

## Winter care and maintenance

In areas where snow is likely, net over or wind twine around bushes to prevent the extra weight of snow and ice from separating or breaking branches. Regularly shake snow from any flat surfaces, before permanent damage is done.

If topiary plants have been neglected for two years or more, regular clipping over time will bring them back into shape.

## Creating a 'Peacock'

By following a few simple steps, it is possible to coax a peacock shape from a shrubby honeysuckle, bushy box or spreading *Ilex crenata* in an afternoon.

### Step one:

Choose a bushy, un-clipped plant with an open spreading habit (rather than an upright one). Test the plant by gently parting the branches in the centre to look for potential head and tail growth.

### Step two:

Cut a piece of heavy duty wire to form the curve of the bird's neck and head. Allow additional length (approx 20cm +) to be pushed into the plant pot or garden soil, to firmly anchor it in place.

### Step three:

Bunch together stems at the "rear" of the peacock, loosely wiring to form the body.

### Step four:

To form the fanned tail, splay out the remaining branches emerging from the "body", and with the assistance of a helper, fix in place with a large "n" shaped piece of wire, securely pushed into the plant pot. Coax the fanned tail gently into place, lowering it to an angle of 45° from the ground.

### Step five:

Clip over the entire bird, cutting through shoots that extend beyond the desired body shape. Continue to trim regularly to encourage the peacock shape to fill out and become dense and bushy.

creating...

Topiary Shapes  
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#### Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown  
Dorset BH22 9DJ  
Tel: 01202 591919

#### Haskins West End

Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill  
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW  
Tel: 023 8047 2324

#### Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering  
West Sussex BN16 4BD  
Tel: 01903 777666

#### Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne  
West Sussex RH10 3EY  
Tel: 01342 712545



Standard Bay Tree  
*Laurus nobilis*



**HASKINS**  
for garden pleasure



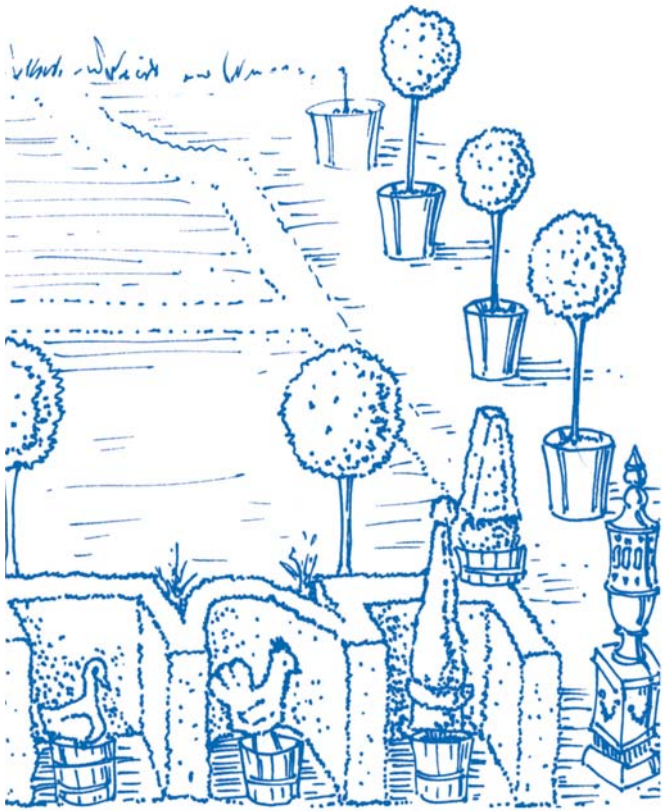
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# creating... Topiary Shapes

