

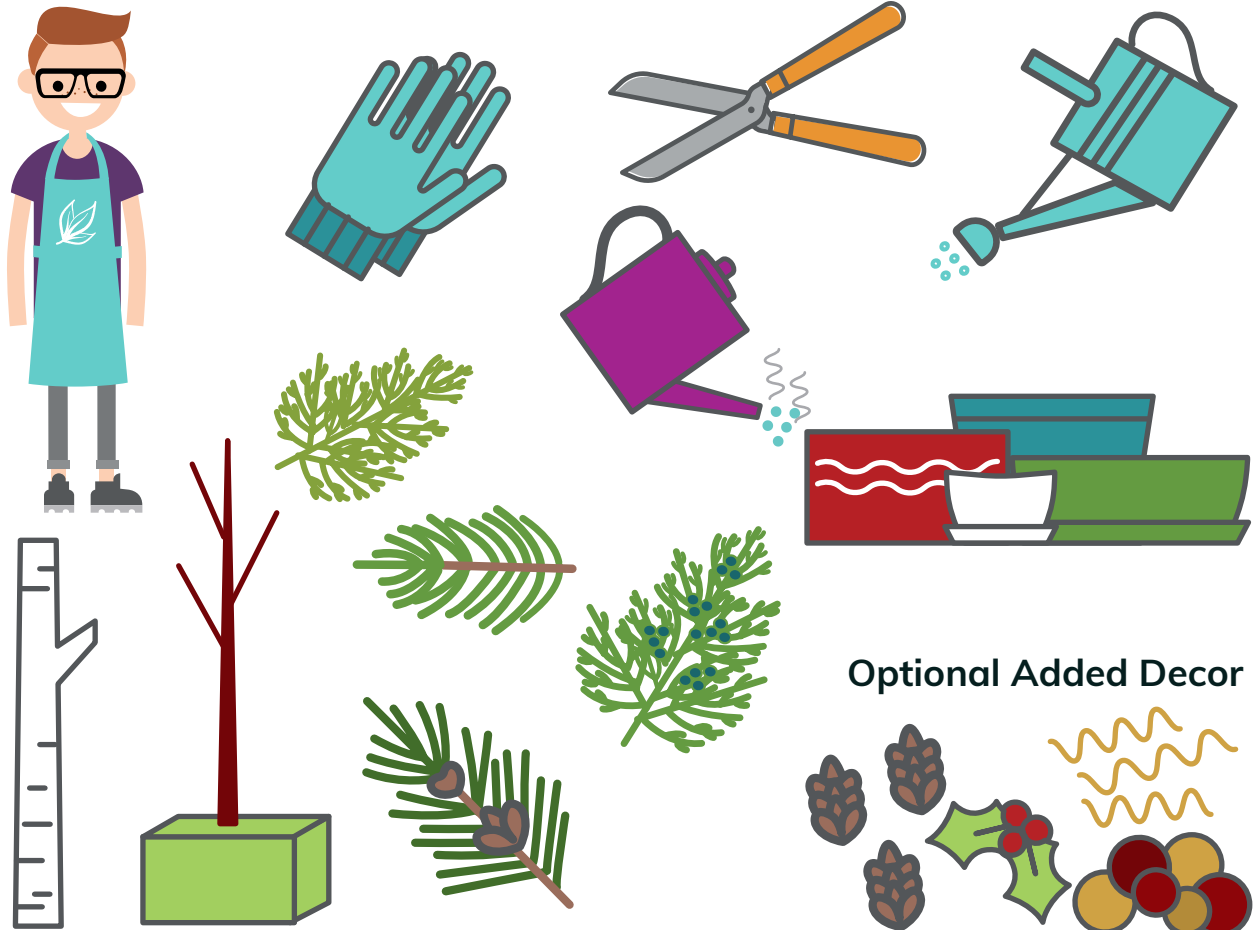


Live Christmas Greens How to Make a Cut Green Arrangement

What are live Christmas greens?

Live Christmas greens are cuttings taken from plants that are colourful in the winter or otherwise associated with Christmas. Traditionally these cuttings are from plants common in the Northern Hemisphere, and often include cuttings from evergreen trees and shrubs, Dogwood and Birch trees.

What You Will Need



Top tip! Generally cut greens can be composted. When you're ready to change your seasonal arrangements, check with your city's website for compost program information.

How to create a winter container.



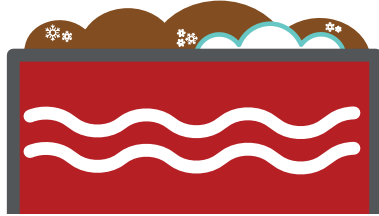
1. Pick your container(s). You can reuse your wood, plastic or metal summer containers as long as they are tolerant of winter conditions.



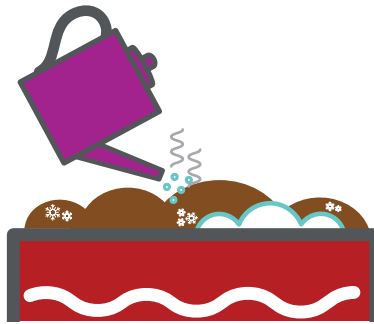
If using a container you used this summer, remove all dead plant matter.



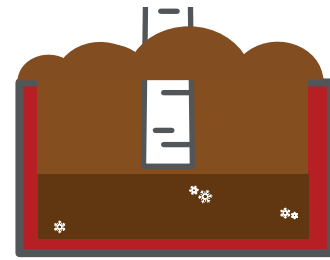
Tip! It's better to cut off dead summer plants rather than dig everything out, because the root balls add stability for winter greens.



