

Explore the Elegance of Summer

The Summer palette differs from the other three seasons in one intriguing way: the colors of the other palettes clearly reflect their seasons' moods. Spring embraces the bright, joyful shades of renewal, Autumn celebrates the fiery colors of turning leaves, and Winter evokes icy landscapes and overcast skies.

But what images do you associate with Summer? Heat. Humidity. The dog days of August. All seem at odds with the soft, cool colors of the Summer palette. Perhaps nature designed these colors to express the refreshing coolness we crave during the hottest months.

Picture yourself sipping a chilled glass of rosé while relaxing in a beach chair at sunset. Its coolness is refreshing after a long, hot day. That is the feeling the soft, elegant colors of Summer evoke.

If you've discovered that you belong to the Summer season, you'll enjoy one of the most refined and understated palettes in the seasonal spectrum.

Like all seasons, Summer is divided into three sub-seasons: Light, Cool/ True, and Soft.

The Three Defining Characteristics of Summer

Cool Undertones

Summer palettes are predominantly blue-based or neutral-cool, creating a refreshing harmony with naturally cool coloring.

Soft-to-Moderate Contrast

Summer coloring generally features soft-to-moderate contrast between skin, hair, and eyes. Clothing combinations that echo this natural contrast create a harmonious, balanced appearance without overwhelming the wearer's delicate coloring.

Muted Chroma

Summer colors are softened rather than intensely saturated, creating an elegant, understated effect that harmonizes with the wearer's natural coloring.

Understanding the Three Summer Sub-Seasons

Light Summer

The lightest and most delicate of the Summer sub-seasons, Light Summer is characterized by low contrast and an overall luminous, airy quality. Its palette is influenced by neighboring Light Spring, giving it a touch of brightness while remaining predominantly cool.

Cool/True Summer

At the heart of the Summer family, True Summer is the coolest of the three sub-seasons. Uninfluenced by neighboring Spring or Autumn, its blue-based colors and muted chroma create a palette of refined, understated elegance.

Soft Summer

Sitting next to Autumn on the seasonal spectrum, Soft Summer shares some of its neighbor's muted, earthy qualities. Its palette leans neutral-cool rather than purely cool, with a smoky, velvety softness that creates beautifully understated harmony.

Different color-analysis systems sometimes use different names for the sub-seasons. Don't become overly concerned with labels. The right palette is the one that makes your natural coloring look radiant.

Light Summer

Light. Airy. Delicate.

Think of a fresh morning in early June, when the air is still cool and the sunlight is soft. The Light Summer palette captures that feeling with delicate pastels, watercolor shades, and luminous neutrals.

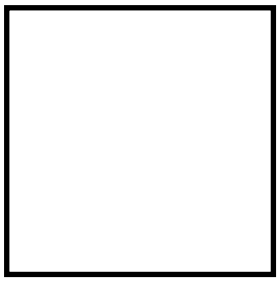
Sitting next to Light Spring on the seasonal spectrum, Light Summer borrows a touch of its neighbor's brightness and warmth. This influence makes Light Summer more neutral-cool than True Summer, while retaining the gentle softness that defines the Summer family.

Lightness is the defining characteristic of this sub-season. Its colors are fresh, airy, and luminous, with a delicate clarity borrowed from

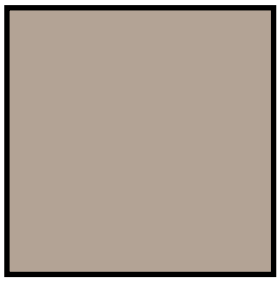
neighboring Spring. Even its deeper shades retain a gentle quality, never appearing heavy or overpowering.

