

Sparkling Holiday Ideas To Duplicate With Ease



Mickey Nagle uses gold spray paint to transform an orange Cinderella pumpkin into a glitzy container. He filled it with golden rod, Gerba daisies, freesia, orchid stems, bittersweet, foliage, and purple roses. Drape raffia over the edge of the pumpkin opening.

Holiday Glitz American Style

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Mickey Nagle makes a living arranging flowers for sale in his shop, Majestic Florals, Reading. His designs are usual and never symmetrical.

"When I see door wreaths with every item spaced evenly around it, I want to pluck some of the items off it and make it asymmetrical," Nagle said of his animosity for predictable designs.

Recently Nagle demonstrated his eye-appealing designs by showing the difference between arranging items evenly spaced and those with a more free-flowing appearance.

Nagle has no hard and fast rules. He haphazardly inserts flowers at different levels for impact.

"Whatever looks right to you will probably work," he said.

Fortunately, too, for the 600 people gathered at the Berks County holiday program, Nagle shared some of his design secrets.

Here are some ideas you may want to incorporate in your holiday arrangement. Of course, if you don't want to tackle the project, Nagle will be happy to sell it premade from his flower shop.

- Insert wild grasses, fallen twigs, and looped beads to combine different textures and unusual interest among flowers.

- Look for unusual floral containers. He cut out a Cinderella pumpkin, spray-painted it gold, and inserted a glass vase inside to hold fresh flowers and foliage in place.

- Cut foliage and flower stems at an angle.

- Wire or hot glue pine cones in clusters to insert in floral arrangements.

- Use a variety of greens for interest.

- Tie Christmas bulbs to greenery in arrangements.

- Spray paint branches white or gold or glitter and insert to add interest among the greenery.

- Use a variety of unusual flowers not necessarily thought of as Christmas flowers. He likes to use white snapdragons, white lilies, Asiatic lilies, orchids, tulips, and in unusual colors such as purple or jewel tones.

- Add floral sprays to old toys and use for indoor or outdoor decor. Sleds, tricycles, and metal riding toys are some items that display well.

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Entertaining guests during the holidays too often results in harried hostesses rushing to complete last-minute decorating, cooking, and shopping.

Creative and easy-to-duplicate ideas are desired by most imaginative hostesses who want to avoid last minute frenzy.

A plethora of festive ideas for home decor and holiday-inspired dishes that put a delicious twist on traditional favorites were presented during annual holiday workshops offered by Penn State Cooperative Extensions in Berks and Lebanon counties. The ideas on this page and on B12 are from those workshops. Look for more kitchen gift ideas and holiday cooking and baking recipes in upcoming issues of *Lancaster Farming*.



Duplicate this wreath made by Mickey Nagle during a Berks County Extension program on holiday glitz American style.



Sylvia Updegrove, right, presents ideas for using vintage household items for gift giving.

Use Vintage Household Items To Package Gifts

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Vintage household items make the perfect package for gifts from the kitchen said Sylvia Updegrove, home economist.

Updegrove demonstrated many ideas for incorporating vintage pieces such as canning jars,

old tins, potato mashers, sieves, and other kitchenware into gift giving during the holiday program, offered by Berks County Extension recently.

Here are some of her ideas:

- Fill a muffin tin with jars of homemade jellies and preserves. If you don't make your own preserves, you can buy them at bazaars and at holiday fund-raising events.

- Fill glass jars with peppermint candy.

- Fill an old baking tin with fresh or artificial greens.

- Line an old tin with a homespun napkin. Insert gift such as jar of preserves and pull together ends of napkin and tie shut. Insert a spray of greenery in tie.

- Tuck a tea towel into an old flour sifter, and fill with cookies. Tie tea towel ends with fabric or ribbon. Tuck in a few greens for bow.

- Place a doily on a sieve. Fill with homemade cookies. Tuck greenery and a little homemade angel in the sieve's handle.

- Fill an aluminum grater with a bag of cookies. Regular food baggies are cloudy — use clear bags found in craft supply stores.

- Tie a bag of cookies to a potato masher. Decorate with greenery and rustic birdhouse.

- Line old tins with doilies. Fill with coffee items such as flavored coffees and cookies.

- Fill wooden cheese box with dip mixes, cheese ball, and gourmet crackers.

- Fill milk pail with candy-shaped cows.

