

Williamsburg®

DECORATING TIPS

HOW TO MAKE A TUSSIE-MUSSIE

Supplies and materials needed: lace-edged tussie-mussie holder, plastic twist ties or chenille wire, lace or paper doily (optional), clippers, green floral tape, ribbons, and conditioned plant materials.

The nosegay, or tussie-mussie, is popular in Williamsburg for weddings and for many other occasions. In colonial days ladies carried tussie-mussies to repel offensive odors or placed them on tables to help freshen a room. A tussie-mussie makes a charming remembrance for a friend, and many can be saved and dried. Tussie-mussies can also serve in place of a more traditional table arrangement. This delightful form can be made with fresh or dried materials, may be large or small, and may be formal or informal.

Select a small flower for the center. Surround the center flower with a row of flowers or foliage. Continue to add flowers and foliage around the center, keeping the shape symmetrical and the colors evenly distributed. Keep the



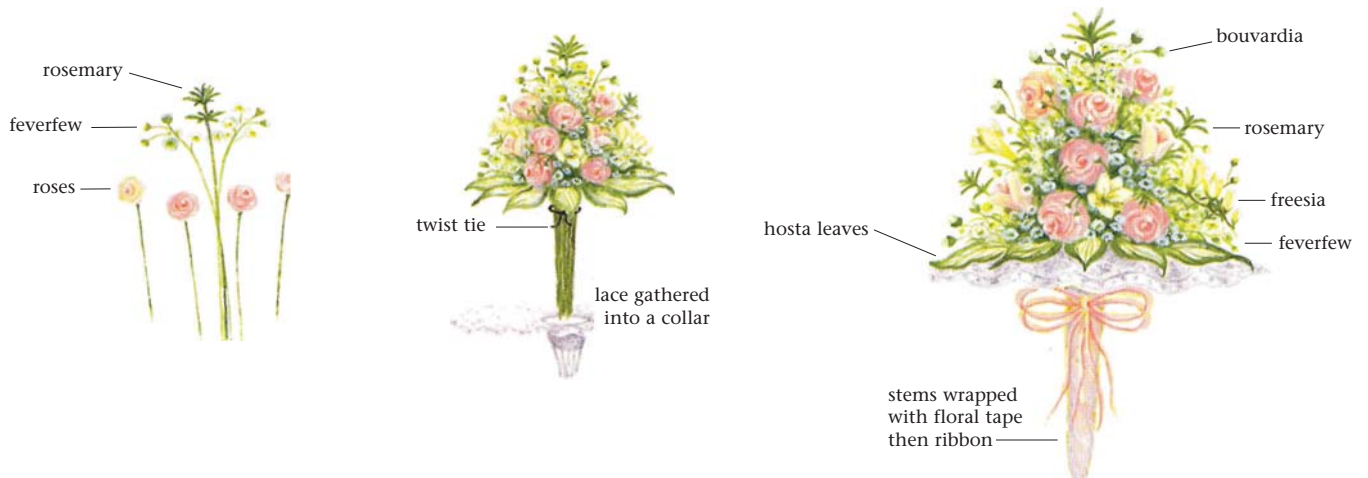
larger blooms low and allow the more delicate flowers to extend out to give depth and airiness. Continue to add flowers and foliage until the tussie-mussie is the desired size. Use the largest leaves as a frame around the outside and add the ivy to trail down when held. Secure the whole bouquet just below the flowers with a plastic twist tie or chenille wire.

If a tussie-mussie holder or paper doily is used, or if you are using a collar of lace gathered into a small circle, insert the stems down through the center and position the holder over the tie. A commercial plastic nosegay holder with lace will support a collar of fabric or special lace.

Recut the stems with a taper at the ends. If the bouquet will be carried, wrap the stems with green floral tape and then with ribbon. If not, leave the stems unwrapped and place the arrangement in water. Attach ribbon streamers or loops to a wire and insert the wire into the bouquet at the base of the doily. Allow the streamers to hang down.



Left: A fragrant tussie-mussie in a paper Biedermeier includes feverfew, roses, hydrangeas, blue salvia, pineapple mint, ageratum, ivy, veronica, lavender, and rosemary surrounded with violet leaves. Center: A dried version of a tussie-mussie is a pleasant reminder of the special occasion for which it was created. Right: A delicate little nosegay of fresh spring herbs is outlined with violet leaves and tied with pink ribbons. Pansy blooms, Roman wormwood, rosemary, lemon verbena, lavender, wild bergamot, and pineapple mint accent the nosegay.





Left: Encircled by a pretty cotton lace collar, pale pink and cream roses, lavender and phlox blooms, a variety of herbs, variegated ivy, boxwood, and violet leaves form a delicate nosegay. Center: Two tiny paper Biedermeiers.. suitable for very young flower girls hold petite bunches of flowers and herbs. On the left, a single rose is encircled with thyme. On the right, a rose is ringed with lavender and ivy. Right: Used as a small bouquet to flank an arrangement on a dining room table, a Bridal White rose is surrounded with rosemary, bouvardia, white lilac, plum foliage, a ring of Lady Diana roses, and galax leaves.



Two young flower girls with delicate bands of spring flowers in their hair hold tiny tussie-mussies as they excitedly await the bride's arrival.

This article was taken from Susan Hight Rountree's book [Entertaining Ideas from Williamsburg](#).