Explore the Color Range of Light Summer

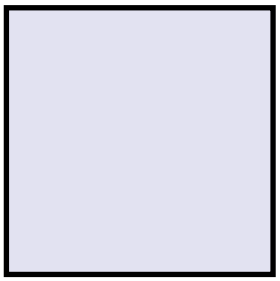
Neutrals



Soft White



Cool Taupe

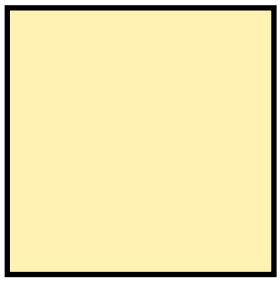


Lt Pearl Gray

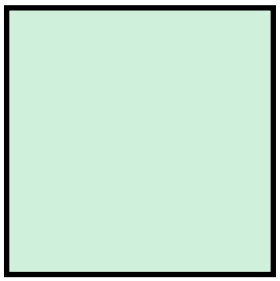


Soft Slate

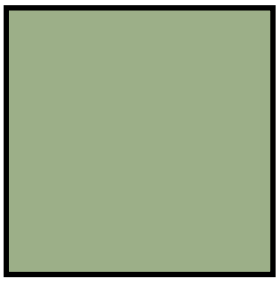
Yellows & Greens



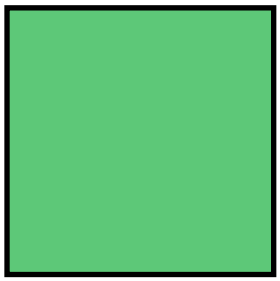
Chiffon Yellow



Pale Mint

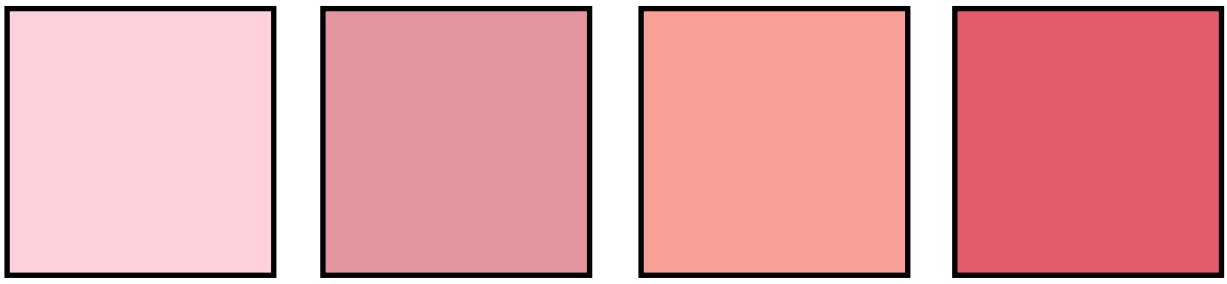


Soft Sage



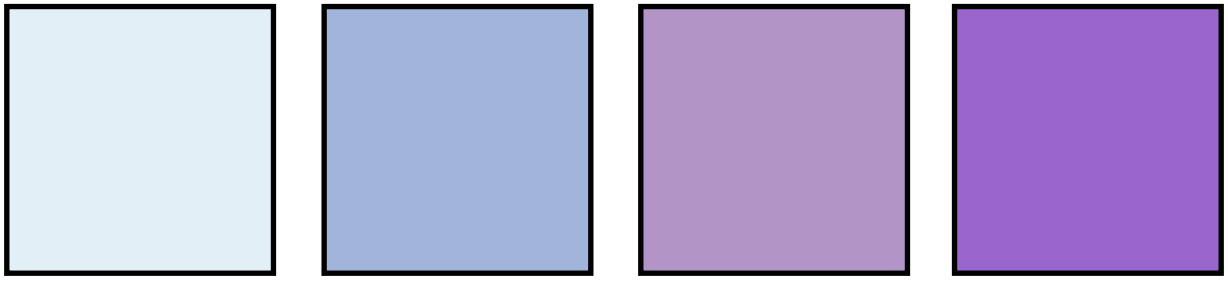
Light Emerald

Pinks & Reds



Powder Pink **Soft Rose** **Pastel Coral** **Cool Watermelon**

Blues & Purples



Slate Blue **Muted Navy** **Cool Lavender** **Amethyst**

Fabrics That Flatter Light Summer

When building a wardrobe, Light Summers look particularly beautiful in soft, fluid fabrics that complement their delicate coloring. Chiffon, lightweight silk, fine linen, and airy cotton create an effortless sense of elegance.

