

Pomanders make nice holiday gifts

Our son, John, was married in June in New York. As the mother of the groom I knew I should follow the rules — wear beige and keep my mouth shut.

I think I kept my mouth shut, but I wore gray. Anyway, there isn't a whole lot I could do in the wedding preparations, so I decided to make a living wreath for the table for the rehearsal dinner which we hosted.

To make the wreath, I reinforced a 10-inch wire frame with florist tape to hold wet sphagnum moss in place, then carefully inserted tip end cuttings of pachysandra and vinca minor throughout the frame to make a base. From the garden I collected roses, dianthus and astilbe to add color.

The wreath was set on a stainless steel tray, watered well; the flowers were put into the wet oasis and set in



down to earth

Marty Figley

a bowl, then into a cooler for the trip to New York.

When we arrived at the restaurant, I inserted the very fresh flowers into the wreath, placed it on a hurricane base and set the globe over a pink candle. The wreath added a festive touch (and a bit of Michigan) to the table and complemented the candles at each end.

ALTHOUGH I DID THIS in the spring, Thanksgiving is an ideal time to make a living wreath for the din-

ner table using mums and a color-coordinated candle. In addition, the pachysandra and vinca minor root to be planted in the garden next spring.

Pomanders are also fun to make and they will scent the room while they are curing and drying. And the scent lasts for many years. I have made them from apples, oranges, kumquats, limes, crabapples and even pears and kept them in a pretty basket. This is a good family project and a nice way to spend a restful Thanksgiving afternoon after the big feast. You might even sneak a peek or two at the football game.

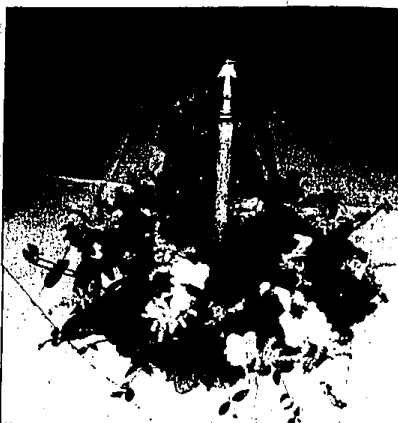
Select firm apples and pears, and citrus fruit with a thick skin. If the stems are attached, consider it a bonus. Insert cloves into the skin,

placing them very close together. Don't circle the fruit with cloves before you have filled up other portions, because it may split. Citrus may need to be punctured with a darning needle or ice pick so that the cloves can be inserted easily. Apples are best if children are making pomanders.

If you wish, carefully apply narrow tape to the fruit to section it into quarters before sticking in the cloves, then after the curing process is over the tape can be removed and ribbon tied in the grooves, with enough left to make a hanger.

RIBBON CAN ALSO BE tied around the fruit completely studded or run through the center with a long needle. Completed pomanders can also be wrapped in nylon net and secured at the top with a ribbon.

Here are some ideas for specific spices and fruit to use: Oranges — cinnamon and allspice; apples — cinnamon; quince or kumquat — allspice; lemon — cloves; and lime — nutmeg. Orris root is a fixative and will stabilize the fragrance of the spices.



Marty Figley made this living wreath for her son's rehearsal dinner in Brewster, N.Y. last June. She packed the roses, dianthus and astilbe from her garden and they traveled well with a bit of expert TLC.

Dulcimer concert planned

Dulcimer virtuoso Mike Berst will perform music from around the world at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 851 Woodward at Lone Pine,

Bloomfield Hills at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20. Admission is \$5, children under 12 free. For information, call 559-3299.

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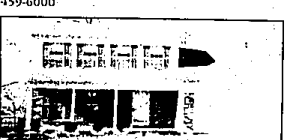
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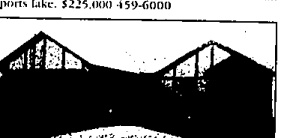
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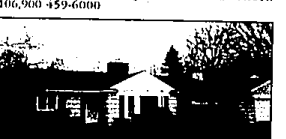
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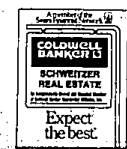
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