

HALLOWEEN HINTS

Pumpkin-Carving Ideas

(NAPSA)—Perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Halloween is a pumpkin carved into a jack-o'-lantern, but if you're looking for a unique way to impress your family and friends this Halloween, consider carving a butternut squash into a bewitching harvest-style centerpiece. It makes a great addition to any autumn table.

Here's how it's done, according to Julie Mulligan, author of "A Year Full of Flowers" and floral expert for 1-800-FLOWERS.COM:

You'll need flowers such as Asiatic lilies, seeded eucalyptus, hypericum, celosia and, if available, solidago. Select any size butternut squash that stands up nice and straight and cut off the squash about an inch from the top. Scoop out pulp, seeds and flesh of the squash, leaving one-inch thickness of flesh next to the squash skin.

Next, stuff water-soaked floral foam, available from most craft stores, into the squash cavity. Cut and insert a lily in the foam for a focal point. Cut and insert the other lilies. Cut all flowers into sprigs and insert into foam to fill gaps. Before you cut the flowers, hold them near the squash to determine the height and be sure to give each stem a fresh cut on an



Turn a butternut squash into a bewitching harvest-style centerpiece. 1-800-Flowers.com floral expert Julie Mulligan tells you how.

angle. It's truly a one-of-a-kind arrangement.

Another idea for a centerpiece is the Pumpkin n' Posies arrangement found exclusively at www.1800flowers.com. The arrangement, featuring gorgeous fall flowers in an amber glass pumpkin cookie jar, is excellent for Halloween, Thanksgiving or any fall occasion.