Subtle textures and gentle movement enhance the lightness of this palette. Fabrics with a soft finish or delicate sheen work especially well.

Heavy, stiff, or intensely glossy materials—such as thick brocade, dense velvet, and rigid patent leather—can overpower Light Summer's delicate coloring. Instead, choose lighter weights, softer finishes, and harmonious colors that complement the palette's airy elegance.

Cool/True Summer

Cool. Muted. Sophisticated.

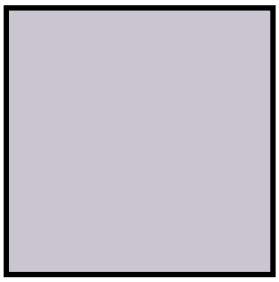
Imagine a quiet summer morning just before sunrise, when the sky is veiled in soft gray-blue clouds and the landscape is bathed in cool, diffused light. This is the essence of True Summer: serene, sophisticated, and effortlessly elegant.

True Summer, often called Cool Summer, represents the heart of the Summer family. Unlike Light Summer, which borrows some brightness from Spring, or Soft Summer, which shares Autumn's muted qualities, True Summer remains distinctly cool and blue-based.

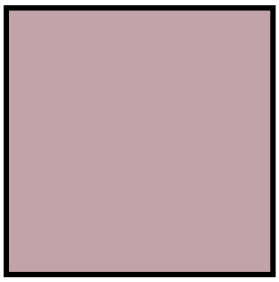
The True Summer palette features softened jewel tones, dusty roses, gentle lavenders, and refined neutrals. Although its colors can be deeper and more substantial than those of Light Summer, they retain a graceful softness rather than the brilliant saturation associated with Winter.

