



THE ROSEDALE PLANTSMAN'S GUIDE TO HERB AND IVY TOPIARIES

Our Herb and Ivy Topiaries have taken time and care to grow to their finished sizes and shapes. Now they can be maintained with a minimum of effort, and are ready to serve as elegant and decorous living ornaments for your home.

HERB VARIETIES:

Our Herb topiaries usually include the following varieties (depending upon seasonal availability):

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). Tender kitchen herb with a glaucous-green foliage and pungent, delicious aroma. Sunny window.

Sweet Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*). Small, glossy-green foliage with pleasant aroma; a neat and compact plant. Sunny or east-west window.

Everlasting (Curry) (*Helichrysum angustifolium*). Neat, silvery-gray, curry-scented foliage; yellow flowers. Sunny location.

Chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum veras*). Taller, vigorous plant with feathery, silver-green foliage and generous blooms with single, daisy like flowers with white petals and yellow centers. Sunny location.

Lemon Scented Geranium (*Pelargonium x limoneum*). Crisply curved green foliage with good lemon fragrance; use as garnish; soft pink flowers. Sunny location.

Genista (*Cytisus canariensis*). A member of the Legume (bean) family with soft green foliage and very attractive, bright yellow flowers. Sunny location

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris t. x citriodorus*). Tiny, extremely fragrant leaves with small pale lilac flowers. Green or variegated foliage varieties. Sunny location.

Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*). Aromatic, gray-green, needle-like foliage. Small fragrant violet-purple flowers are clustered atop wiry stems. Sunny location.

Lavender Cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*). Aromatic silvery-gray foliage, wiry and woolen in appearance. Button-like flowers of sulphur yellow atop wiry stems. Sunny location.

IVY TOPIARIES:

There are many varieties of English Ivy, ranging from the well-known outdoor types to special Ivies used most often for indoor pots. These indoor varieties include plants with variegated (white or gold patterned) foliage, or leaves with small sizes (e.g., Needlepoint Ivy) or unusual shapes (e.g., Duck's Foot Ivy)

Watering and Fertilizer: Most of the topiaries - and particularly plants in light soils or porous clay pots - need watering every 1-3 days. About 1/2" of water is usually sufficient. Plants in more brightly lighted or warmer areas will need watering more often than plants in darker locations or cooler homes. If the soil surface looks dry or crumbles easily, or if the soil has pulled away from the pot edge, the plant needs water. Feed with Osmocote as directed or a light solution of Miracle-Gro, every 6-8 weeks.

Light Requirements: Most herb topiaries need reasonable bright light. A position near a south, east or west facing window is fine. Ivies grow best in bright locations and cooler indoor temperatures, such as an east or west window, or a south window away from heat sources. Avoid hot, dry areas (e.g., near radiators) or glaring bright locations. For very bright, south-facing windows, Herb and Ivy plants vulnerable to leaf-burn or spider mites, should be set back from the window or given light shade.

Pruning: For plants trained as standards (on single trunks), pinch off and remove any leaves that form along the stem. Raise the height of trunks by gradually removing a few of the lowest leaves at a time. For all plants, prune foliage to the desired shape with Bonsai pruning shears or sharp kitchen scissors (larger pruning shears are too heavy). Herb and Ivy varieties grow at very different rates, schedule pruning when the plant needs it (e.g., when new foliage has grown more than about 10% of original topiary diameter).

Outdoor Use: Topiary herbs must be protected from freezing temperatures and should be kept at least 50-70 degrees for best results. These plants make excellent decorations for outdoor tables during warm weather, but are fragile and should be sheltered from direct sun, wind and rainfall.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES:

HERBS AND THEIR ORNAMENTAL USES (Brooklyn Botanic Garden)
ALL ABOUT HERBS (Ortho)
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HERBS