

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING TROPICAL WREATHS AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Plant Material to Use

What to do Before Making the Wreaths

"Green" Wreaths

Crotons, Aurlalias

Gather the mature, tough leaves when they are not wet with rain or dew. Give them two coats of clear shellac - front and back - right after picking if you want them to last longer.

Schinus (Florida Holly)

Cut branches and place cut ends in boiling water to prevent curling and dropping of leaves.

Surinam Cherry, Governor's Plum, Sapodilla, Orange Jasmine, Pine "Evergreens" and similar plants whose leaves do not wilt so readily.

These leaves are too small to shellac before making the wreaths. they should be well sprayed, front and back, after the wreath is assembled.

Painted Wreaths

Sea Grape Leaves

Gather the dry, tough leaves and paint them beforehand. Enamels may be used, or the gold and silver paint. On the metallic wreaths, finely cut cellophane or "Christmas snow" gives a sparkly effect.

Wild Fern or Bracken

Gather the mature, coarse pieces of fern and paint with silver paint before they begin to curl. Paint may be brushed or sprayed on.

Pine Cones, Coconut "Flowers", Sprays of Pine Needles and other dried leaves or pods may be used - Spanish Moss also.

Paint with silver or desired colors ahead of time so they will be dry when you want to assemble them.

Other Supplies for Wreath Making

Soft wire or string
Old scissors
Wire coat hangers
Corrugated cardboard for frame for flat wreaths
Mixture of equal parts of shellac and alcohol, or varnish and turpentine
Cellophane, oil cloth,
Christmas balls, candles or other trimming supplies.

Design your wreath simply. Have one main "Trimming note" with other smaller ones, if desired. Fasten the leaves tightly to the background so the natural shrinkage will not loosen them. Soft wire is handiest for this. Don't over-decorate - a gay croton wreath needs little extra trimming. Spray the "Green" wreaths well after making - this helps them to last longer.