Explore the Color Range of True Summer

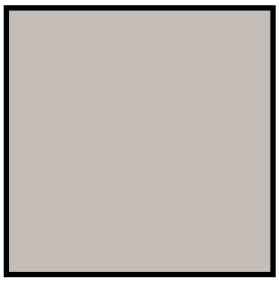
Neutrals



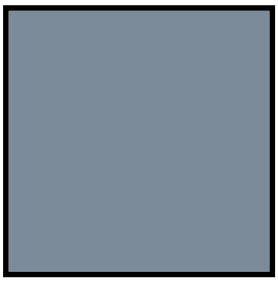
Salt Lavender



Dusty Mauve

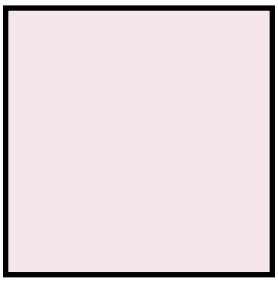


Mushroom

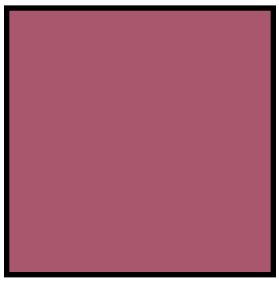


Ocean Gray

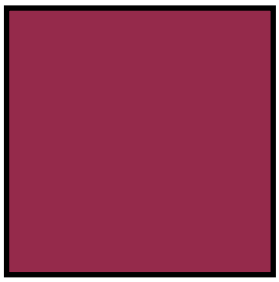
Pinks & Reds



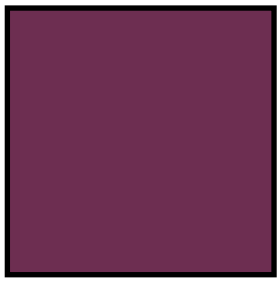
Icy Rose



Dusty Cranberry

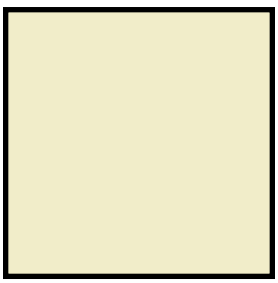


Dark Rose

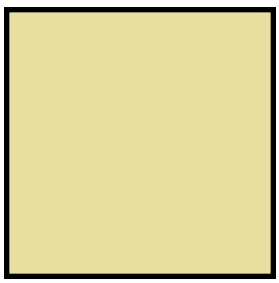


Muted Burgundy

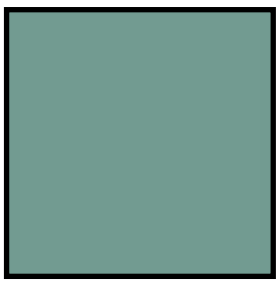
Yellows & Greens



Lt Lemon Chiffon



Cool Primrose

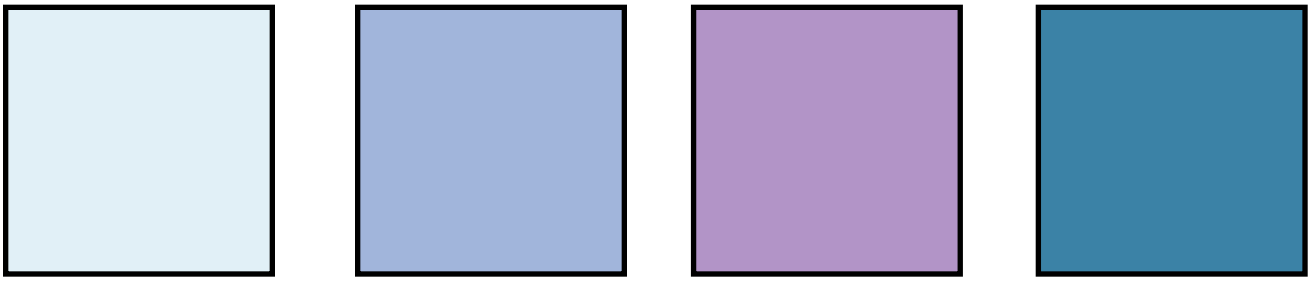


Cool Eucalyptus



Muted Pine

Blues & Purples



Baby Blue **Periwinkle** **Soft Violet** **Deep Sky**

Understanding Yellow in True Summer

Yellow can be particularly challenging for True Summer because most yellows contain a noticeable degree of warmth.

However, this doesn't mean yellow is entirely off-limits. Very cool, delicate, slightly softened yellows may harmonize with some True Summer palettes.

The key is avoiding golden, mustard, orange-based, or intensely warm yellows, which can compete with True Summer's naturally cool coloring.

Cool Primrose and Light Lemon Chiffon illustrate how yellow can be incorporated into a True Summer palette when its warmth is softened and its intensity restrained.

Fabrics That Flatter True Summer

True Summer's sophisticated palette pairs beautifully with refined fabrics that offer gentle structure and graceful movement.

Silky knits, fine cotton poplin, lightweight denim, soft crepe, and smooth wool blends create a polished appearance without overwhelming the wearer's natural coloring. A subtle sheen can be especially flattering, lending quiet elegance to cool, muted colors.

Extremely glossy finishes, rigid fabrics, and heavily textured materials can compete with True Summer's understated elegance. Instead, choose softer finishes, fluid silhouettes, and refined textures that complement the palette's natural sophistication.

Soft Summer

Soft. Muted. Smoky.

Imagine a misty landscape after a gentle summer rain. The colors of nature seem softened by a delicate veil of gray. Nothing is harsh or brilliant. Instead, the landscape reveals a quiet, velvety beauty. This is the essence of Soft Summer.

