

# It's Not All About the Turkey



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## Pumpkins and Autumn Leaves

Fall is a wonderful season filled with family, food and fun. Many people desire to bring the beauty of fall into their homes, and one great way to do this is with a creative centerpiece. There are many different centerpieces you can choose from, but here we're going to focus on the use of pumpkins.

**Miniature Pumpkins in a Bowl**—One simple centerpiece involves locating an attractive basket or glass bowl and filling it with miniature pumpkins. Although this centerpiece is simple, it packs quite a festive punch! You can also use decorative gourds, or combine both gourds and pumpkins.

**Pumpkin and Autumn Leaves**—Another idea is to take a medium sized pumpkin and place it in the center of a ring of autumn leaves. For this centerpiece, you'll need a garland of faux autumn leaves, which you will simply wrap around the base of the pumpkin, cut to length, and secure at the ends using a hot glue gun.

**Using Pumpkins as a Vase**—Yet another great centerpiece that's fairly simple to make is done by cutting off the top half of the pumpkin, cleaning it out, and filling with floral foam. Then, place bunches of silk flowers into the foam so that they stick out of the top of the pumpkin. Essentially, you're using the pumpkin as a flowerpot. You can even place a single tapered candle in the center of the centerpiece for added flair.



**Lush Centerpieces**—An Antique Dough Riser is the foundation for this lush centerpiece of autumn hued pillar candles and a variety of mini pumpkins, tiny gourds, squash, cones, and pods. Adapt this idea to any shallow box or tray you may currently have; oak leaves, acorns, and moss can be collected during an afternoon forest walk or a trip to the local craft store. A long, low centerpiece such as this looks as pleasing on an entry table or sideboard as it does on the dining table. It's also great for parties since it doesn't obscure seated guests' views or obstruct the passing of food.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving day—a great reason to *pause* and take the time to gather those you love around you, family and closest friends, and just be together and Enjoy!

Happy Thanksgiving—Lisa