

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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## Christmas Table Decoration

### Gift Boxes Centerpiece

*By Eva Soud*

#### Christmas Craft Supplies You'll Need

- 1) Set of 3 paper mache boxes in different sizes  
( I used 3", 4" and 6" square boxes)
- 2) Scrapbooking paper you like
- 3) Double sided craft tape
- 4) Hot Glue Gun
- 5) 3 clear glass taper holders
- 6) Non-Wire Edged Ribbon - Enough for 3 ribbon bows.

Classic, flat bow style work best since the candle holder sits on them, they needed to be flat and level.

- 7) Optional: Decoupage Medium

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- 1) Cut your scrapbooking paper to exactly fit the 4 sides of the box (not needed for the bottom), the top of the lid and the 4 sides of the lid.
- 2) Place your double sided craft tape onto the back of your paper. Carefully stick each piece to its coordinating spot on the box and lid.
- 3) OPTIONAL STEP: At this point, I painted decoupage medium over all the boxes to protect them for re-use in the future.
- 4) Attach the ribbon to the boxes with the hot glue gun.
- 5) Make bows. A flatter style bow works best.
- 6) Attach your bows to the top of the box with hot glue (on top of where the ribbon meets in the middle).
- 7) Flatten the center of the bow and hot glue your clear taper candle holder on top of the bow.
- 8) Finish by placing the taper candles in the holders.

# *Buxus sempervirens Newport Blue*

“Imagine the possibilities!”

Newport Blue Boxwood has attractive bluish-green foliage. The small round leaves are ornamentally significant but remain bluish-green through the winter. Neither the flowers nor the fruit are ornamentally significant.

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: Sun to partial shade

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Common Box

Description:

One of the smallest and most compact boxwoods you're going to find, this forms a tight and dense little mound of small bluish-green evergreen foliage, wider than tall, no pruning necessary to keep it in bounds in your garden

landscape Attributes:

Newport Blue Boxwood is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Newport Blue Boxwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Topiary
- Container Planting
- Border Edging
- Rock/Alpine Gardens

Plant Characteristics:

Newport Blue Boxwood will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location.



# *Picea pungens*

## *"Baby Blue Eyes"*

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A stunningly beautiful and uniquely colored evergreen

### Spruce - Colorado Blue - Baby Blue Eyes

Colorado Blue Spruce - Baby Blue Eyes, *Picea pungens* 'Baby Blue Eyes', is a stunningly beautiful and uniquely colored dwarf form of blue spruce. Baby Blue Eyes has sharp and pointy silvery-sky blue to nearly gray needles that retain their color well over the entire season. This wonderful spruce will tolerate dry locations and some light shade, which results in a richer blue color. The needles are ornamentally significant but do not develop any appreciable fall color; flowers are not ornamentally significant. The rough gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape. This is a dense evergreen with a strong leader and a refined pyramidal form. Baby Blue Eyes is a stately conifer that is often planted as a windbreak or as an ornamental in a large yard; often used as a common landscape element on commercial properties because of its easy maintenance. Deer resistant.



Plant Type:

Upright, semi-dwarf, pyramidal evergreen tree

Striking sky-blue foliage

Great accent or specimen for the landscape

Upright broad pyramidal habit, maintains bright blue color.

Height: 10-15 Feet

Spread: 8-10 Feet

Hardiness Zone: 3 - 7

*Picea* species range in form from low prostrate, weeping, Spreading to



# From the garden of Eva

## Christmas Cookie Tree

YIELD Makes 6 to 8 servings

Making cookies this holiday season? Check out these tips for making Christmas cookies.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 rolls (18 ounces each) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 2 to 3 tubes (4-1/4 ounces) green decorator icing with tips
- 1 tube (4-1/4 ounces) yellow decorator icing
- 1 tube (4-1/4 ounces) red decorator icing

### PREPARATION:

- 1 .Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2 .Cut parchment baking paper to fit two large baking sheets. Tape two large sheets of parchment to work surface with masking tape. Unwrap one roll of cold dough and roll out to 1/4-inch thick on parchment. Flour rolling pin as necessary to keep dough from sticking. With small sharp knife, cut out one 7-inch circle\* and one 6-1/2-inch circle. Untape parchment and transfer circles onto on baking sheet. Wrap remaining dough in plastic wrap and return to refrigerator.
- \*Use a compass to draw 12 circles, each one 1/2 inch smaller, on parchment paper; cut out and use as patterns to cut dough circles. For a "free-form" look, use various bowls, glasses, and biscuit cutters to trace and cut out 12 graduated circles.
3. Unwrap second roll of cold dough and repeat process, cutting out 6-inch circle and 5-1/2-inch circle. Transfer onto second baking sheet and bake both sheets 10 to 14 minutes, checking for doneness after 10 minutes. Cookies should be light golden brown. Remove from oven; cool 2 to 3 minutes until firm, then slide parchment paper and cookies onto racks. Cool completely before removing from parchment.
4. Continue repeating steps, making 8 more circles, each 1/2 inch smaller in diameter. Reduce baking time as circles get smaller.
5. To assemble tree, secure largest cookie to serving platter with dab of frosting. Using leaf tip and green icing, pipe leaves around outer edge of cookie. Place large dab of frosting in center of cookie. Add next biggest cookie and repeat. Continue adding cookies, largest to smallest.
- 6 .With small plain tip, pipe yellow garlands around tree. Use red frosting to add "ornaments." Pipe additional decorations, if desired.
- 7 .Serve cookies individually by separating layers or cut into pieces using serrated knife.



# Story of Santa Mouse



Once there was a little mouse, who didn't have a name. He lived in a great big house, this mouse, the only mouse in the whole wide house. He day dreamed he had playmates who were friendly as could be. The little girls would bring their dolls, and dress up and have tea. The boys would play at cowboys or Eskimo or Spanish. But when he tried to touch them like a bubble they would vanish. Now through the years this little mouse had saved one special thing. A piece of cheese- the kind that makes an angel wants to sing.

And so that night as he brushed his teeth and washed his tiny paws. He said my goodness no-one gives a gift to Santa Claus. So he ran to get his piece of cheese and after he had found it, Some paper from some chewing gum he quickly wrapped around it. And then he climbed in bed and dreamed that he was lifted high, And woke up to find that he was looking right in Santa's eye. Thank you for my gift he said now tell me what's your name, I haven't any said the mouse. You haven't that's a shame. You know I need a helper as I travel house to house. And I shall give a name to you, I'll call you Santa mouse. So here's your beard and here's your suit and here's each tiny shiny boot. You mustn't sneeze and you mustn't cough, Now put them on and we'll be off. Then over all the rooftops on a journey with no end, Away they went together, Santa and his tiny friend. And so this Christmas if you please, Beneath that tree that's in your house, Why don't you leave a piece of cheese, You know who'll thank you,

SANTA MOUSE!



# How to Decorate a Christmas Tree

## Step 1: Hang Christmas Tree Lights

The first step in decorating a Christmas tree is adding the lights. Tree lights typically come on green or white wire strands; choose the strand that matches your tree so the wire will be hidden. Illuminating your Christmas tree from the inside out will give it the most dynamic look. Start at the base of the trunk and work your way up, wrapping lights around every major branch, moving from the trunk to the tip and back.

Skip or add extra to a pre-lit tree.

## Step 2: Add Christmas Tree Garlands

There are no firm rules when draping garlands on a tree. To avoid the "sausage effect" (branches bulging between tightly cinched garlands), start at the top of the tree and slowly increase the amount of garland between each wave as you work your way down the branches. Plan to use about two strands of garland for every vertical foot of tree.

To avoid a busy look on your tree, use a variety of garlands from plain to fancy. Thin, beaded garlands look best hung from branch to branch; thicker paper, ribbon or foil garlands look best wrapped loosely around the entire tree.

