GARDEN DIY



A garden blogger shows you how to dress up your presents with leaves!

Co-ordinated by: Aditi Gaitonde Images & DIY: Blogger Simonetta Chiarugi of aboutgarden.wordpress.com

> Talking in a forest amongst its foliage is a fascinating experience indeed. Amidst layers of leaves — of multiple shapes and shades — that rustle with each step you take, you discover the world of leaves that have slowly been consumed by time, leaving only subtle designs of their remains. With a little chemistry and patience, one can accelerate the processes of nature to get these beautiful skeletons of leaves to use as a simple and elegant decoration.



In a litre of water, add a tablespoon of baking soda and a teaspoon of cream of tartar.



Transfer the leaves to a bowl containing clean cold water.



The leaf can then be reduced to a skeleton by placing it in water and bleach. It can possibly be subjected to new dye at this stage.



Place some weight over it. Let the leaf remain untouched for 2 to 4 days.



Just before boiling the solution, soak the leaves in it for a while. Stir gently and continue to boil for about 30 minutes. Remove the pot from the heat and let cool.



Proceed with the removal of the leaf blade by wiping it gently with a toothbrush.



For perfect drying, sandwich the leaf between two sheets of absorbent paper placed between the pages of a newspaper.



And you are done!

