

Williamsburg®

DECORATING TIPS

HOW TO DECORATE A PYRAMID

PYRAMIDS

Pyramids were used in the homes of wealthy Virginians in the 18th century.



They usually included footed glasses containing wine jellies and small dishes of preserved lemon and orange peels and other sweetmeats.

Matching handblown, tiered glass pyramids are reflected on either side of a handsome antique mirror. Wreaths, in graduated sizes, of variegated holly, Leyland cypress, boxwood, and yellow Rumba roses tinged with red are interspersed with soft, fuzzy skinned yellow trifoliate oranges and blueberries. The blueberries and oranges are impaled on floral wire or toothpicks that have been inserted into floral foam wreath forms. The contrast of textures and colors lends interest to these pyramid arrangements.

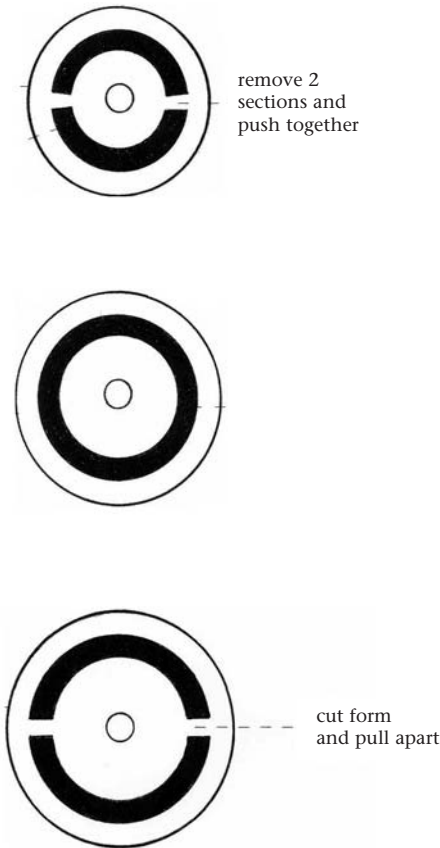
Supplies and materials needed: Three 8-inch floral foam wreath forms, sharp serrated knife, a stacking three-tiered glass pyramid, conditioned plant materials, Rumba roses, trifoliate oranges, blueberries, toothpicks or 3-inch pieces of #18 gauge green floral wire, goblet, and floral foam.

Cut one of the wreath forms into two half circles to use on the bottom tier leaving 1 1/2 inches between the cut ends. Cut out wedges from the second wreath form and push together to use on



the top tier. Leave one ring uncut to go on the middle tier. Soak all the sections in water for 2 hours and then place them on the pyramid. Use 3-inch pieces of boxwood, with bottom leaves stripped, to form a full base for each tier of the decoration. Insert the pieces of boxwood all at the same angle, which will give better coverage and look well. On the bottom tier, carefully fill in the gaps with slightly longer pieces of boxwood and other plant materials.

Next add the roses. Leave 2-inch stems on the roses, cut them at an angle, and place them in each tier, leaving space for other plant materials. Impale the trifoliate oranges and blueberries on tooth-picks or pieces of floral wire and insert them into the wreaths. Add sprigs of variegated holly and Leyland cypress for a variety of textures. Place a goblet in the center of the top tier with a small piece of wet foam in it. Put small sprigs of boxwood between the foam and the glass to conceal the foam. Insert holly, cypress, and a few roses in the foam. **NOTE:** If you place this arrangement against a mirror, make sure the reflected side is balanced with the front side.



This attractive tiered pyramid was made by stacking two glass cake stands of diminishing sizes. A glass candlestick was inverted to use at the top. Five small, red pears were evenly spaced on the bottom tier with lady apples added randomly. Thin slices of dried clementines, boxwood, nandina foliage and berries, and a few cranberries were added for color. Four small crystal glasses filled with cranberries, each topped with a kumquat in which a clove was inserted in the stem end, were placed on the second tier. Small clementines, foliage, and berries were added to complete this tier. The candlestick was secured in the middle of the top tier with wax, and a small pineapple placed in it. The result is a colorful and wonderfully scented arrangement.

This article was taken from Susan Hight Rountree's book *From A Colonial Garden*.