

Fresh Boxwood and Evergreen Table Top Tree  
For the New York Botanical Garden  
Demonstrator: Diana Conklin Farmer, Maker, Artist

CRF1990

Instructions based on a 6 in. opening and height pot.

**You will need:** Pot with 5 -6 inch opening, 1 -2 Bricks of Oasis Floral Foam, knife, , clippers, scissors, fresh boxwood and assorted fresh evergreens, 3", 4" and 6" green wired floral pics, polyfoil, (waterproof foil), a 12" ruler, a 24 in ruler or a ridged straight edge or stick, a hot glue gun with glue sticks

**You may want to get:** Dried Flowers, artificial berries, dried hydrangea, some gold and burgundy spray paint from a craft store, pods, cones, babies' breath, Fresh cut flowers, small fruit (these may need to be changed out during the lifetime of the arrangement, Nuts, Dried grasses, and even brown dried things that might still be in the garden. They can be touched up with a bit of gold or Burgundy spray paint

Start by soaking one brick of foam in water for 15 min. or more

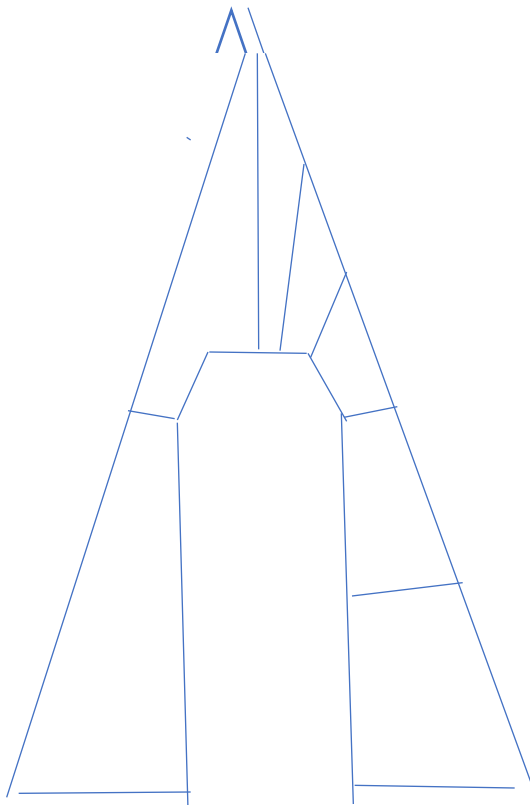
Cut poly foil approx. 20" x 20" and with fist and knuckles push it to the bottom of the pot. Fan out the top of the foil over the top of the pot.

Push soaked foam in to the poly foiled pot with the palm of your hands. If the fit is not snug than cut pieces off the other oasis brick to put in the pot around the center brick to make it snug. Trim the 4 top conners off. (see diagam) It is important to handle the Oasis very carefully. Try to not put fingers into it or damage to smooth surfaces. Next Step: Inserting the greens in a systematic way: When putting the greens in always remember that they should only be pushed in UP to 1 in. Pushing them in farther than that could create a weak disintegrating piece of foam.

The initial shaping is easiest if just the boxwood is used and the greens saved for fill. **First piece:** Cut approx. 1, 12" piece. This is the top of your tree. It is important that it be straight and not have any shorter branches coming off the main stem. If you can't find that perfect piece than cut the outer branches away (save them). Insert that straight boxwood 1 "into the foam so that it is pointing straight up.

**Next** cut 8, 10" pieces. Move to the bottom of the tree/foam, at the height of the pot. Push one piece 1" or less, in to each side of the Oasis foam. The direction of these pieces need to be pointing straight out horizontal. North south east and west. Then put the last 4 straight out (see diagram) off each corner of the foam. The next step will help you to see the shape of what your tree will look like. Using the 24" ruler or ridged hardedge, hold it in place so that it is touching the tippy top of the tree and the tip of the bottom of the tree. (see < diagram)

This will be the angle you will use to shape and place all the rest of the pieces. Notice as you move upward on the brick that the pieces get shorter. So, about half way up the brick your pieces of boxwood should be approx. 4inches



Hardedge or 24 inch ruler

It can be helpful to have your tree on a lazy Susan. Begin adding/pushing boxwood in by cutting different lengths and putting 3 in on one side. Then turn the arrangement and put 3 assorted sizes in the proper spot (the ruler/hardedge will be your guide) into the brick, Turn, again, Turn again, Repeat this many times slowly building the shape and base of your tree. Be sure to use the ruler/hardedge to help you with the very top pieces. The top can be tricky. The shortest pieces on your tree will be at the top corner of the brick. After the top corner of the brick the pieces will get longer. None of these top pieces should ever get longer than the first top piece.

Continue until you can see the cone shape of the tree.

**Next:** Switch to the evergreens, you can always come back and add more boxwood. At this time be very careful that the evergreens do not get longer than the boxwood. You do not want to lose your shape now. Keep using that hardedge to keep you in check with the correct length. Remember to only put 3 or several in on each side and then turn the tree. This technique keeps the tree even.

