

Plant Art

Topiary is a garden art. The artists do not use paintbrushes. They use clippers. To make a topiary sculpture, the artist cuts away leaves and twigs. After a lot of clipping and trimming, a shape will form.

The shape might be a ball. It might be a cone. It might be an animal. It might look like a bear or lion. It might be shaped like a seal.

Some animal shapes are made with wire frames. First, the artist puts a plant into dirt at the foot of the frame. Then, the plant grows up over the wire. After a long time, the plant covers the wire. The artist now trims it to look like an animal.

Topiary artists use many different kinds of plants. They use ivy and box hedges. Some even use daisy bushes. The kinds of plants that work best are thick with leaves. The leaves hide the branches. That way the shape is leafy green.

You can practice this old art. Many garden shops sell wire frames. You can choose from a variety of shapes.

Today, you may see big green sheep at a shopping center. You may see a green horse at a hotel. Think about how much time an artist has spent making these animals.

1. What is this article mostly about?
2. What kinds of shapes do topiary artists create?