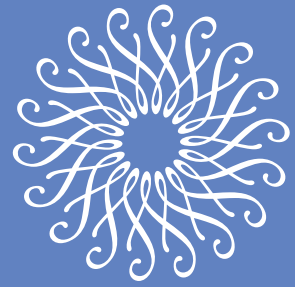


All About Topiary Shrubs Activity



At a Glance

Search for shrubs growing in your own backyard and learn how to create a topiary of your own.

Did You Know?

Did you know Longwood Gardens has an entire garden area dedicated to the art of topiary? The art of creating a topiary is the horticultural practice of training plants, shrubs, and trees to grow into shapes. The display at Longwood includes more than 50 specimens of Taxus or English Yew or in 20 different shapes. The wedding cake topiary is 20 feet high! Some of the Yews were planted in 1936, but most were added in 1959 from the Bismark Estate in Bayville, Long Island.

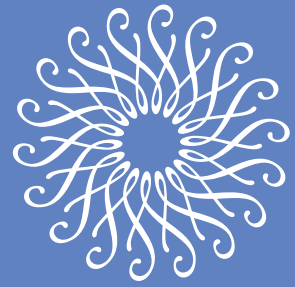
The Yew is a needle-bearing evergreen tree or shrub used by gardeners to enhance the landscape. Our outdoor landscape team care for, prune, and train the Yews to grow into fanciful cones, spirals, and other shapes. They trim them once in late June or July. Here is what you would see at Longwood.

Shrubs

The Yews used in Longwood's Topiary Garden can be considered shrubs. A shrub is a woody plant with multiple branches starting at the base. It is usually smaller than most trees. In the United States there are several plants considered to be shrubs. Shrubs are perfect plants to be used in making a topiary, because they grow low to the ground. The best specimens are those that have small leaves and dense, thick foliage. These can easily be trimmed to maintain any shape desired.



All About Topiary Shrubs Activity



Get Outside and Hunt for Shrubs

Get outside and hunt for shrubs growing in your own yard or nearby park, with an adult. Check off the ones you can find.



Witch Hazel



Azalea



Roses



Forsythia



Holly



Hydrangea



Boxwood

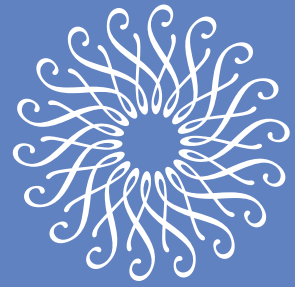


Rhododendron



Lilac

All About Topiary Shrubs Activity



Live Topiary Materials:

When choosing a plant for the live topiary activity consider using: rosemary, thyme, lavender, or any vining plant (like ivy).

- 1 potted plant (4"–6")
- Thick floral wire or metal hanger
- Scissors

Activity: Make Your Own Topiary

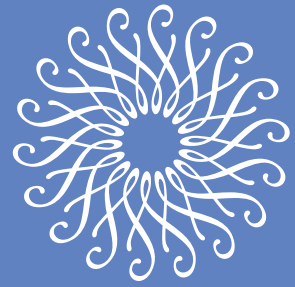
Train your own live plant to create a topiary of your very own or create a craft topiary that will last forever using craft materials.

Live Topiary Directions:

1. Cut a 12" piece of floral wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape or any other shape you prefer.
3. Place the pointed end, where the wire connects, into the soil behind the stem of the plant.
4. Take the long branches of the plant and gently wrap them around the wire.
5. As the plant grows you will need to wind them onto the wire. This will take time, be patient.
6. Eventually, the wire will be covered with the greenery.



All About Topiary Shrubs Activity



Craft Topiary Materials:

- 1 Styrofoam ball (substitutes: small empty box or pinecone)
- Green moss
- Craft glue
- Q-tips
- Ribbon
- 1 popsicle stick or 4" wooden dowel rod or 4" wooden skewer
- 1 (2.5" or 4") terra cotta pot
- Play sand, stones, or pebbles

Craft Topiary Directions:

1. Fill the terra cotta pot with sand, stones, or pebbles.
2. Place a popsicle stick, a 4" wooden dowel rod, or 4" skewer into the center of the pot.
3. Place the Styrofoam ball on the top of the stick.
4. Use a Q-tip to cover a portion of the Styrofoam ball with glue.
5. Place green moss over the glue, pressing lightly to make sure it sticks.
6. Continue adding glue and moss until the ball is completely covered with green moss.
7. Use your ribbon to tie a bow around the stick or the base of the pot.
8. Place your topiary in a location to be enjoyed by all.

