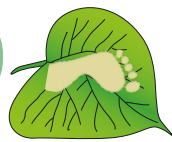


Create an enchanted path



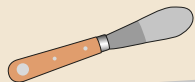
Dance along your very own winding path through your garden. Make these eye-catching stepping stones by moulding concrete into pretty leafy shapes. You'll need big leaves for this project, like the ones on rhubarb, courgette, and sunflower plants.



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You will need:

- disposable plastic gloves
- apron
- large plant leaves
- powdered cement mix
- large margarine container
- putty knife
- cardboard
- sand



1 Mix up the cement into a thick paste in a large margarine container according to the instructions on the packaging. Remember to wear an apron and disposable plastic gloves.



2 For each stone, lay one leaf flat on a large piece of cardboard. The leaf's veiny reverse side should be facing up.



3 With a putty knife, spread the cement all over the leaf. This layer should be about 1 cm (½ in) thick at the edges, and at least 4 cm (1½ in) thick at the centre.



4 Smooth around the edges and over the surface with your putty knife, then leave your concrete leaf for about two hours, until it's just dry enough to hold its shape.



5 Gently turn it over and peel away the leaf. This will be easier if the concrete is still a bit wet. Now leave the "stone" to dry completely for a day or two.

6 Once your stones are really dry, decide on their position by arranging them on the grass to make sure their spacing suits your stride.



7 Use a trowel to mark around each shape. Remove the first stone and dig out the grass and soil to the depth of the stone plus an extra 2.5 cm (1 in).



8 Place a 2.5 cm (1 in) layer of sand into each hole and make sure it's smooth before placing the stone on top. Repeat for all your stones, checking they're not wobbly, and filling gaps around the edge with soil.



TOP tip

Leave the stones to settle for a few days before walking on them.



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