

SEASONS

GREETINGS

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TREE TRICKS

Tired of the same old thing? Looking for new ways to spruce up an old tradition? Bored with the age-old, simple green tree? Fret no more — arbor alternatives exist.

Ever thought about giving birth to the Christmas cactus? "Some people are buying three-foot cactuses and decorating them in a Western theme," said Bev Lopez, the manager of Eugene's Craft World, 1333 W. Seventh Ave. "It's

cute and a little different."

If cacti thorns don't appeal, how about creating a topiary tree. No it's not a tree — not a real, live one anyway. It's a creation. "You buy a stick and put a styrofoam ball on the top," Lopez said. "Then you can decorate the ball with moss or dried flowers or ornaments and ribbons." When the whole thing is ready for display, simply put the

stick in a decorative basket.

And last, but not least, the traditional evergreen/spruce/fir tree has never left the picture. For a new twist on an old idea, why not decorate the whole tree in one theme. "A U of O tree would be very original," Lopez said. "You could just go all green and yellow."

—Layne Lakefish