

Winter Décor

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Images courtesy of Minnesota Grown members Tangletown Gardens and Sailer's Greenhouse

As the seasons change, so does the look of our home. Decorations in the home often reflect the ebb and flow of the temperature and colors outdoors. November brings cool temperatures and perhaps the first snowfall, meaning it may be time to start thinking of how we will update décor to reflect a Minnesota winter. Not to worry! Winter décor, with the help of natural products from Minnesota Grown members, can be fresh, warm and cozy. Minnesota Grown member nurseries and producers of Christmas trees offer a variety of great options for do-it-yourself projects, or choose from pre-made wreaths, garlands, spruce tip pots and displays. Find a nursery or producer near you at minnesotagrown.com.

DIY - Make a Spruce Tip Pot!

A spruce tip pot or urn is an excellent way to create festive appeal for your home during the winter months. Plus, the combination of greens will smell great and last! [Gertens](#) offers a great photo tutorial for creating a

spruce tip pot, but we will break it down for you here as well. *This tutorial was reprinted with permission from [Gertens](#).*

1. Fill your pot with regular topsoil or a semi-heavy potting mix.
2. Push your tallest spruce tip (you can also use balsam tips) into the center of the pot. Press with enough pressure to secure in the soil.
3. Accent around your center spruce tip with smaller spruce tips and white & red pine boughs. This will bring some width and shape to your pot. Keep wider boughs in close to fill in the center and thinner boughs jutting out just past the pot's rim.
4. Continue to add pine and spruce all the way around the pot 360 degrees to maintain a full look at any angle.
5. Continue to layer up and taper in with pine boughs until a cone shape takes place.
6. Add light yellow and dark green branches for contrast and pop. Magnolia leaves offer both light and dark shades on the top and bottom of the leaves and are perfect to add some variety in color.
7. Add color and accent with pinecones, dogwood twigs, and even ribbon for a touch of Christmas color. Secure ribbon and pinecones to your greens with paddle wire to keep in place even in the wind.
8. **Enjoy!** You're sure to create an inviting entrance for your home with these steps. Feel free to substitute any natural accents to create a one-of-a-kind pot that you can call your own creation.

There are a variety of great natural elements to include in your décor. Try things like:

- Spruce Tips
- Mixed Greens
- Curly Willow
- Dogwood
- Birch
- Magnolia Leaves
- Huck and Oregonia
- Pine Cones

Try [these tips](#) on creating a spruce top planter from Minnesota Grown member [Bachman's Floral, Home and Garden](#) as featured on KARE-11. Remember to pick up your supplies from a Minnesota Grown producer!

Bring the Outdoors In

The spruce tip look can be incorporated indoors as well. Give your décor an effortless look by filling baskets and containers with pinecones, ornaments, pine branches, white lights and more. Let your imagination run wild and truly make it a reflection of your style. Garland, birch and pinecones look great filling containers and scattered throughout the home.

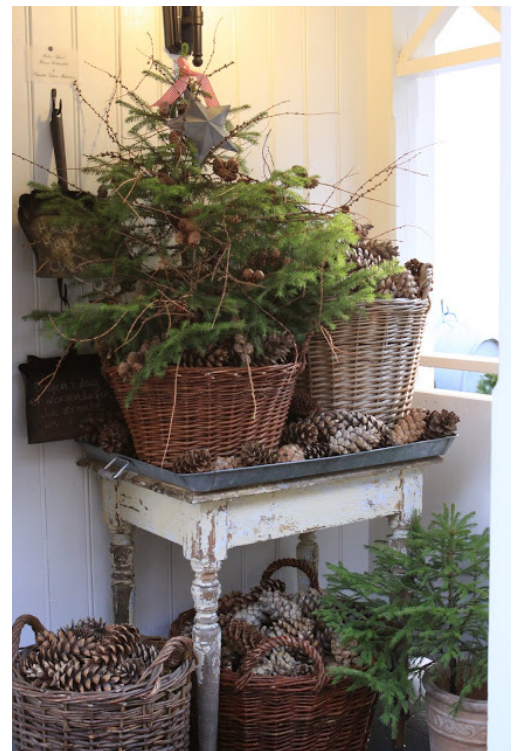


Image courtesy of [sjarmerendejul](#) blogspot

Try Scent

Bringing natural decorations and fresh greenery into your home is a great way to create an inviting atmosphere. Plus, it brings a lovely scent indoors. Think Fraser Fir and apple cider bubbling on the stove. Or perhaps pine and a fresh batch of cookies is more your style? Whatever it is, try recreating it with candles! Minnesota Grown soy candles are an excellent choice to create a warm ambience in any room through the winter months. Choose a producer in the [Minnesota Grown Directory](#).

Not much of a do-it-yourselfer? Many Minnesota Grown members offer custom made arrangements, wreaths, garlands and more that are sure to get your house ready for the holidays. Be sure to ask your favorite nursery for their best tips on decorating for the season. They are the experts. Search the online Minnesota Grown Directory to find one near you.

Good Luck and Happy Decorating!