

Natural Materials for Fall Decorating



While some and replace them with large pumpkins. Or, use a small pumpkin in place of a single annual when planting up new containers. Pumpkins create an elegant scene in the garden when they are nestled amongst fall-blooming annuals and perennials. Use straw or hay bales to form the base of large displays. They form a stable base for pumpkins or planters. You can also stick decorative signs into them. Mums and pansies steal the show in fall. Mums flower abundantly in a myriad of fall colors. Pansies sport bright colors and cheerful faces. Both withstand light frosts so plant them in the garden where color is waning or in container plantings, and enjoy them into November.



Another obvious choice for fall decorating is pumpkins and gourds. Now available in unique colors and shapes, pumpkins can be used in a multitude of ways. For a quick update, remove summer-worn flowers from urns

and replace them with large pumpkins. Or, use a small pumpkin in place of a single annual when planting up new containers. Pumpkins create an elegant scene in the garden when they are nestled amongst fall-blooming annuals and perennials. Use straw or hay bales to form the base of large displays. They form a stable base for pumpkins or planters. You can also stick decorative signs into them. Apples are another natural choice. Make apples the theme of your next casual gathering. Red and green apples piled in simple baskets make an attractive centerpiece. Scoop out the center of apples (brush with lemon juice to prevent browning) and insert tea lights – apple candleholders. All that's missing is the apple cider and delicious apple pie for desert. Ornamental cabbage can also take center stage in a tablescape. Create the centerpiece by planting cabbages in a wooden trough, lining the edges with moss. Complement the centerpiece by tying individual cabbage leaves to napkin-wrapped silverware.



The color of ornamental cabbage and kale intensifies in cool weather.

Instead of using cornstalks this year, go upscale with broomcorn. Their colorful seedheads brighten arrangements, wreaths, and other fall displays. Purchase decorative Indian corn with kernels in colors from pale yellow to dark brown, pink to dark red, and olive green to black. Gather some together in a decorative basket, or hang some on the front door or on the back of your garden bench. Don't forget about seedheads and pods. Often considered the 'dead' stage of a plant, seedheads and pods are sometimes more dramatic and last longer than the flowers. Many can be left to dry in the garden and will wait patiently until you are ready to use them.

Make beautiful dried you stopped cutting rugosa roses arrangements by including the in August, you have been plumes of ornamental grasses rewarded with round red rose with a variety of seedheads. hips. Use these in wreaths or Even simpler, cut some flower arrangements. stems, remove the lower leaves, rubber band them together, and Oftentimes, the simplest solutions hang your 'bouquet' upside make the boldest statements. down. Or turn an ordinary willow Cut some branches loaded with wreath into something special autumn-colored leaves and drop when you tuck in a variety of them in a garden urn. Or tuck beautiful seedheads. branches behind outdoor lights and enjoy alluring shadows when Alliums, with seedheads that the lights are on. resemble bursting fireworks, are beautiful in a vase all by Pick up individual fallen leaves, themselves. Autumn Joy Sedum rub moisturizer on the front and is another winner. back, and let them dry. Once dry, leaves can be scattered Use cattails or blazing star around a centerpiece, across a (Liatris) to add bold vertical fireplace mantle, or on accents to container plantings. If bookshelves.

There is an abundance of natural materials for us to use in our fall decorating. Take a walk through your landscape and see what else you can find. Enjoy the discovery!



Mother Nature provides a wealth of materials for us to use in fall decorating.