- Use individual Jell-O molds for party favors. Insert a candle and candy cane.

- Fill a teacup and saucer with tea bags and tea-related items. Gather cellophane around teacup and saucer and attach a wire ribbon.

- A fruit basket doesn't need to use a basket as a container. Use old canisters, pans, or a hammered aluminum bowl as containers instead of baskets.

- Use canning jars to layer ingredients to make soups, cookies, or cake. Use a natural-colored coffee filter and secure with rubber band. Tie a jute bow around the jar lid to hide the rubber band.

- Place a gift certificate into a canning jar or other container.

Light Up The Holidays

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Looking for a stunning table centerpiece for your holiday dinner?

Try making a fire and ice lantern. The frozen centerpiece melts slowly and will last several hours during holiday mealtime.

This idea was one of many presented at the Lebanon County Extension program, "Light Up the Holidays."

Master Gardener Jane Yocum and horticulturist Ginger Pryor also demonstrated several ideas incorporating nature with holiday decorating. Instructions for using small ornamental gourds to make a vine also follows.

Additional ideas for centerpieces were demonstrated by employees of Royer's Flower Shops.

Here are some ideas to incorporate into holiday decor:

- Use a wreath as a centerpiece.

- Clear spray or glitter dust gives a sheen and preserves greenery and pine cones.

- Place fresh cranberries in water in a clear bowl. Insert fresh flower in center if desired. Set bowl in center of table top wreath.

- Soak boxwood and greenery in warm water 15-20 minutes before arranging to help them last longer.

- Do not put live wreath between a storm door and exterior door. The glass magnifies the sun and dries out the wreath. Either remove the window from the storm door for the winter or stick to silk wreaths.

- Garland can be cut and hung



This easy to make fire and ice lantern makes an attractive table centerpiece, but make sure to set a shallow container beneath it to collect the melting ice.

oblong or placed on mantels and table tops. Attach other greenery, berries, bulbs, and decorations to the garland.

- Spray twigs gold, silver, white, or with glitter. Insert in arrangements.

- For miniature arrangements in place settings, cut opening in apple. Insert boxwood, flowers, or a name card.

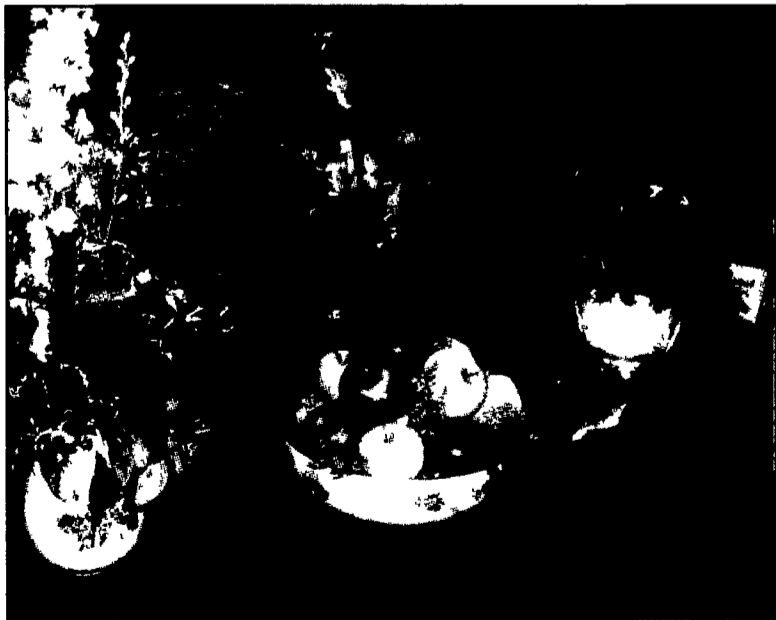
FIRE AND ICE LANTERNS

Large and small plastic containers

Plastic drink bottles in various sizes

Scissors

(Turn to Page B12)



Use green or red apples and pears to make a quick and easy centerpiece. Start with an attractive container. Fill with apples, pine cones, or pears. Accent with holiday greens such as pine, holly, juniper, boxwood, incense cedar, or Douglas fir. If desired, add a small strand of lights for special effects. A tree-shape centerpiece can be made by trimming floral foam into a tree shape. Attach heavy wooden pick to fruit. Insert fruit picks and greenery to cover foam. Finish top of tree with a bow and streams, or flowing greens.