

WINTER EVERGREEN BOUGH POT ARRANGEMENT



Centerpiece



Close-up of Centerpiece

OBJECTIVES:

EDUCATIONAL

Discuss the uses of evergreens - holiday decorating, indoor plants, landscaping, and why evergreens are valuable.

ACTIVITY

Participants will create a holiday evergreen centerpiece made with fresh evergreens, berries, and (optional) pine cones. Optional decorations can be small plastic ornaments, curly ting, etc.

TAKE AWAY

Participants will increase their knowledge of evergreens and their history. They will take their centerpieces with them so they can enjoy the smell and beauty of their holiday creation.

MATERIALS:

Fresh evergreens: recommend 3 varieties with different textures

Pine, holly (not too prickly), juniper



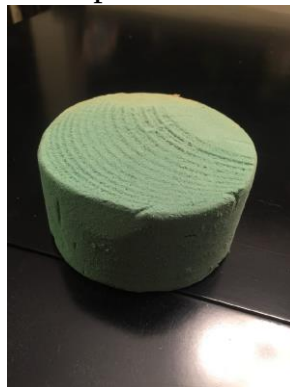
Fresh berries: holly/nandina (red has nice contrast with evergreens)

Fresh small pine cones (optional)

12 containers



12 **WET** (not dry) florist foam pieces



1 electrical tape

1 florist wire (optional): can use paperclips if money tight.

Decorations: consider “tiny tree” plastic ornaments for color & sparkle; curly ting gold for height.



18 pieces: 40% off \$4.99



43 pieces: 40% off \$5.99
Sparkle Curly Ting Gold

Buying Hint:

At **Dollar Tree**, containers are \$1 each, some are 2 for \$1. The wet florist foam is 2 for \$1. Electrical tape & floral wire are \$1 each. Curly ting and ornaments are available at **Hobby Lobby**: Christmas items are always 40% off.

BEFORE CLASS:

Collect & cut evergreens, berries, & pine cones when convenient. Cut evergreens & berries to a usable size and clear bottom of stem so that it can be easily inserted into foam later. Evergreens will last longer if you store cut stems in a bucket of water; you will use bucket water later. If desired, a completed evergreen centerpiece can be displayed.

DURING CLASS:

Leader will introduce self and Master Gardeners present; MGs should introduce themselves and give a very brief summary of their years as a MG and why they became a MG. A short presentation about evergreens should be done.

SAMPLE PRESENTATION:

Plants and trees are divided into 2 main categories: evergreen and deciduous. Evergreens keep their color year-round, while deciduous change colors with the seasons. Actually, evergreens are not always green, consider the Colorado blue spruce (Beaulieu, 2018) and golden juniper.

Evergreens have long been associated with Christmas and the winter season. Pagans and Christians used the fir tree to celebrate winter festivals for thousands of years. Pagans used branches to decorate their homes during winter as a symbol of the spring to come. Christians used evergreens as a sign of everlasting life with God. (Sandborn, 2016).

ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS:

Participants will be asked to state their names and describe their interests in plants, especially if they had evergreens such as a Christmas tree or wreath during the holiday season when they were younger.

1. Distribute pots.
2. Place foam into bucket water & let it sink to bottom; DO NOT push foam block under water.

3. Place foam into container & secure with electrical tape (see photo).
4. Insert evergreens into foam block: work from largest to smallest stems.
5. Insert berries. Pine cones can be placed in centerpiece or wired into foam.
6. Curly twig (3 is good number) can be pushed into foam (you may need to shorten length for better scale).
7. Ornaments can be wired in (3 is a good number).
8. Centerpiece can be watered as needed to keep evergreens fresh,



SOURCES:

Beaulieu, David, "What are Evergreen Trees?"
<https://www.thespruce.com>, updated 8.4.2018

Sandborn, Dixie, "How did Evergreen Trees Become a Symbol for Christmas?" msue.anr.msu.edu, 12.6.2016