

VANESSA MONARDO

Winter in the Planter Garden

A little help for a welcoming winter entrance.



ONE RECIPE. A SIMPLE METHOD. CARE THROUGH WINTER.

Start with the branches, build a full base of greens, then add the pieces you love. This little guide gives you a place to begin.

LET'S BUILD: START ON PAGE 2

Start with four layers

You don't need to decide on every accent before you start. Build the shape first, then step back and see what it needs.

Before you start

Use a pot rated for outdoor winter use, with clear drainage. Fill the soil to the rim. Build in cool weather while the soil is still workable, before it freezes solid.

01 HEIGHT

Set birch, dogwood or curly willow deep in the centre. Aim for at least two-thirds of the pot's height above the rim; go taller for more impact.

02 BASE GREENS

Layer cedar, pine and fir for fullness. Angle stems outwards and let a few branches drape over the rim.

03 TEXTURE + FOCAL POINT

Tuck in magnolia, cones or pods. Put the main accents where you'll see them from the street, then add smaller pieces around them.

04 THE FINISH

Add berries, ribbon and outdoor-rated lights last. Weave lights through the greens so you see the glow rather than the cord.

[TRY THE RUSTIC NEUTRAL RECIPE ON PAGE 3](#)

RUST + GREY + CREAM

Rustic Neutral

Warm colours, frosted cones and natural greens. This look works well against stone, brick and weathered wood.

WHAT TO GATHER

Start A winter-safe pot and soil to the rim

Height White-painted curly willow; tall cedar branches at the back

Base Douglas fir and variegated oregonia

Texture Magnolia tips

Accents Faux blue berry branches, frosted pinecones and ourico pods

Focal point An outdoor lantern and battery candle, scaled to your pot



The lantern arrangement.

Use as much as your pot needs. Stem size and fullness vary, so treat this as a materials guide.

Put it together

Set the willow first. Build the greens around it, then tuck in the magnolia and accents. Position the lantern securely, with branches rising above it. Step back to the curb and fill the gaps you can see.

[FOUR LAYERS: PAGE 2](#)[WINTER CARE: PAGE 4](#)

Keep it looking good

A winter planter will change with the weather. A few small checks and fresh stems can make a big difference.

Water when you build

Water the cut greens in at the start. During thaws, check the soil. Water only if it's drying and drains freely. Leave frozen or waterlogged soil alone.

Watch the sun and wind

Cut greens dry faster in sun, wind and warm weather. Cedar does best sheltered from direct winter sun. Replace dry or browning stems as needed.

Go gently after snow

Brush heavy snow off gently. Wait for a thaw before bending frozen branches back into place.

Wilt-Pruf is optional

Use it only on suitable greens and follow the directions on your exact bottle. Protect faux accents and finished surfaces from spray.

After Christmas

Lift out the obvious holiday pieces and keep the branches, cones and other winter accents. Refresh tired greens. Save birch and curly willow for your spring planter.

These recipes use cut stems. Rooted plants need their own hardiness, moisture checks and winter protection; ask a local nursery about your plants.

A quick check before you call it finished

Step back to the curb, then have another look at dusk.

- ☐ Drainage is clear and the soil is filled to the rim.

- ☐ The centrepiece is tall enough and secure.

- ☐ The greens look full, with something draping over the rim.

- ☐ The colours work with the house and front door.

- ☐ The accents sit among the greens, with one main focal point.

- ☐ Lights and decorations are rated for outdoors.

- ☐ The path and doorway are clear.

- ☐ I've watered the cut greens in and know when to check again.

FOR MY ENTRANCE

My colours

My centrepiece

What I'll refresh or change

Ready for more ideas?

This is one place to start. The full 48-page magazine gives you more colours, more recipes and a plan for the whole winter.



Golden Berry



Noel Noir



Cream Elegance

INSIDE THE FULL ISSUE

Six planter recipes, including two winter kits.

The matching wreath, shown step by step.

A countdown from October through March.

Ideas for the whole entrance and after dark.

Greenery, care and printable planning pages.

Explore the magazine at wreathcoach.com

Know someone who loves winter planters? Share this guide.

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