



A cylinder filled with water inside a black wellie becomes a whimsical vase. Above, black-and-white wool throws are within easy reach for drafty nights or wintry walks.

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KEEP IT GREEN

With backyard bounty close at hand, designer Tricia Foley strips away the opulence and opts for the simplest holiday palette.

When you walk into Tricia Foley's 1820s Long Island farmhouse during wintertime, you're greeted with a feeling of serenity and warmth—and not just because there are five working fireplaces. Instead of overly busy vignettes of holiday tchotchkes, red-and-green table toppers, and trees decked out with layers of ornaments, the New York-based designer chooses a calmer path, relying on curated samplings of natural elements.

It's a reflection of Foley's career-long commitment to decorating simply—or, as her friend and neighbor Isabella Rossellini describes it in the foreword to Foley's new book, *LifeStyle*, creating spaces that are "white, orderly, clean, calm, comforting,

simple, inclusive, warm." Nothing lands in Foley's rooms that are impersonal, useless, or out of touch with the home's history. "It's a country house, so I try to put in things that would naturally be here," she says.

When the holidays arrive, Foley adds texture to these neutral spaces with the foliage she plucks from her five-acre estate: boxwood, holly, rose hips, privet berries, and juniper berries. By Christmas Eve, she's circled the backyard enough times to cultivate mini forests and lush bouquets (especially by winter standards). So when her mother, siblings, and a host of nieces and nephews arrive, all that's left to do is put on a kettle for tea, bake her grandmother's shortbread recipe—and exhale.



Winter foliage like holly sprigs and brown wax string adorn simple white napkins and Kraft paper-wrapped gifts.





According to neighbor Isabella Rossellini, Tricia Foley's style is ***"white, orderly, clean, calm, comforting, simple, inclusive, warm."***

"I happen to be very lucky and have a forest in my backyard," Foley admits. If you don't, evergreens from any garden center work.

👉 Noteworthy

The top-selling Christmas trees include Scotch pine, Douglas fir, and Balsam fir.



Foley likes to lean unadorned trees against walls. Opposite: She snips the black berries from privet hedges and tucks them into store-bought wreaths. Any berries will do (holly, juniper, rose hip); to make hanging easy, she recommends tacking up teacup hooks.

