

Floral Design With Herbs And Everlastings Appeal To Growers

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — During the Pennsylvania Vegetable Conference held in Hershey recently, Keppy Arnoldsen told growers how to use herbs and everlastings in floral arrangements.

"My favorite way to use herbs is to add them to fresh cut flowers," she said. "They add wonderful aromas and create interest that really enhances floral design."

Foliage from herbs varies in shades of green, gray, yellow, and

burgundy and in an assortment of texture and shapes. Herbs add unique touches to arrangements because the leaves can be feathery or leathery; soft or glossy.

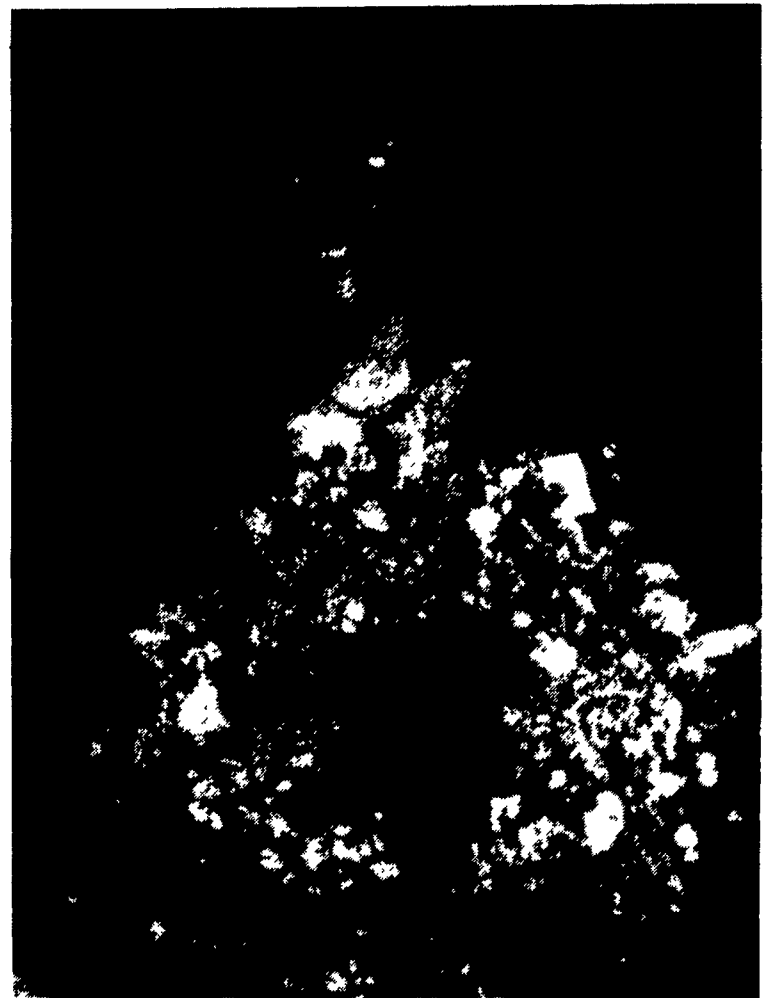
Arnoldsen, who works in the horticulture department at Penn State University and previously operated an interiorscaping business in Southern California, displayed several wreaths. She often inserts fresh herbs into wreaths and lets them dry after the wreath is finished.

"It will look a bit wilted for

awhile, but it gives off a wonderful aroma and in a few weeks it is completely dried," she said.

Slides of wreaths, garlands, nosegays, and floral arrangements showed how simple or how complex the finished design may be. One wreath simply used potatoes.

Arnoldsen arranged a wreath by using a base of foam covered with moss as the audience watched. Other bases can be used such as grape vine rings, metal frames, cardboard or foam forms. The base should be completely covered with



Keppy Arnoldsen of Penn State University demonstrates floral design with fresh herbs and everlastings.



The audience examines wreaths made with herbs and flowers during the Pennsylvania Vegetables Conference and Trade Show.

dried materials such as Spanish or sphagnum moss.

In the wreath that Arnoldsen made, she used a variety of herbs such as thyme, lavender, statice, caspia, rosemary, winged everlasting, Cleveland sage, and others.

The dried materials may be attached to the base either with a hot glue gun or wired.

Participants at the conference were given a list of herbs that are good for drying and for fragrance

in potpourris.

For readers interested in knowing more about using herbs and everlastings in floral design, Arnoldsen suggested the following books, which can be purchased at bookstores or borrowed from libraries: "Flower Decoration" published by Gallery Books; "Wreath Book" by Rob Pulleyn; "Heirloom Herbs" published by Villiard Books; and "Herbs: A Practical Guide."

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