

Beauty of the Season

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO A BEAUTIFUL CENTERPIECE

Bring the beauty of the autumn season inside for your Thanksgiving table decorations. With these simple steps, you can use fall colors, autumn foliage and colorful fruits of the season to arrange a dramatic Thanksgiving dinner table.

Step 1. Construct or purchase a Thanksgiving or autumn-themed centerpiece. Use a conventional cornucopia centerpiece or a fall floral arrangement because Thanksgiving is all about tradition. Spread autumn nuts and leaves around your centerpiece.

Step 2. Adorn your table with fall-colored candles set in rustic metal or wooden candleholders. Arrange autumn foliage, nuts, berry assortments, wheat sprigs, mini squash and other seasonal vegetables about the base of your centerpiece.

Step 3. Use a large, hollowed pumpkin in place of a vase to exhibit an autumn floral centerpiece. Spread sprigs of wheat, nuts, berry clusters and fall leaves around the base of your pumpkin.

Step 4. Set your dining table with a tablecloth, place mats and napkins done in fall-themed prints and coordinating solids. Use Thanksgiving prints sparingly to prevent your table from looking busy and attracting attention away from your fall centerpiece.

Step 5. Use napkin rings that reflect the autumn season. Hand-paint leaf patterns onto ordinary wooden napkin rings or utilize purchased

rings with a similar motif.

Step 6. Use your best china or select dishes done in fall motifs or colors that coordinate well with the other elements of your table.

Step 7. Utilize clean autumn leaves as makeshift place cards. Rinse the leaves and gently pat them dry. Write your guest's names on each leaf with a gold or black felt-tip pen. Place one colorful leaf in the center of every plate.

Considerations:

- Keep nuts in their shells when using them as part of your centerpiece.
- Be sure foliage is clean before placing them near food items.
- If your table space is limited, create a small centerpiece. Leave room for dishes, serving platters and condiments.
- Keep the centerpiece at a low height that will allow guests an unobstructed view of one another.
- Don't use scented candles in your centerpiece, as they will interfere with food aromas.

