



How to make easy floral decorations

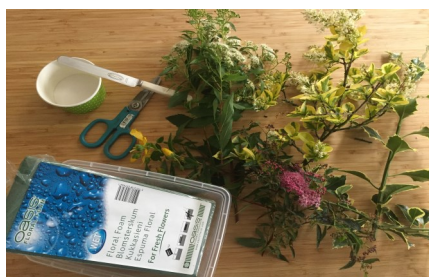
The art of using foliage and flowers for decoration dates back to Egyptian times, which focused on garlands and wreaths.

Today, bring the outdoors inside: collect leaf stems and blooms and get creative.

No floristry experience required!

What you will need:

- Selection of garden foliage and flowers
- Water retaining pot e.g. yoghurt pot, ice cream tub
- Floristry 'oasis' : wet floral foam available craft stores, online or ask local florist, (almost) bio-degradable foam available also
- Cutting knife, scissors and/or secateurs
- Water and a container for soaking oasis



Step 1 Gather ingredients

Step 1

Choosing new growth, collect plenty of contrasting foliage colours and leaf shapes, preferably in morning when the plants are at their freshest.



Step 2 Prepare individual stems

Step 2

Roughly cut stems down to varying sizes, dependant upon the finished size of arrangement you require.



Step 3 Soak and cut oasis.
Shape to fit container

Step 3

Soak oasis until heavy with water.

Imprint container shape into the oasis and carefully cut to size.

Ensure the container size /weight can support the finished decoration .

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How to make easy floral decorations continued

Step 4

Imagine now that you are now creating a Victorian Lady's underskirt – instead of layers of fabric and lace, we are layering up different froths of foliage.

Cut your chosen stems to length, removing the lower leaves to allow the stem to insert cleanly into the oasis.

Avoid twisted/crooked stems as they will not insert cleanly into the oasis.



Step 4 Reduce stem size



Step 5 Start layering

Step 5

Using the longest, and perhaps boldest, of material, create a 'skirt' of foliage around the lowest part of oasis visible in the container.

Step 6

Continue with a second layer of contrasting foliage, ensuring that you are inserting the stems fully to prevent them from falling out.



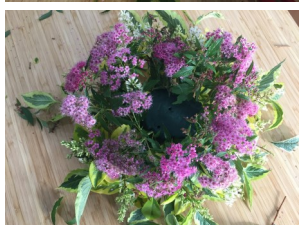
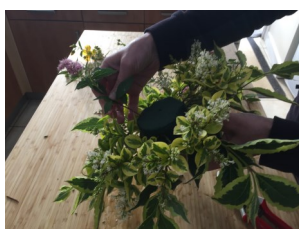
Step 6 2nd layer

Step 7

Add the 3rd, 4th layers. These layers will now be inserted at an angle as you start to develop a mounded shape to the arrangement.

The number of layers will depend on the size of container and oasis, and foliage used. Be bold and creative.

If it just doesn't look right, carefully remove the stem, and choose another one!



Step 7 Continue layering

Step 8

As the layers are added, the length of the stems will be reducing in length until the last 'crowning glory' stems are inserted vertically into the final vacant space of oasis.

Ensure no excess water is dripping from the oasis.

Mist daily with fresh water to help keep foliage fresh.



Step 8 Final topping