

Using your garden plants to make a Festive Wreath



At Christmas it is traditional to decorate our homes with a Wreath, often based on Holly leaves or bits of Conifers.

You can use your wreath inside or outside, flat or hanging!

The unbroken circle of a wreath links the past with the present and the future, a lovely sentiment for Christmas which is the time when old and young family and friends come together

Using evergreen leaves is obviously very ornamental but it also reminds us of days gone by when evergreen branches were brought indoors to remind folk that Spring and new life would eventually come after the cold dark days of winter.

What you'll need for your wreath

- A floral foam wreath ring (10" or 12")
- Small clippings from evergreen plants
- Berries – natural or artificial
- Ribbon and florists wires
- Extras: Pine cones, tangerines, dried orange rings etc.

How to make your Festive Wreath

Wet your wreath ring by holding it under a running tap for 2 minutes

Arrange an external ring of pieces of conifer or other evergreen leaves– 4-6" (10-15cm) and an internal ring with shorter pieces of similar leaves* pushing the ends into foam

Fill in the main body of the ring with pieces of fancier evergreen bushes*, berries, cones, tangerines or dried oranges

Make two bows and a tail out of wired-edged ribbon and florists wire and push them into the wet floral foam

All you then need to do is position it where you want it - inside or out, hanging or flat

To keep it fresh you should water it regularly – if inside sit it on the draining board after holding it under the running tap to let it drip dry

*If you aren't the gardener, they shouldn't be able to spot from where you have carefully cut your pieces of foliage – this is called 'judicious' pruning! Most evergreen bushes will have little pieces you easily can pick and not spoil the bush's shape, indeed maybe helping it.

