

How To Make An Arrangement of Evergreens

1. Select a medium-sized container that is either round or square. These instructions are for novice arrangers and these shapes will work well for first attempts.
2. Now look at your container and plan the size and shape of an arrangement that you think will look good in this container. Keep your initial design small and simple. Once you have experienced the steps to follow and feel successful, you can be more ambitious and later make adaptations.
3. This technique offers a simple way to make an arrangement combining needled and broadleaf evergreens which is easy, takes less plant material than using just needled evergreens and your finished arrangement will have lovely textures that showcase the plant material you selected.
4. You will need a piece of oasis that will fit into the opening of your container but, once in place, it should extend 2-3.5" above the upper edge of the container depending on your plan for design.
 - A. You may be able to find a piece of oasis that has already been soaked.
 - B. If there is not a piece of oasis that will fit your container, select a piece of dry oasis and cut it to fit your container opening but remember the extra 2 to 3.5" that should be above the top edge of your container (Note: for Greens Sale arrangement construction, cut Oasis that had already been soaked).

5. If your oasis is dry, place it in a large container of water and let it float on top. **Do not push it into the water!** The oasis will absorb the water at its own speed; when it is completely wet, it will float to the top. If you force it into the water, air pockets will form, and the plant material will not be hydrated correctly. Air pockets can also form if you have placed a stem into the oasis and pulled it out to put it in a different location.





6. Next you need to select the plant material for your arrangement. When making arrangements of all green material, I like to mix my needled plant material with other evergreen plant material.

A. Needled evergreens include pine, spruce, arborvitae, fir and several others-remember they needles.

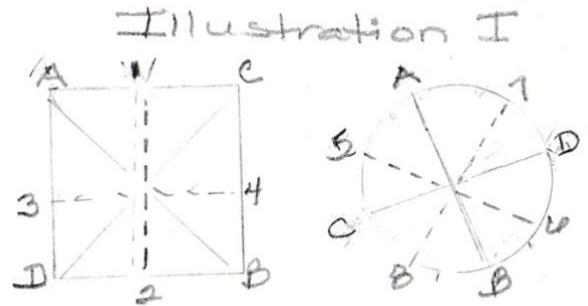
B. Broadleaf evergreens include magnolia, hellebores, pachysandra, boxwood, holly and others-they have leaves, not needles.

7. After your plant material is organized in your workspace, place your container in front of you and secure your oasis. If not, ask someone to help you secure it.

A. Now imagine that your oasis has a large X on its upper surface stretching from one corner to another. Lightly etch those 2 lines with your fingernail into the top of the oasis. Now, etch two additional lines

Needled Evergreen Bunch	
Not this:	But this:
	
Broadleaf Evergreen Bunch	
Not this:	But this:
	

into the top of the oasis. These two lines will make a + sign from the midpoints of the outer edges. See Illustration I.

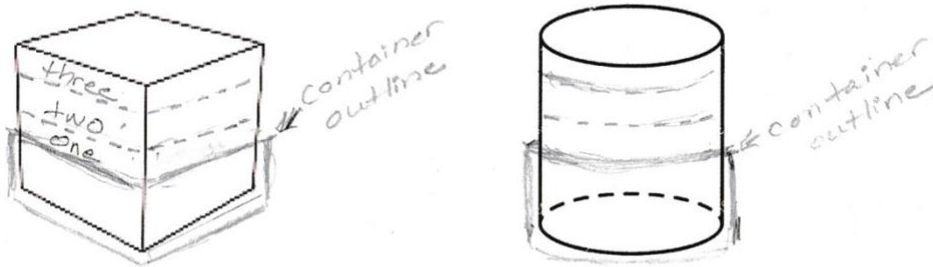


B. Start with broadleaf evergreens because they cover more of the container's edge than needed evergreens. Select a full-bodied piece of the plant material or make a small grouping; Hold the piece of plant material that you plan to use flat over the top of the oasis from one corner to another. This is the approximate length you will want to cut.

C. You can begin with one large piece (i.e. the leaves from a hellebore plant), a few smaller pieces of a broadleaf evergreen, or a few full-bodied pieces of needled evergreens.

8. Before you insert the first pieces into the oasis, estimate how far the end will be inserted and **remove the needles or leaves that would be in the oasis**. If you have more than one stem, wire the stems to a green floral pick with the attached wire.
9. Now you can insert these four pieces into each of the diagonal ends of your foam about $\frac{1}{2}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " above the rim of your container
10. Now select needled evergreens for your next four insertions. Make sure they are full-bodied and measure them, trim their length, and remove the needles from the section that will be inserted. If you are wiring several stems to a floral pick, you can skip this step as the pick is the part that will be inserted.
11. These next four pieces should be inserted into the oasis at least 1-1.5" above the first level of greens you inserted. This is like a first and second floor of the design (see Illustration II)

ILLUSTRATION II



12. Now that you have plant material filled in the first and second floor, it's time to put on the roof. You will be inserting these greens in a downward angle into the top of the oasis. You may want to repeat greens you previously used or mix them with some of the greens you previously used. You will need several full-bodied groupings of greens to fill in the empty spaces.
13. The last step is to look over your entire arrangement and if there are little spaces that need to be filled in, find the greens you think will be most appealing and fill those spaces.
14. Spray with Crown and Glory preservative before adding embellishments to your design.