## What is Topiary ?

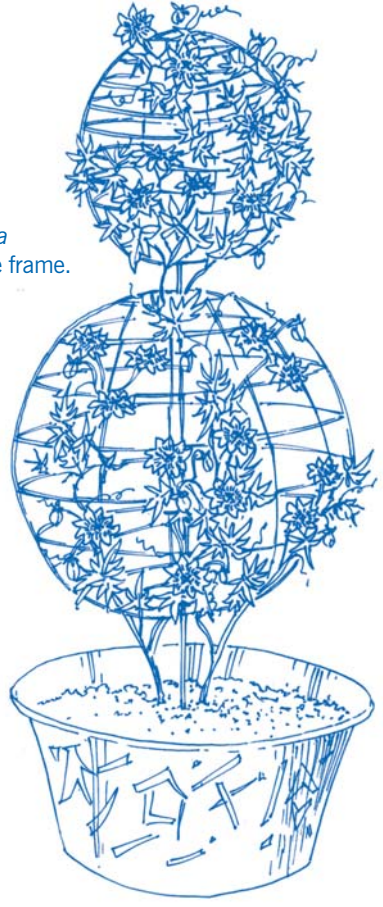
Topiary is the art of training and pruning shrubs or trees into artificial shapes. This ancient technique has been used since Roman times to produce strong, architectural forms, in the shape of cones, obelisks or spheres, to provide “leafy accents” in formal gardens. Replicas of birds, animals, fish, even larger-than-life chess pieces and full-sized trains have been lovingly created over many years, expressing the sense of humour of their owners.



A neatly clipped topiary plant will also make an excellent feature in a container, providing its simple needs are met: regular watering and a little plant feed during the summer. Use Miracle-Gro All Purpose Plant Food once a week to keep foliage dark green and healthy. Watch for Red Spider Mite, Scale Insect or Aphids and spray at the first sign of attack with Bug Clear Gun! (ready-to-use spray) or Bug Clear concentrate (for dilution at home).\*  
\* Always read and follow manufacturers instructions carefully.

## Creating the shape

Most topiary designs are easy to achieve with the aid of a rigid framework, to provide a guide for growth and also when trimming. Pre-formed wire frames are widely available in simple designs. More elaborate shapes can be formed from chicken wire, supported by garden canes which are soon hidden from sight when the plants begin to grow.



*Passiflora caerulea* trained over a wire frame.

Choose young specimens with a vigorous central stem or shoot. The simplest shape to produce is a cone, guided by canes pushed into the soil at intervals around the plant and joined at the top. Pinch out side shoots regularly to encourage branching and clip when growth extends beyond the framework.

## Varieties to choose from

Box (*Buxus*) and Yew are traditional favourites for topiary. Their small, glossy green leaves make them ideal for shaping, while their dense, compact growth and pliable stems help to retain complex forms well. Unfortunately, growth is relatively slow, which calls for patience when large designs are needed. On the plus side however, slower growth equals less clipping - perhaps only once or twice per year - to maintain a tidy shape. Faster growing varieties may demand three clips or more, if an intricate design is to be maintained. Do not clip bushes after early autumn, as this will encourage unseasonal growth, which will be susceptible to frost.

Latin Name:	Common Name:	Speed of Growth:	Deciduous / Evergreen:
<i>Argyranthemum</i>	Marguerite	Quick (Tender)	E
<i>Berberis</i> - many	Barberry	Medium	D/E
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Box	Slow	E
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i>	Smooth Cypress	Quick	E
<i>x Cupressocyparis</i>	Leyland Cypress	Quick	E
<i>Castlewellan Gold</i>	-	Medium	E
<i>Elaeagnus</i> - many	-	Medium	E
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	-	Medium	D
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Medium	D
<i>Fuchsia</i> - many	Fuchsia	Quick	D
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Quick	E
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	Slow	E
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay	Medium	E
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Privet	Medium	E
<i>L. delavayanum</i> (syn. <i>L. ionandrum</i> )	-	-	-
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Shrubby Honeysuckle	Quick	E
<i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	Tulip Magnolia	Medium	D
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle	Slow	E
<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	Passion Flower	Quick	E
<i>Photinia x fraseri</i>	Red Robin	Quick	E
<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Portugal Laurel	Medium	E
<i>Pyracantha</i> - any	Firethorn	Quick	E
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	Slow	E
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurustinus	Medium	E
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Japanese Wisteria	Quick	D

**Key:**  
Quick = 30-44cm (12-18"), Medium = 20-25cm (8-10"), Slow = 10-15cm (4-6").

