

## Nellie's Nature Craft

### sculptured garden leaf

#### Materials:

Velvet cement – available at craft stores  
Sandbox sand  
Plastic bag or plastic sheet  
Mixing pail  
Spray paint-variety of colors  
Real leaf (I used an Elephant ear)  
Polyurethane spray



Moisten the sand and make a mound that is 4" deep and 3" larger than your leaf. Cover the sand with the plastic sheet. Press the leaf (vein side up) into the sand to make an impression deep enough to fill with cement.

Mix the velvet cement to a dough-like consistency. Gently spread the cement on the leaf one handful at a time, working from the center out. Do not spread the cement beyond the edge of the leaf. Make the cement layer a minimum of 3/8" thick, and much thicker for larger leaves.

Let the cement dry for three days. Dig under the sand to carefully turn the leaf over. Peel the leaf off the hardened cement. Now you are ready to paint.

Spray paint the cement leaf with several colors to give it some dimension. Paint all sides and back to seal the cement. After the paint is dry, spray the leaf with polyurethane, top to bottom.

Display in your home or garden. Do not use to serve food.