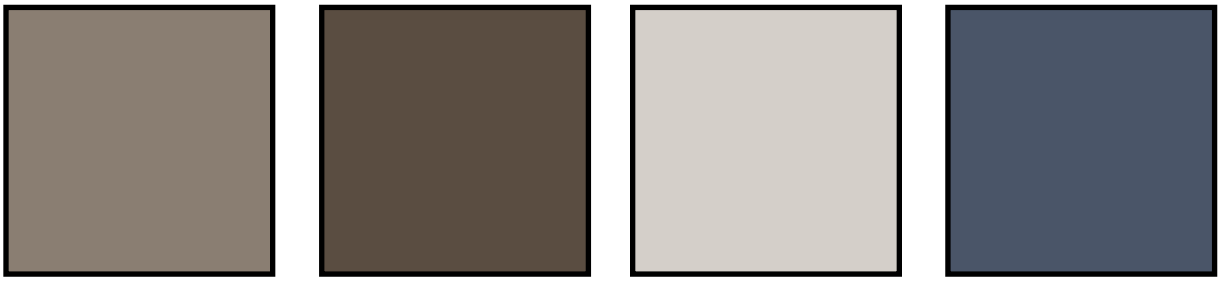
Sitting next to Soft Autumn on the seasonal spectrum, Soft Summer shares its neighbor's muted, earthy qualities. This influence creates a neutral-cool palette with a subtle warmth that distinguishes it from the distinctly cooler colors of True Summer.

Softness is the defining characteristic of this sub-season. Its colors are blended, smoky, and gently grayed rather than bright or intensely saturated. Dusty rose, muted mauve, sage green, smoky teal, and soft blue-gray are beautiful examples of its understated palette.

Like a chameleon, Soft Summer can sometimes appear warmer or cooler depending on the colors surrounding it. This versatility is one of its most intriguing characteristics, but its beauty lies in maintaining a soft, muted harmony.

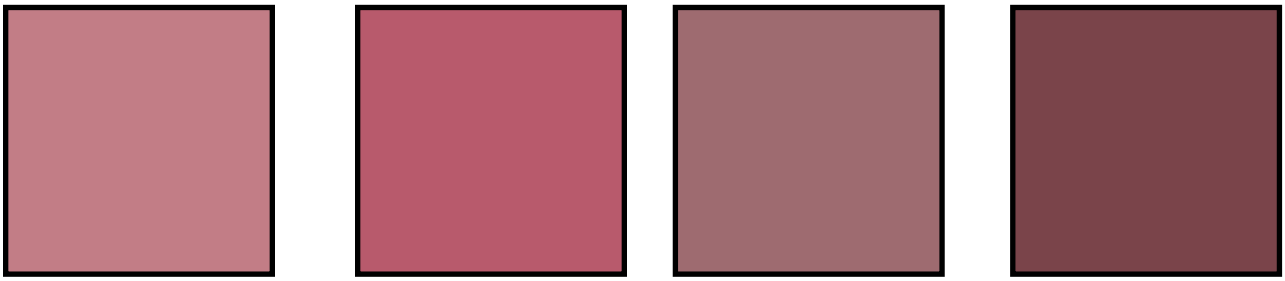
Explore the Color Range of Soft Summer

Neutrals



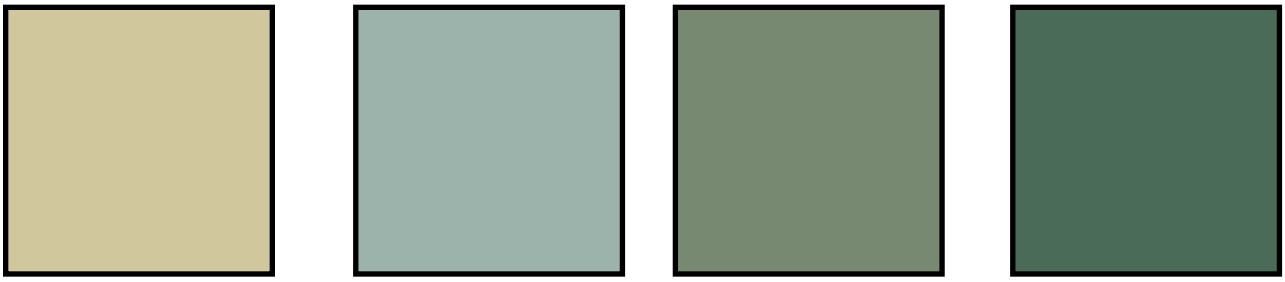
Cool Taupe **Cocoa Brown** **Stone Gray** **Slate Charcoal**

