

WGC CREATING A HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE using evergreens

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 6:30 pm

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Making your own holiday decorations is fun and rewarding. We will create a fall table centerpiece made of evergreens that you gather from your garden or where you live. You can also make a Christmas centerpiece or wreath/swag using these materials and techniques.

*****See areas highlighted in yellow for activities in getting greenery ready and what you might bring for decorations.**

STEP 1..PICK YOUR GREENERY

BEFORE November 19 mtg. You will want to pick fresh branches of various evergreens 1-2 days before using them to make your centerpiece. Cut the branches at least 10-12 inches long if you are cutting from tall trees or shrubs. Smaller branches of laurel, pachysandra or wintergreen should be cut closer to the size you will use to place on top of your bundle of evergreens. You may want to cut extra greens so that you have enough for your decoration. You can share with others and maybe even make a second decoration.

Keep Greenery Fresh: Before making your arrangements, condition them to absorb as much water as possible a day or 2 before you use them. Snip off the bottom of the stems at 45 degree, and then crush the cut ends with a small hammer. Keep the stems in a bucket (a 5 gallon bucket if you have one) until you bring them to make your centerpiece. Keep them out of direct sunlight and away from direct heat sources like vents and fireplaces.

The centerpiece will last about 2 weeks in your home. You can extend its life by spritzing the back of the arrangement, every couple of days or every day, if possible. Decorations or wreaths can last outside through the winter, if the temperatures stay near or below freezing.

Some people spray foliage with an anti-desiccant (such as Wilt-Pruf) to seal the pores on the leaves and bark to retain moisture.

STEP 2. IDEAS FOR YOUR DECORATION

- **EVERGREENS:** Pine, Fir, Spruce, Juniper, Cedar, Cypress, Arborvitae, Pieris, Magnolia, Laurel, Bay, Cotoneaster, Euonymus (variegated and non-variegated), Wintergreen and Pachysandra

See examples of greenery below. **Please do not pick Princess Pine as it does not grow back and is an endangered plant in many states.**

<https://www.marthastewart.com/274907/holiday-greenery-101?slide=02e0f5a1-72a2-4631-b320-b3d53f73bb09#02e0f5a1-72a2-4631-b320-b3d53f73bb09>



STEP 2. IDEAS FOR YOUR DECORATION (can't)

- **HERBS to tuck in** herbs that smell wonderful are: rosemary, sage, and lavender, dill (seed head), fennel (seed head), oregano (flowers)
- **DRIED FLOWER HEADS:** Sedum "Autumn Joy", Chinese Lantern Flower, hyssop, straw flower....
- **DRIED SEED HEADS AND PODS:** Poppy, Coneflower, Lunaria, Globe Thistle, Allium,
- **TWIGS/Branches:** Red and Yellow Twig Dogwoods, Curly willows and Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Birch-- Add sections of birch logs to decorations or place on the table with your centerpiece.
- **COLORFUL BERRIES** are worth adding into arrangements. Notably, Holly (red), Snowberry (white), Cotoneaster (orange and red), and Beauty Berry (purple).
- **OTHER:** Dried orange, pine cones, ribbon, pumpkins, gourds, nuts, candles, and other seasonal materials can either be attached or placed around the centerpiece.

Whatever you choose, you will make a beautiful display to complement the bounties of the season!

- **We will have some decorative materials and will bring extra greens. .If you have a special bow that you would like to add or other materials, please bring them**

TIPS:

- **PLANTS YOU MAY NOT WANT TO USE INCLUDE**

Yew is toxic to humans and pets

Plants losing leaves/needles quickly include Yew, Norway Spruce, Hemlock

Boxwood sometimes smells like cat urine to people, variegated boxwood has less of an odor.

Holly sometimes does not last very long.

- **KEEPING BERRIES FRESH—Before the PROGRAM.** Leave a long stem for berries to stick into the evergreens, approx., 3 inches,. Put the berries in a vase with water for several hours. then, put vase in a box to hold it upright and spray the berries with **Hair Spray** evenly.. Be sure to get all of the berries and coat all surfaces evenly. Let them dry for several hours before using them in your project.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Preserve-Berries-for-Floral-Arrangements>

STEP 3. WHAT YOU'LL NEED to make your CENTERPIECE

Please bring at pruners labeled with your name and scissors if you have them, as well as greenery prepared as suggested above. Wire cutters are appreciated.

- Pruners
- Scissors
- Wire Cutters
- Greenery, other ornamental items to include in centerpiece, e.g., ribbon (will have some items)
- **Floral Wire—(will be provided) and twine for wrapping greens or attaching other decorative items.**



Twine

Cutters

Pruners

Wire Cutter

Scissors

Twine,

Florist Wire(s)

STEP 4. Making Your CENTERPIECE

- **Gather Your Materials:** Use your pruners or scissors to make piles of each of the types of greenery you are going to be using. This will allow the process to go much faster and keep you organized throughout the process. Cut them to 6-8 inches long
- If you are using winterberry, holly, or other materials, you can also cut them and make a pile at the beginning of this process.
- Place other decorative objects together.
- **We will have twine to cut into pieces around 7 inches long for you to wrap your evergreen bundles.**
- **Begin making the evergreen centerpiece** by combining small bundles of different kinds of evergreens. Place them on the table and wrap the twine around it. Make 10-12 bundles of evergreen.

- Lay your bundles down for your centerpiece on the table. Take one bundle to be the center bundle, then angle the second bundle to the left and the third bundle to the right, to create dimension within your project. Wrap a piece of floral wire around the 3 bundles to hold them in place. This will create a shape that looks natural and full. Continue this process until your centerpiece is the size and shape you want.

Now, you can have fun adding different items to your centerpiece. Use the floral wire or twine to tie on pinecone, berries, branches, etc. You can then add a bow around the center or side, as you wish.

You can also attach extra items with a hot glue gun.

See picture below for ideas on centerpieces

Some people lay the greenery on the table without attaching them with wire or twine. Others place the greens in a container so they can move the display if needed.



**Decorative Items Provided
(pinecones, pumpkins, bundles of sticks,
leaves, grass, some ribbon, etc)**



PICTURES FOR IDEAS:





