

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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## How To Make a Pumpkin Wreath

By Eva Souded

The best decoration to adorn your front door in the fall is definitely one made of pumpkins!

A homemade pumpkin wreath would be ideal for both Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations. You can make the wreath using bright colored artificial pumpkins or by using the smaller, less heavy real pumpkins. Below, we offer you some tips on how you can make your own pumpkin wreath this Fall!

### Steps to Make

### Pumpkin Wreath

### In this issue

Page 1-----	Pumpkin Wreath
Page 2-----	Purple Haze
Page 3-----	Green vase Zelkova
Page 4-----	From The Garden of Eva
Page 5-----	Living with Nature
Page 6-----	Pumpkin planters
Page 7-----	It's a Bug eat Bug World
Page 8-----	Fairy Gardens
Page 9-----	Kale & Cabbage
Page 10-----	Gala night

1. Select pumpkins of almost the same size.
- 2• Use a plastic foam wreath as the frame.
- 3• Pierce a hole at the bottom of the pumpkin using florist wire and run it through to the other side. Alternatively, push an ice pick or a nail into the bottom of the pumpkin and then insert the florist wire into it.
- 4• Fix the pumpkin onto the foam wreath by tying the wire ends together.
- 5• Thread pumpkins in a similar fashion and attach to the base wreath to cover it completely.
- 6• The exposed areas around the pumpkins have to be covered with moss that can be attached using florist pins.
- 7• Twist some wire to make a hook at the top of the wreath for hanging it.
- 8• Decorate as desired.



## Lo & Behold® 'Purple Haze' Butterfly Bush Buddleia

*Purple Haze*

Buddleia Purple Haze Lo and Behold, Buddleia x 'Purple Haze Lo and Behold', creates an explosion of fragrant purple-blue flowers from summer to fall!

Purple Haze is a dwarf variety that has a horizontal, low spreading, non invasive habit. Its compact size is perfect for smaller gardens and mixed borders--gardeners with limited space can attract butterflies and hummingbirds! It will mature to 2'-3' high with a width of 4'-5' in full sun.

It is excellent for use as a ground covering plant because it flows outward and downward. Heat and drought tolerant, Purple Haze needs no deadheading and little maintenance.

When planted in mass, Purple Haze puts on a great show with its colorful flowers and deep green leaves.

Leaves appear in late spring and remains late in fall and it will die to the ground and grow again in spring.

The plant flowers on new growth, indicating it should be pruned in spring.

### Miss Ruby Butterfly Bush

Just 4 to 5 feet tall, it's much smaller than older varieties.

This shade of fuchsia-pink has never been seen on a Buddleia before . . . but it makes up for lost time on these long, flower-packed racemes!

'Miss Ruby' is compact and bushy at 4 to 5 feet high and 3 to 4 feet wide, with better branching than many Buddleia. Small enough for a container, it makes a huge impact in the border, so that even a small planting is an instant focal point over two seasons. The foliage is deep green and elegantly pointed, handsome even without its giant wands of brightest fuchsia.



# Japanese zelkova

## Green vase Zelkova

The Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*), and its cultivars, have proven to be a popular and reliable urban tree. Being aware of the differences in the cultivars, and some of the new ones being grown, will help you make the right selection when planting this variety. The species is fast-growing, somewhat wide-spreading, and vase shaped. The most obvious characteristic of the straight species is the somewhat crooked or curve in some of the limbs compared to most of the other cultivars that have straight limbs. Thought at first to become a replacement for the magnificent elm, the Zelkova will never live up to that due to its ultimate smaller size. The leaf is similar to an elm leaf, but narrower. The fall color is usually Yellow.

Its susceptibility to Dutch Elm Disease has been in question, but most anecdotal evidence suggests there is some resistance. Although there has been observed dieback in stressed trees, it appears that once established, it does perform relatively well in the most inhospitable of sidewalk opening locations

Given the toughness of this tree and variety of forms available, Zelkovas will continue to play an important role in our street tree arsenal. There should be no excuse for not choosing the right Zelkova for the right place.



# From the Garden Of Eva



## Ingredients

1 box Pillsbury® refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box  
(or your own home made)

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 9 cups thinly sliced, peeled apples (9 medium)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk



## Pumpkin Pie Dip

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth.

Add in pumpkin, sour cream, cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, and ginger. Mix well.

Fold in the thawed whipped cream.

Serve with green apples, graham cracker sticks, or gingersnaps in a hollowed out pumpkin.

## Apple Slab Pie

Step 1. Heat oven to 450°F. Remove pie crusts from pouches.

Unroll and stack crusts one on top of the other on lightly floured surface. Roll to 17x12-inch rectangle. Fit crust into 15x10x1-inch pan, pressing into corners.

Fold extra pastry crust under, even with edges of pan. Crimp edges.

Step 2. Mix granulated sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and lemon juice. Stir in apples to coat. Spoon apple mixture into crust-lined pan.

Step 3. Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbling. Cool on rack 45 minutes.

Step 4. Mix powdered sugar and milk until well blended.

Drizzle over pie. Allow glaze to set before serving,

## Ingredients

1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

2 cups powdered sugar

1 cup canned pumpkin

1/2 cup sour cream

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger

1 cup frozen whipped cream, thawed

Gingersnap cookies, apples, or cinnamon graham cracker sticks

# Living with nature

## Cecropia Moth

With a wingspan of 5 to 6 inches, the cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia*) is the largest North American moth. It is a member of the family Saturniidae. Cecropia moths are referred to as silkworm moths.



Although these moths are common throughout North America, you don't often see them because they fly only at night. However, because a cecropia moth is colorful as well as large, when you do see one for the first time you will remember it forever!

Like most moths, they are attracted to bright lights. This is where most people encounter them for the first time.

The adult cecropia moth shown here is a female. She has just emerged from her cocoon and expanded her wings. She will not live long (about two weeks) because the adult cecropia cannot eat. The purpose of the adult stage is to mate and lay eggs.

A female cecropia can lay more than one hundred eggs. They are usually placed in small groups on the underside of leaves. Depending upon the weather, it takes seven to fourteen days for the eggs to hatch. The newly hatched caterpillars or larva are black and approximately the size of a mosquito. Cecropia larvae have many enemies. This newly hatched caterpillar is the victim of a tiny spider.



In late summer, the caterpillar is ready to spin a cocoon. It will spend several days spinning a tough, brown, weather-resistant home. Inside the cocoon the caterpillar will pupate and prepare itself for winter and the miraculous metamorphosis in the coming spring.



# Fall Pumpkin Flower planters

Pumpkin planters make great fall decorations. It's a quick and easy project that is fun and satisfying. Pumpkin planters look great in groups or by themselves. You can use them indoors or out.

Pumpkin container gardens also make great Halloween decorations. Paint or draw a face on your pumpkin with a Sharpie. Plant grass, sage, or even a succulent to give your pumpkin planter personality and wild and crazy "hair."

You can use any size plant or pumpkin, just make sure that the diameter and height of the nursery pot, isn't larger than your pumpkin.



If you have a large pumpkin, a product called a Soil Scoop is perfect for scooping the seeds out of your pumpkin. A large spoon or ice cream scoop will also work.



Using a sharp knife, cut a hole in the top of your pumpkin that is almost big enough to fit your plant in, container and all. Once I get the initial hole done, I hold the pot over it and get a better sense of how much bigger to make it.



Turn your pumpkin over and cut a drainage hole in the bottom. This will prevent water from sitting in the bottom of your pumpkin planter which would cause your pumpkin to rot and your plant to drown.



Follow watering and feeding directions for your particular plant and make sure it is getting the required amount of sunlight, though your pumpkin will last longer if it isn't in the hot sun.



## Stop Fall Webworms the Organic Way

It happens like clockwork. Your late-summer garden is looking great and then all of a sudden you see big, horrible webs in your trees and shrubs.

Inside these webs are colonies of caterpillars munching away at your trees' leaves.

Webworms are the caterpillar form of a small white moth. The moths fly around during the summer laying their eggs on the underside of tree leaves.

The moths seem to prefer alder, willow, cottonwood, apple, pear, peach, pecan, walnut, elm, and maples, but will eat a very large variety of trees and shrubs.

As the eggs hatch, the caterpillars start to spin a web around the leaves they're on. They feed for about six weeks and their webs can reach more than 3 feet across. This is when they look their worst.



Strategy 1: They're Only Ugly Before panicking, the first thing you should know is that these webworms don't typically cause a lot of damage to trees and shrubs. They look far worse than they are. So if you don't mind them, the most organic approach is to simply let them be. Even if they defoliate your tree, it's usually late enough in the season that it doesn't harm your tree.

Strategy 2: Remove the Webs In small trees, the most effective solution can be to physically remove the webbing with a shovel, rake, or even a big stick. In larger trees, you can also prune out the affected branches. Throw the nests in the trash. Even if you can't completely remove the nests, don't worry. Simply damaging them and opening up a hole is enough to allow birds or beneficial insects to get rid of the pests for you.

Strategy 3: Encourage Beneficial Insects Several species of insects, including a number of tiny wasps, attack and kill webworms for you. Encourage beneficial insects by planting sunflowers or other plants in the daisy family in your yard. Or purchase beneficial wasps from an online supplier.

Strategy 4: Use Bt A bacterium called Bt infects and kills many species of caterpillars, including fall webworms. A natural caterpillar disease, Bt won't cause damage to plants, people, or pets. Bt is most effective if you can break a hole in the webbing to spray the disease onto the pests. Note: Bt does affect the caterpillars of many Butterflies.

Strategy 5: Spray with Neem Neem is one of a host of organic insecticides available. This product is derived from a tropical tree and can be very effective at getting rid of pests. Note: While neem is organic, it will kill many beneficial insects, so spray with care.

How about making a pumpkin fairy house! How cool would that be.

Just let your imagination run wild.....







## Flowering Cabbage and Kale

Just because summer is beginning to end, that doesn't mean your window box planters have to close out their season too. Get creative and give those planters a second life!



There are many varieties grown mainly for their ornamental leaves, which are brilliant white, red, pink, lavender, blue or violet in the interior of the rosette. They are the result of hybridizing and, although they are still edible, they aren't as tasty and tender as their cousins. Although sometimes referred to as flowering cabbages, it's the leaves that give the plants their color and interest as ornamentals.

Ornamental cabbages and kale can last throughout the winter, but their appearance depends a lot on the weather. Ornamental cabbage and kale look especially good in a large planting, where their color really stands out. If you only want one or two plants, they look less out of place in containers, than they do scattered throughout a garden. In fact, they make nice, long lasting replacement plants for spent summer containers. Since they are low growers, you'll often see them as edging plants, where their purplish hues blend in well with other fall colors.

Flowering kales and cabbages were brought to the United States in 1929 by a USDA officer who had been sent to Asia to look for new plants.

Garden catalogs first offered seed for several varieties in 1936.



# Christmas Gala Night

Friday Nov 1

from 6pm to 9pm



2013 Patience Brewster collection

Has arrived!