



RUISLIP
CENTRAL
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FROM YOUR GARDEN

IT'S now 3 weeks until Christmas, This time last year I wrote about different Christmas Bulbs and plants, so this year I thought it would be a good idea to use material from the garden to make your own decorations. So RCHS Committee Member Margaret McIntosh brings some ideas to the table...

I am a gardener, not a flower arranger. I like to bring my garden into the house, especially at Christmas time, and use plant material in autumn colours for a natural display.

First I pick short stems of different foliage, colours and textures.

- Variegated** - *Euonymus fortunei* silver queen; *Aucuba crotonifolia*; *Osmanthus heterophyllus* Aureomarginatus; Ivy
- Purple** - *Phormium tenax* Bronze baby; *Heuchera* Plum pudding; *Pittisporum* Tom thumb; *Hebe* Autumn glory
- Gold** - *Choisia* Sundance; *Ligustrum* (privet) Aureum
- Evergreen** - *Sarcococca* Christmas box; Conifer; *Fatsia*
- Seed heads** - Hydrangea; Sedum; Allium

NB. Stand all fresh material in water overnight.

TABLE DECORATION

- Prepare your container. A shallow dish with wet oasis held in place by florist's tape.
- Place 2 shoots close together at one end, repeat with similar colour, at the other side to balance.
- Place a different texture next to these for contrast. Continue to place stems to cover the oasis. Alternate colours and textures.
- Add a focal point: *Choisia* at the front; *Fatsia* for height.
- Add fir cones or seed heads to fill any gaps.
- To add colour, place a candle in the centre and stand on a red mat.



Finally, as this is the last article of the year you may be wondering what you can be doing in the garden over the Christmas break! Well if the weather is mild, get out there and remove all leaves and dead growth from your beds as this is where slugs and snails over winter and cause all sorts of problems for you in early spring. Make sure you air greenhouses

during days where the temperature is above 5°C and water those over wintering plants sparingly about every two weeks.

The RCHS would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great gardening year in 2016.

If you would like to join us in 2016 it is just £5 We've some great events lined up.

Please cut off the form at the bottom and send it with a cheque made payable for £5 to the RCHS.

Warren



**Application for
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
2016**

Please complete and send a CHEQUE MADE PAYABLE TO R.C.H.S for £5 with a SAE to:
Membership Secretary, RCHS, 28 Stanley Road, Northwood, Middlesex. HA6 1RG.

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone number (Optional):

Email address (Essential):

Have you been a member previously? YES / NO