This is also the time to add any picks you may be using.

## Step 3: Hang Christmas Tree Ornaments

To showcase your favorite ornaments, place them in prime positions on the tree first. Next, hang your larger ornaments, spacing them evenly around the tree. Fill in around those ornaments with medium- and small-size ornaments. Be sure to hang some ornaments closer to the trunk to create depth and interest. Finish dressing the tree by adding specialty items, such as clip-on ornaments or icicles.



Imagine  
The  
Possibilities!





# LET IT Snow

## What is snow?

Snow cover is a part of the cryosphere, which traces its origins to the Greek word kryos for frost. Snow is precipitation in the form of ice crystals. It originates in clouds when temperatures are below the freezing point (0 degrees Celsius, or 32 degrees Fahrenheit), when water vapor in the atmosphere condenses directly into ice without going through the liquid stage. Once an ice crystal has formed, it absorbs and freezes additional water vapor from the surrounding air, growing into a snow crystal or snow pellet, which then falls to Earth.

Snow falls in several forms:

- Snowflakes are clusters of ice crystals that fall from a cloud.
- Snow pellets, or graupel, are opaque ice particles in the atmosphere. They form as ice crystals fall through supercooled cloud droplets, which are below freezing but remain a liquid. The cloud droplets then freeze to the crystals, forming a lumpy mass. Graupel tends to be soft and crumbly.
- Sleet is composed of drops of rain or drizzle that freeze into ice as they fall, and is sometimes called a wintery mix of rain and snow. These small, translucent balls of ice are usually smaller than 0.76 centimeters (0.30 inches) in diameter. Official weather observations may list sleet as ice pellets. In some parts of the United States, the term sleet can refer to a mixture of ice pellets and freezing rain.

Graupel is composed of small pellets of snow. Unlike the hard balls of ice that form hail, graupel tends to be smaller, with a soft and crumbly texture.

One form of precipitation, hail, while frozen, is not considered snow. Hail tends to be larger than sleet, and is usually generated during thunderstorms, which happen more often in spring and summer than in winter. Hailstones form when upward moving air, or updrafts, in a thunderstorm prevent

pieces of graupel from falling. Drops of supercooled water hit the graupel and freeze to it, causing the graupel to grow. When the balls of ice become too heavy for the updrafts to continue supporting them, they fall as hailstones.

Snow as mineral

Because snow is composed of frozen water, or ice, it can also be classified as a mineral. A mineral is a naturally occurring homogeneous solid, inorganically formed, with a definite chemical composition and an ordered atomic arrangement. Ice is naturally occurring, given a temperature below 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit). It is homogenous (of one material), formed inorganically, and has an ordered atomic structure.

Ice has a definite chemical composition (H<sub>2</sub>O), with hydrogen and oxygen atoms bonding in a specific manner



# Thyme in the Garden

With a little imagination, and some well-deserved admiration for these special plants, even gardeners who don't like to get cold feet will start to see gardening potential in the cooler months of the year. Exercising a green thumb when you have to bury it in the snow takes dedication, but there are some plants that deserve the effort. Give winter gardening a try; you might just discover that the cold is cooler than you thought.

## Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*)



Often popping up through a layer of snow long before the crocuses are out, snowdrops are welcome guests in the garden. One wonderful thing about this unassuming little plant is that it will survive even an extended snow event, waiting dormant for conditions to improve. The small, white, bell-shaped flowers of the snowdrop are suspended from short, delicate stems, and although traditional varieties grow only to six inches or so (15 cm), newer hybrids can reach to up to 10 inches (25 cm).



Crocus



Winter pansy



feather reed grass



A very Merry Christmas to all our customers.

In this time of gratitude, we give thanks for you. We value your patronage and appreciate your confidence in us. Counting you among our customers is something for which we are especially grateful.

Have a safe and Happy Holiday season.

*Village Garden Center*