

Decorating With Fresh Greenery by Shawn Jadrnicek

When the temperature gets cold, decorating with evergreens can bring Christmas cheer and a fresh scent into the house. Decorating during Christmas was not always an accepted practice. During colonial and pre-colonial times the practice was shunned if not outright banned. Even the simple practice of decorating a Christmas tree was considered pagan witchery by the church. The irresistible urge to bring fresh greenery into the home during the pale brown of winter prevailed and now decorating for Christmas is not only accepted it's expected. The best place to find your holiday greenery is in the landscape around your house. Virginia pine, Eastern Red Cedar, Leyland Cypress, Holly and Magnolia make an excellent green backdrop or foundation. Highlight the green with Crape Myrtle seed pods, pine cones, or Silver Dollar Tree branches. The highlights look great fresh or painted to give them extra Christmas cheer. Extend the life of the greenery by inserting cut ends into water absorbing floral foam or crushing the ends of stems and placing them in a vase. When things get hectic this Christmas remember that holiday cheer and decorations are as close as your backyard.

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