

In Fashion: Time for sweater pickin'

by Sharon_Mosley

Casual fall weekends call for getting cozy with a few of our all-time fashion favorites. Those soft sweaters come out of the closet and wrap us up in sheer pleasure after months of sultry steaminess that leaves our closets wilted and our spirits damp. For some of us more fortunate fashion souls, we can get away with wearing the plush look all week long if we're lucky.

THE LONG VIEW - The long wool sweater coat, from Lands' End holiday collection, is one of this season's newest trends in sweater dressing. CNS Photo courtesy of www.landsend.com. "Sweaters are the anchor of a great fall wardrobe," says Suzanne Bryant, vice president of design at Lands' End. "Their versatility makes them perfect for any occasion - whether layered for warmth or beautiful on their own."

So here are some favorite sweater trends that will put the cold snap back into your frosty wardrobe fast:

- The cashmere sweater: The ultimate layering piece for chilly weather. With one cashmere cardigan or turtleneck you can add luxury to your everyday wardrobe. And it's the perfect holiday present. Start your wish list here. Tip: Look for cashmere from Inner Mongolian goats for the best quality.

- The cardigan sweater: Yes, it's been around for years, but there's a reason for that. It's a classy kind of sweater that can be layered over a matching shell sweater, blouse or a T-shirt for a dozen different fashion looks. This fall, update a cardigan with a belt.

- The turtleneck: Another classic for men and women and another great layering piece under another sweater or blazer. In fine knits or chunky weaves, the turtleneck is the perfect topper for a pair of jeans or tweed trousers.

- The cowl neck sweater: A takeoff of the turtleneck, this is one of fall's newest silhouettes that's a little more

dressy than the basic turtleneck. Choose one this season in loden green, plum or spice brown.

- The crew neck pullover: Like the V-neck, this style sweater, particularly in a baby cable knit, is a wardrobe staple. Dressed up with a scarf or dressed down over a T-shirt, the crew neck has timeless style that is ageless and pairs well with skirts or jeans.

- The sweater coat: Lighter than a wool coat, but heavier than a cardigan, the knee-length sweater coat is a flattering option for many of us who live in milder climates and like the less restrictive feeling of softer outerwear. Look for open-weave crochet styles or shawl-collared cozy cable looks with hoods.

- Cuddly details: Think texture when you're sweater picking this fall. Think thick or thin cables. Shop for sweaters in rich marbled colors that sport patch pockets and wooden toggle buttons. Luggage influences such as top stitching, suede and leather trim are found on sweaters, too.

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