

Tips from Kathy Whalen's Talk and Workshop  
February 2012  
"Nature's Daughter"  
KathyWhalen.net

1. When using calla lilies, always buy more since the flower has a tendency to fall off the stem. They do not like a lot of water since their stems are full of water. They can be bound together with decorative wire.
2. Decorative wire-bouillon wire is made by Oasis and is @36 inch gauge. There is also beaded wire available.
3. Diamante pins made by Lorney are available. They resemble a hat pin with a gem stone on the end. They can be cut easily to size. They can be used to hide wire wrapped around flower stems.
4. In measuring for arrangement height you can also use one and a half times the height and width not just one and a half times the height of the container.
5. If you are using the boot of a palm as a vessel, you can wrap small pieces of oasis in plastic and place on the bottom to balance it. Palm boots are waterproof but always test it by putting newspaper under it. When using glue, always glue on the inside due to the hairs on the outside.
6. U-Glue is a great tool for gluing. It is available at Target and comes in various forms like strips and disks. It is great to use when curling leaves.
7. Always cut your flowers at an angle. Spray roses with water to keep them fresh longer.
8. When making a table centerpiece, it should be no higher than 12 inches-remembering that everyone's arm is different in length.

9. Sea grape leaves are a great underlay for cheeses or fruit you are serving. Large ones can be used as placemats.
10. When you cut a leaf to use as a placemat or other decoration for the table, allow it to dry for an hour or so before using it.
11. You can slice the vein of the leaf off so it will lay flat or slit it down the middle. Remember to put a piece of wax paper underneath it.
12. A few leaves can be placed under a candle on a candle holder.
13. Don't put water into a mercury glass container. Use small water tubes.
14. To rid a piece of driftwood of dirt and dust; roll a piece of duct tape and keep sticking and releasing it to the piece of driftwood.
15. When using water tubes, you can wrap a leaf around the tube using U-Glue at the beginning and end of the wrap. You can then tie raffia or decorative wire around the tube.