



# Hydrangea Bleu

Floral & Gift Ideas as Fresh as our Flowers!

HYDRANGEABLEU.COM

SPECIAL DECEMBER, 2010

## Welcome:

*They're back! The Christmas tree lots have sprung up again and the annual ritual to find a Christmas tree can begin. I've always loved the tree hunt. When we were kids, I remember dragging my Dad to 5 or 6 lots (which back then meant pretty much every one) before settling on a tree. Growing up, my Dad always had large trees, so our trees were 7 to 8 feet tall and consumed the family room. They were always Douglas Fir, always symmetrical, and always green because my Mom loved the evergreen scent. Over the years my trees have varied from lightly flocked to green, from Silver Fir to Noble Fir, from table top to 6-1/2 feet. I've found that I prefer a tree that has some imperfection to it so that I can fill it with something unexpected like a stuffed Santa or a trailing garland of ribbon, silk flowers, and ornaments. Whatever your preference in trees, I wish you joy in your pursuit! Merry Christmas and Happy Hunting! Anne*



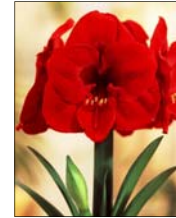
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## Flower of the Month: Amaryllis

Amaryllis, while available year round, is probably most commonly seen at Christmas. These bold blooms are striking by themselves and so are frequently seen potted individually. The amaryllis boasts 4 to 6 trumpet shaped blossoms clustered atop a stem 1 to 3 feet high. As a cut flower, they prefer water to foam and have a vase life of 7 to 14 days.



If you are interested in the journey that the amaryllis has taken throughout the centuries, want information on growing them from bulbs, and anything else related to the amaryllis, check out a book by Starr Ockenga entitled "Amaryllis."

[Know someone who is getting married? Have them check out our Wedding Gallery; www.hydrangeableu.com](#)

## How To: How do I make my Christmas tree look like the magazines and not spend hundreds?

A well designed tree is not hard to achieve, if you spend a little time planning. To start, pick a theme (woodland, vintage, seashore, etc.), or a style (contemporary, traditional, etc.), or a color (all metallics, red & gold, etc.). Once you've decided on a theme and before you buy anything, sort out the decorations that you already have that fit the look you want. Then, fill in what you need. For ornaments, for example, purchase boxes of inexpensive solid colored ornaments in various sizes. Before you hang anything on the tree though, you must hang the lights. Lights are foundation of



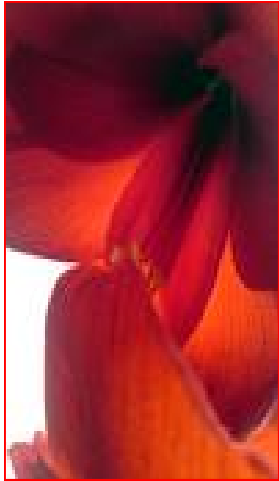
your tree. The trees in the magazines all have one thing in common - they are full of lights from top to bottom. Generally, you will need 100 lights per foot to achieve a designer look. When stringing the lights, start where the branch meets the trunk and wrap the branch outward. Once you reach the tip of the branch, run the string back along the same branch and start the process again on the adjacent branch. In addition to lights, the other major element of a designer tree is the application of repetition. You can create repetition with ribbon, ornaments, and garland. By repeating the same ribbon, ornaments, and garland you give the tree a unified look. Email me: [anne@hydrangeableu.com](mailto:anne@hydrangeableu.com).



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**“Whispers from the Flower Fields “**



"Flowers seem intended for the solace of ordinary humanity."

John Ruskin

**Thanks a bunch for picking Hydrangea Bleu!!**



**TIPS & TRICKS FOR AMARYLLIS!**

- Vase life is 7 to 14 days.
- Handle with care - the blooms bruise easily .

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**Eco: “Decorations That Go Anywhere...”**

**Hydrangea Bleu Fine Flowers (949) 454-9041**

**ORGANIC TWINKLERS:**

Holiday candles nested in fruits or vegetables are a creative way to light up a room, and an excellent reason to forgo traditional holiday candleholders for a more “natural” alternative. To avoid harmful environmental and health-related problems associated with conventional candles, consider beeswax or soy oil candles. (They smell better, too !)

**ORANGE CLOVE TWINKLER:**

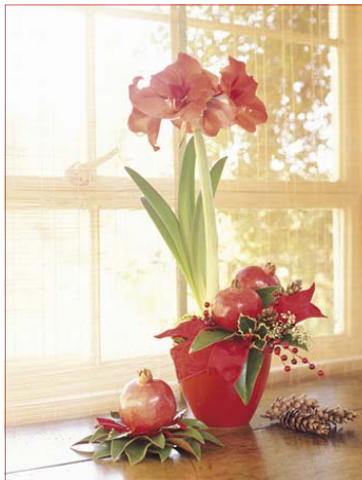
Materials: Knife, whole cloves, beeswax candle, whole orange

1. Cut the bottom of the orange so it can sit flat.
2. Cut a hole in the center.
3. Scoop out the insides enough to fit a candle.
4. Decorate the rim of hole by pressing cloves into the orange skin.
5. Insert beeswax candle in the center hole.