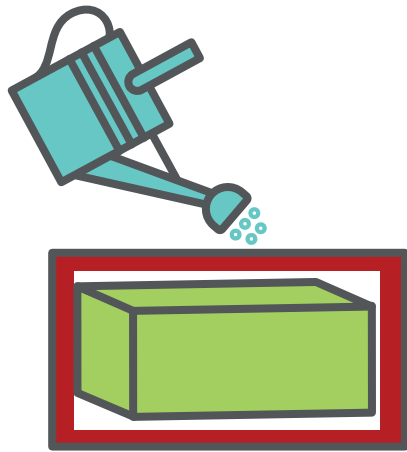
2. The best time to prepare a winter arrangement is before the soil freezes.



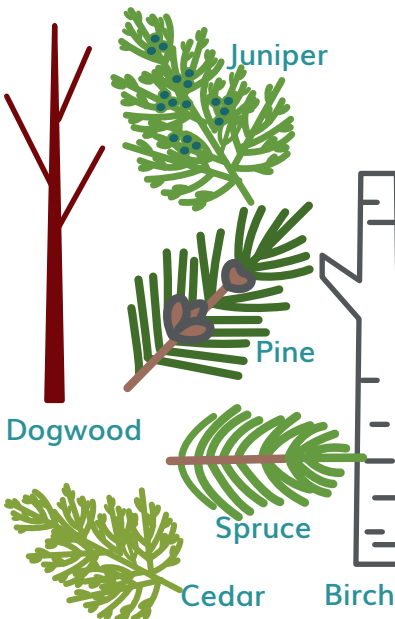
3. If the soil is frozen, thaw it with some boiling water.



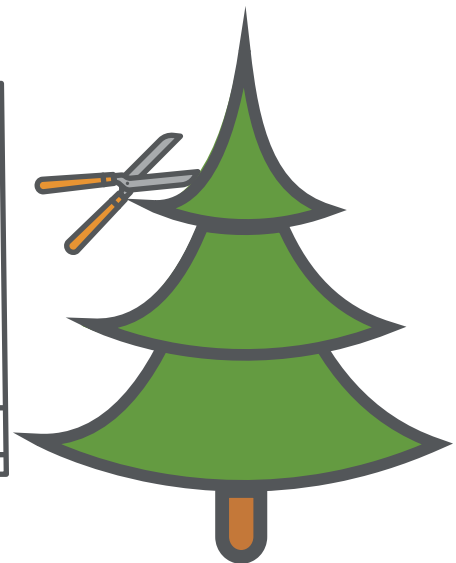
Do not soak the soil; instead pour enough water so the branches stick far enough into the soil to be sturdy.



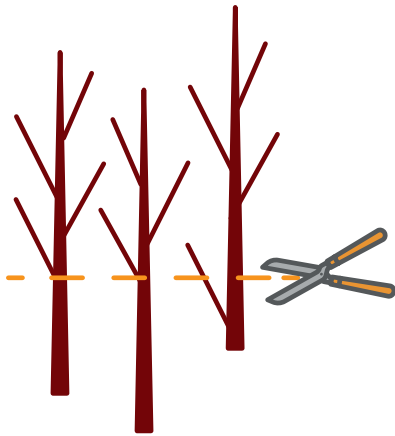
4. If you have outdoor containers without soil, floral foam (cut to size) can be used instead. Make sure to water the foam thoroughly before inserting the cut greens.



5. Then select your materials. Juniper, pine, dogwood, spruce, cedar and birch make great arrangements.



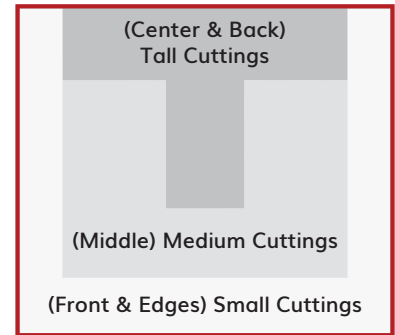
Tip! Use material from your yard and garden, including branches pruned in the fall.



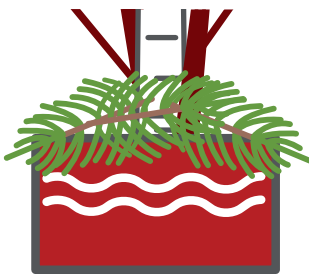
6. Make a fresh cut at the bottom of each branch before you start arranging. Cut branches at different lengths to create texture.



7. Start placing tall branches and cut greens in the soil of the center back of the container.



Tip! Arrange cuttings from the tallest to smallest. Start at the centre back and end with the front and edges of the container.



8. Place spruce cuttings horizontally over the container to hide the soil.



9. Then continue to fill gaps with other branches. Have some branches angled out and some standing straight up to create a dimensional look.



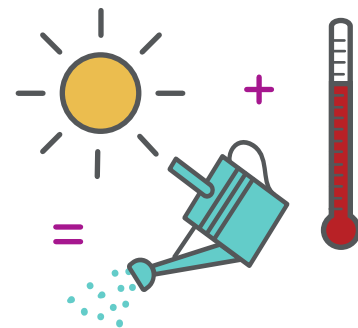
10. Layer items of different textures and colours to add visual interest.



11. Use items such as pine cones, eucalyptus sprigs, ornaments or faux plants and berries for a festive Christmas arrangement.



12. It's a good idea to mist your arrangements with Wilt Proof Plant Protector or water to prevent cut greens from drying out.



13. Make sure to water well so the soil will freeze. A frozen arrangement is sturdier and less likely to be blown away.

Tip! On warm winter days add enough water so it will re-freeze.