

# Williamsburg®

## DECORATING TIPS

### HOW TO MAKE A FLORAL-DECORATED HOOP

*Supplies and materials needed:* Two 10-inch wooden embroidery hoops, green floral tape, #26 gauge spool wire, #18 gauge green floral wire, wire cutters, conditioned plant materials, plant mister, and ribbon.

Wrap each hoop with green floral tape, which will help hold the plant material in place. The tape also obscures the color of the wood.



Insert one hoop inside the other at a right angle to divide the hoops equally. Secure the top and bottom crossing points with spool wire. Make a loop with floral wire at the top for a hanger.

Assemble the plant materials (2- to 3-inch sprigs of boxwood with their lower leaves removed, pansies, Johnny-jump-ups, and a mixture of other spring flowers are used here) and stand them in water.

Combine two or three pieces of foliage and one or two flowers and wrap the stem ends with several twists of the spool wire. Keep the bunches standing in water as you make them. Make approximately forty 3-inch bunches of foliage



and flowers for the outside of the hoops. Make 40 bunches of foliage without flowers for the insides. Mist the bunches well, put the container into a plastic bag, and refrigerate. Depending on the plant materials, you may make these bunches the day before or several hours ahead.

To assemble, start at the bottom of one of the hoops. Hold a bunch containing the flowers on the outside and one with plain foliage on the inside with the cut ends facing the top of the form. Secure the two bunches to the form by wrapping the floral tape around the stem ends of the two bunches with the hoop between. Continue wrapping two bunches at a time onto the hoops, overlapping the previous stem ends and working toward the top. As you attach the bunches to the hoops, vary the colors and types of flowers to achieve a pleasing balance.



*Children still play with hoops as they run down Colonial Williamsburg's garden paths. Here the hoop has been transformed into a hanging decoration for a garden setting. Two embroidery hoops are fastened together and decorated with fresh flowers.*

When completed, cut the ribbon and add it to the top and bottom.  
Mist well and frequently.



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