

C I T Y O F B E N D I G O

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MAKING LARGE OUTDOOR FLORAL CARPET.

The following materials are required :-

- (a) Sufficient hessian to cover the complete area (plus about a foot all round) of the carpet to act as a foundation.
- (b) Enough heavy brown paper to cut out patterns for the design.
- (c) About 5,000 wire pins, walking stick shape, for pinning paper to lawn after flowers are pasted on.
- (d) Some heavy nails for corners of hessian.
- (e) About 40 gallons of thick paste.

Choose site, preferably green lawn in a setting, or with a background of shrubs.

Choose design with idea of using flowers most plentiful at time of display.

From original plan have about six "white prints" taken off and at least two of these coloured and shaded as guidance to controllers.

It is also desirable to have an alternative colour scheme, particularly for the background.

Design and colours to be used should be checked over by a recognised artist and a leading authority on Floriculture, so that correct colours and shadings can be obtained.

Hessian then made to measure, sewn and made little larger than required (any surplus can be folded under).

Design enlarged to full size of carpet by patterns, cut out on strong brown paper. (This part is best carried out by a draughtsman).

When patterns of design are all cut, set aside a day for stretching hessian on lawn or tennis court. Then draw a few guiding lines on hessian (like Union Jack) thus finding centre and correct corners.

Put out paper patterns of the design on to the hessian each in its correct place. Pin down with large pins (walking stick style about 4 inches long).

The outlines of paper patterns can then be painted with white paint or something similar. Mark hessian with numbers to correspond with numbers on paper patterns.

Pick up patterns carefully, marking each bundle on the outside ready for helpers to recognise when wanted.

About two days before the actual creation of the carpet, any dark outlining of leaves may be done by sewing with wool, an edging of laurel leaves, or moreton bay leaves to the paper pattern in readiness, as any work that can be done in advance is most desirable.

On day planned for working on Carpet - trestles with large pieces of 3-ply wood to act as trays are most helpful, as paper patterns can be laid on these and helpers can work more comfortably. When ready, these trays can be carried to the required position, each piece of pattern ready to slide off the tray on to the hessian, which should be ready in position stretched out and nailed down at intervals

with large strong nails.

In the meanwhile, helpers with scissors, have flowers brought to them, so that they may be cut with very short stems, and put into boxes each containing one colour only. The boxes are then taken to the tables where wanted by other helpers who are in charge of placing and shading of flowers on to their particular part of the design, and whose duty is to see that the correct shading is used.

The paper pattern is thickly pasted with paper-hangers' glue, and if possible the flowers (particularly roses) must all face outward toward the border.

The first patterns to go out on to the hessian should be the centre ones and from there work outward toward the borders.

To keep the flower laden paper patterns in position on hessian, it is advisable to pin down with walking stick pins (4" pins).

Filling in of background may be left till nearly last.

Paste for background must be thickly applied direct on hessian as background of flowers and pattern progress, keeping in mind that the carpet is built from the centre outwards.

Buckets of paste in plenty should be made in readiness, also several large brushes for applying it.

The approximate amount of paste for a large carpet measuring 44 feet by 32 feet is 40 gallons.

Best results are obtained when flower design on the paper patterns is completed and put in cool place until late afternoon, whereupon patterns are placed on hessian and background completed in cool of evening. This necessitates extra working staff in late afternoon and evening.

Upon completion of carpet, sprinkle thoroughly, lightly and often. Also have lawn well cut and watered beforehand.

A good supply of walking stick pins is a wise precaution in case strong winds may come up. Flowers can be pinned down with these.

In some instances other things may be used instead of flowers, such as apples (for rose centres). Pine Cones for outlining or anything that is suitable to give the desired effect.

A most important feature of the whole Carpet is to be sure there is a plentiful supply of flowers for the background, and in particular that they are all of the one variety to ensure an even surface for the background. For this, cream flowers for the background are most effective, as the design then stands out more distinctly.

A more suitable method for Bendigo's climate would be to have trays made to the required size as follows :-

METHOD 1.

Have a tray made in the size of the carpet and 3" deep. Fill the tray with damp sand, then take a full-size coloured drawing of the carpet, and cut this design into sections in accordance with the various colours to be used. The complete design is then placed over the sand. Now, remove each portion of the design in turn, and as you lift out each piece of paper, fill the space with the particular coloured flowers to be used there. Leave a small stem on the flowers. Continue this method until the whole of the design is completed, and then be careful that extra flowers are available to fill up any spaces at the points where the various sections of the design were worked on. When the work is complete, use a fine water spray on the flowers.

METHOD 2.

The second method is somewhat similar to No.1, except that the tray is filled with water only, and fine-mesh wire netting is fixed over the top of the tray and the design is painted on the netting itself with coloured paint. This will clearly mark the relative positions of the various coloured flowers. Spray well, using a fine spray. This method is only suitable when the position allocated for display is perfectly flat.

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