



Holiday Hints

Pomegranates: An Elegant And Colorful Addition To Festive Holiday Decorations

(NASPA)—If you're searching for a fast and fabulous centerpiece idea or a homemade holiday gift from the heart, consider something innovative this year—the pomegranate. Because of its deep red coloring and extra-large size, the Wonderful variety of pomegranate can be used as a festive addition to any holiday decoration.

Throughout its 5,000-year history, the pomegranate has been revered not only by painters and sculptors, but also recognized in many cultures, religions and mythology as a symbol of love.

Pomegranates are easy to work with and make a dramatic statement in any centerpiece. Here are some basic tips for how to decorate with pomegranates and step-by-step instructions for a classic candle ring:

Enhance the color and textured surface of pomegranates by applying a light coat of cooking oil to the surface. Remove excess with a paper towel. Buff the surface till it shines!

Or, if you prefer extra sparkle without losing the rich burgundy-red color, dust the untreated surface of the pomegranate with an aerosol spray glitter, available at craft stores. The fine glitter adds a bit of sheen to the surface and dresses up the fruit for the holidays. If you can't find the spray in craft stores, try glitter hairspray from the beauty supply store. (Note: Don't try this if you have already shined the surface of the fruit. It won't adhere to a shiny surface.)

Classic Candle Centerpiece

1. Fill the bottom half of a pretty pedestal bowl with floral foam.

2. Insert 2 or 3 candles in the center, close, but not touching each other.



The deep red color and versatility of the pomegranate helps make this classic candle ring a quick and easy holiday centerpiece or a great gift.

3. Use ivy or garland to surround the candles and cover the foam.

4. Nestle in fresh pomegranates (on skewers)* and roses.

5. Decorate with smaller, natural items such as nuts, pinecones, holly and ribbons.

* To secure pomegranates in a formal arrangement, insert two 6 inch bamboo skewers at least 1 inch deep into the fruit. Space the insertions about 1 inch apart. Then place the skewers into the floral foam to hold them securely. Using two skewers instead of one will better support the weight of the fruit and prevent it from turning in the design.

You'll find the Wonderful variety of pomegranate in plentiful supply from mid-October through December. And, by visiting the Web site, www.pomwonderful.com, you'll find more pomegranate decorating ideas, recipes and eating tips.