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DECEMBER 2014



HAVE A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS

Cut branches of deciduous holly make excellent holiday decorations both inside and out. They offer bold color and last a long time. Branches of 'Winter Gold' winterberry (below) decorate the bar at the home of Jon Carloftis in Lexington, Kentucky. To grow your own, remember that possumhaw and winterberry come as either male or female plants, and only females produce berries. So you need to plant at least one male pollinator for however many females you have. For possumhaw, try 'Red Escort.' For winterberry, choose 'Southern Gentleman.'

CONTAINER RECIPE

1. Monterey cypress
2. 'Blush Pink' nandina
3. Possumhaw branches
4. White florists' cyclamen
5. 'White Peacock' ornamental kale
6. Variegated English ivy

Fill the Tub

Galvanize your winter colors using this cool container



LIGHT PART SUN

The other day, my wife, Judy, asked me if I had any ideas for an easy container garden we could grow outdoors for winter. I didn't, but my colleague Gardens Editor Gene Bussell did.

He used a Vintage Galvanized Bathtub Planter (williams-sonoma.com); similar ones are also for sale at antiques shops. Working from back to front, Gene paired a small Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) with a 'Blush Pink' dwarf nandina (*southernlivingplants.com*) displaying splendid burgundy foliage. Next, he inserted cut branches of possumhaw holly by the cypress. He then added white florists' cyclamen, 'White Peacock' ornamental kale, and variegated English ivy in front. Cyclamens can't take frost, so tuck them into the planter while still in their pots so they can be moved inside on days when the temp drops below 40 degrees. Then return them when it's milder. ☉