Variation: Make an artichoke twinkle by cutting out and scooping the center of a choke for a candle.

**BAMBOO, CINNAMON STICK, OR MAGNOLIA LEAF TWINKLERS:**

Materials: Bamboo, cinnamon sticks, magnolia leaves, twine, braided rope, or raffia, or other rustic looking string, glass jar, cranberries or



ribbon, glue, rubber band, candle large enough to stick out of the jar. (You can also use these twinkles as vases).

1. Chose a jar that is about 2 inches shorter than your candle, and just the same length as your bamboo, cinnamon, or magnolia leaves.
2. Place rubber band around the middle of your jar.
3. Apply glue along the side of the bamboo, cinnamon stick, or leaf and fit the item inside the rubber band, with glue against the jar.

Repeat until the entire jar is covered with bamboo, cinnamon sticks, or leaves.

4. Wrap braided rope over the rubber band and tie it attractively.
5. Tie a festive bow over the knotted rope.
6. Insert candle.

**CRANBERRY HOLIDAY “BEADS”:**

Though you can purchase plastic or glass beads at the store, handmade cranberry bead strands are elegant, traditional alternatives, and easy to make. These are truly all-purpose. You can decorate lamps, chandeliers, balconies, and even windows with these festive and colorful “organic” beads.



## Eco: "Decorations That Go Anywhere..."

### Materials:

Strong thread, whole cranberries (amount depends on length of desired strand), needle, at least 1.5 inches long.

1. Thread needle
2. Tie large knot at the end of your thread.
3. Begin threading cranberries onto the thread— make sure the knot holds at the end.
4. Continue until your strand reaches a desired length.
5. Tie a large knot at the other end.

Variations: Thread pinecones, dried apricots or cranberries, or bay leaves into the mix.

Make a popcorn chain, which can be fed to the birds after you're done.

### **MANTLES, BALCONIES, & BANISTERS:**

Instead of plastic or store-bought trim, use excess Christmas tree trim for your mantle, centerpieces, or tables. You can often collect trim when selecting your Christmas tree, especially if buying from a Christmas tree farm. You will decrease consumption and enjoy the festive scent of real tree trim!

### **TREE TRIM DECORATING SUGGESTIONS**

1. Place trim along the mantle and nestle poinsettia flowers, pinecones, pomegranates, and ornaments within it.

Hang pomegranates ornaments from the mantle to complement the trim.

2. Intertwine cranberry beads into Christmas tree trim.
3. Tie cinnamon sticks with festive ribbons onto trim.

### **TABLE AND CENTERPIECE DECORATIONS**

#### **Bowls of festive natural objects**

- Place a festive cloth or tree trim in a pretty bowl.
  - Gather pinecones, pomegranates, ornaments, and apples and place them in the bowl.
- Sprinkle tiny handmade paper snowflakes in the bowl.

#### **PINECONE PLACE HOLDERS**

1. Make name cards on the backs of used greeting card pictures. You can do this by cutting pictures from old greeting cards and writing a name on the non-picture blank side of the paper.
2. Fit name cards in pinecones
3. Attach a festive ribbon or strip of festive fabric.
4. Match the fabric with a color from the rag napkin rings (see below).

#### **COLORFUL RAG NAPKIN RINGS:**

Using cloth napkins is a great way to cut down on holiday waste. In addition, cloth napkins look far prettier than disposable paper ones. While working as well as conventional rings, colorful rag napkin rings look delightful and demonstrate your creativity and environmental conscience.

1. Cut festively colored fabric into 5-by-5-inch strips.
2. Tie strips in single knots around old napkin rings for a festive feel.
3. Thread dried cranberries onto thick thread with a needle.
4. Attach these strands to the rag rings.
5. Change colors for new holidays.

#### **TREE TRIMMING/DECORATING**

- Hang memorabilia from the tree like a baby's first shoe, or a husband's first Christmas card.
- Hang cookie cutters with festive ribbons attached.
- Hang pomegranates instead of buying new Christmas balls or bulbs.

Get outdoor light strands that are wired in parallel. These have separate circuitry so that if one bulb blows out the rest will keep shining; all you have to do is replace the bulb rather than the entire strand of lights. Strands sold with series wiring stand or fall together, making it almost impossible to find and replace a single blown-out bulb.

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