Pinks & Reds



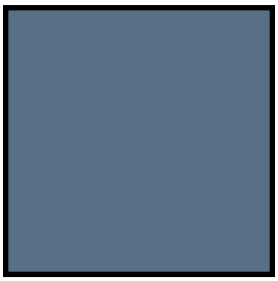
Lt Watermelon **Muted Raspberry** **Dusty Rose** **Deep Rosewood**

Yellows & Greens

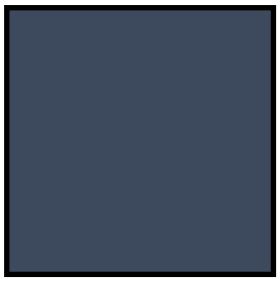


Muted Sulfur **Soft Seafoam** **Sage Green** **Spruce Green**

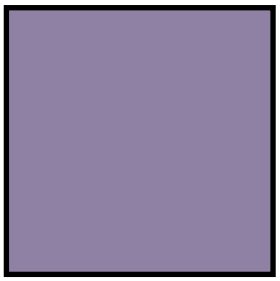
Blues & Purples



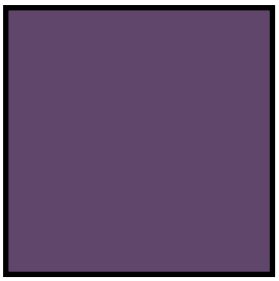
Slate Blue



Muted Navy



Cool Lavender



Amethyst

Fabrics That Flatter Soft Summer

Soft Summer's muted palette pairs beautifully with fabrics that have a gentle, understated texture.

Matte jersey, brushed cotton, washed linen, lightweight denim, soft suede, and fine knits complement the smoky quality of this sub-season. Fabrics with a softly brushed or slightly weathered finish add depth and interest without overwhelming the wearer's natural coloring.

Highly glossy finishes, rigidly crisp fabrics, and intensely reflective materials can compete with Soft Summer's gentle coloring. Instead, choose matte finishes, fluid silhouettes, and subtly textured fabrics that create a harmonious, effortlessly elegant appearance.

True style doesn't demand attention.

It allows your natural beauty to shine.

The Timeless Elegance of Summer

Whether your Summer coloring is light and airy, classically cool, or soft and smoky, your most flattering colors share an understated elegance.

The secret to wearing Summer beautifully lies in finding the right balance of coolness, softness, and depth. When those qualities harmonize with your natural coloring, your wardrobe becomes an extension of your personality, enhancing your beauty without competing for attention.

Not Sure Which Summer You Are?

Choosing the right palette begins with knowing your personal Color Season. A Personal Color Analysis can help you discover the colors that complement your natural beauty.

Schedule your Personal Color Analysis with Studio Style SMA.

Coming Soon

Your Complete Summer Styling Guides

We're developing comprehensive styling guides for Light Summer, Cool/ True Summer, and Soft Summer.

Each guide will take you beyond the overview, showing you how to transform your personal color palette into a versatile, coordinated wardrobe that reflects your individual style.

The Complete Guides Will Include:

Complete 60+ Color Guide

Core Colors, Pastels & Neutrals

Downloadable Shopping Color Guide

Three Color Outfit Combinations

Complete Color Outfits

Seasonal Wardrobe Transitions

Jewelry & Accessories Guide

Flattering Patterns

Make-Up Recommendations

Capsule Wardrobe Pieces