus, cockscomb, safflower, ornamental peppers, monkshood (Aconitum), Montbretia, Echinacea, Crocosmia, yarrow and marigolds, to name a few.

Dyer, too, is a champion of texture-rich products for fall. “End of summer is when flowers start to go to seed,” he said. “Anything berry-like can add to the autumn feeling.” His picks: privet (Ligustrum), Hawthorn, beautyberry (Callicarpa), Pyracantha and Cotoneaster. Likewise, he says, “any flowers that turn to pods are good.” Try scabiosa, poppy, Nigella, Datura, Allium or Japanese lanterns.

And chrysanthemums, available in the full fall spectrum from saffron to burgundy, deserve their reputation as quintessential autumn flowers, he says. 🍂

Katie Hendrick is a contributing editor of Floral Management. Find many more fabulous fall flowers at safnow.org/moreonline.