Decorating: The fun part. Some items may need a floral pic wired to the bottom (hydrangea) or some just glued to the bottom. (cones). Some ingredients will have a stem, and in that case no need to use a pic. If you are using hydrangea. Dampen it with a plant mister and let it sit for 5 min. Then you can break it apart into 10 - 12 or more small clumps. Wire them on several different size floral pics.

The different size floral pics are for the different lengths as you go up the tree.

You can wrap delicate battery-operated twinkle lights around the tree. And tuck the battery pack under the bottom branches and the polyfoil.

So, in review if it needs a stem use a floral pic. Either use the wire to bind the ingredient to the pic. Or cut the wire off the pic and just glue it to the ingredient. (ex. Pinecones) If the ingredient has its own stem no need for a pic.

You can use any color floral paint on the greens or the decorative ingredients to give it some pizzaz. I prefer gold, silver or a burgundy paint for a holiday theme. However I encourage exploring with the colors. You can add turquoise and a dusting of gold, or ever orange with a dusting of gold. The tree and evergreens will suggest Holidays, even if the colors are not. Have fun. Paint outside and let it dry for 30 min.

You can add, holly berries, or artificial berries, . Many times you can take a walk outside and find something in nature to add to your tree. It could be bark, dried up flower heads or seed heads, Cones grasses, leaves, branches. There is stuff everywhere. And if it is to earthy looking dust it with a touch of gold.

Fresh ingredients can be used but may need to be change out periodically. Fresh things do not last. You may want to push a floral pic in to the bottom of a lady apple, sickle pear, sm. Clementine, small pomegranate or artichoke You can add fresh flowers as long as you are keeping the foam wet. Roses, Babies Breath, etc.

Additional things to add. Dried Flowers, Artificial berries and flowers, cinnamon sticks, sea shells.

To care for your tree. Once a week place it in the sink and run the tap or sprayer, directly down off the top of the tree. Allow the foam to soak in the water. It is ok to let it overflow the pot. A good soaking. Be sure to display your tree on a saucer of some sort.

Your tree will last months. You can let it dry out and it will still look nice.

When you are ready to discard it. Mist it liberally with water, let it sit for 10 min. and remove all decorations that still look good. Save the pot and the foil, for next years tree. Discard the greens and the foam.

If you have enjoyed this project, then consider joining me next Dec. in person at NYBG to create your tree.

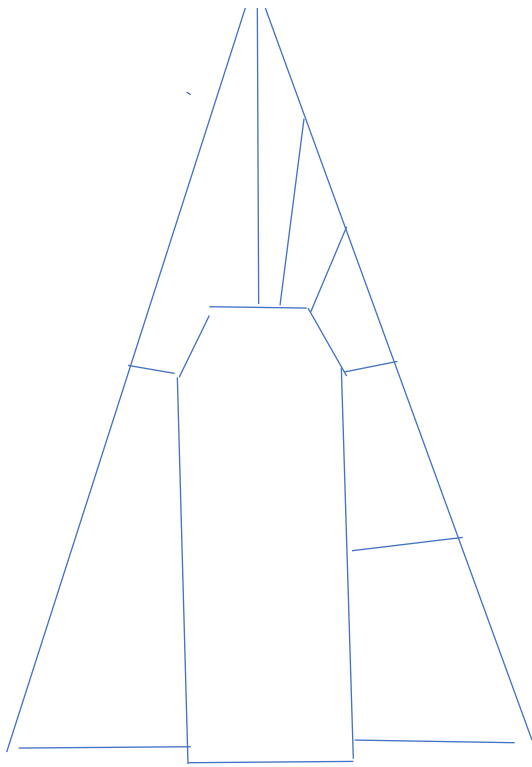
If you have any questions you can email me: [deverlastings@cs.com](mailto:deverlastings@cs.com),

Follow me: [www.facebook.com/everlastingsbydiana](https://www.facebook.com/everlastingsbydiana)

Check out the beautiful but out dated web site. I decided to create my own site last Feb. and then as we know many of our worlds became very different. Everything is changing. I have not had the time to update. A good cold month project. [www.everlastings.net](http://www.everlastings.net)

Thanks for signing up and signing on. Be Healthy this holiday season. Diana Conklin

Diagram of the angle and length of the sprigs.



Approx. 12.5 inches for the top piece. Straight up and no branches

Next line is the steep part of the top of the tree, use your hardedge to determine the length.

Next line use the hard edge. It would be one of the corner of the brick pieces. It will be very short. Approx. 2.5 inches.

Next. Line very short Approx 1 -2.5 inches. This area on the brick is a very important area for shaping the tree. You can get a very rounded shrub bush if these pieces are too long. ( there is nothing wrong with a shrub shaped bush) It just may not be to look you are trying to achieve.

Next line is mid-way up the brick of foam. Approx. 4 inches.

Next line is the bottom horizontal pieces. They are 8.5 in. and you are inserting 8 of them around the bottom of the brick, and top of pot. One sprig on each side, and one on each corner. That's it for now. Try not to get caught into adding more at this time. You can come back to this area.

Remember the next step is to place 3 different lengths of sprigs on one side of the brick and then turn and do the other sides and repeat. Continue throughout the process of the project to put 3 in a turn.