Make candy flower cupcakes

What you'll need

- Kitchen shears or a clean pair of scissors
- Pastel and/or white marshmallows
- Frosted cupcakes, store-bought or homemade
- Spice drops or gumdrops
- Optional: green sour belt candy or strips (for leaves)
- Optional: green sour laces, straws, sticks, or spaghetti and a toothpick (for stems)
- Cup of warm water and paper towels for cleaning candy from scissors

Instructions

Here's how to make the candy flowers in the photo above (from left to right).

Yellow chrysanthemum To make the petals, snip triangular petals off both ends of a marshmallow. Place a ring of these petals, with the pointed sides facing out and cut sides face up, along the edge of the cupcake. Add another row inside that row. Repeat until the cupcake is covered with petals. (You can make chrysanthemums in more colors, like pink. See finished examples above.)

Classic white daisy To make the white petals, cut long, thin strips at a slight angle off the tall side of a few marshmallows. Place a yellow spice drop in the center of a cupcake and surround it with petals, with the narrow end of each strip at the center and the cut sides face down.

Pointy petal orange daisy For the petals, cut long, thin strips at a slight angle off the tall side of a few marshmallows. Add a spice drop to the center of a cupcake and surround it with petals, with pointier ends facing away from the center and the cut sides face up.

Rounded pink and red daisy For the petals, cut a marshmallow into thin slices along the short side. Put a spice drop in the center of a cupcake and surround it with petals, with the cut sides face up.

To add leaves: Cut leaf shapes from green sour belt candy. Tuck them under the flower petals.

To add a stem: Use a toothpick to make a hole at the base of a flower. Remove the toothpick and put a short snip of a green sour straw "stem" into the hole.

HELPFUL TIP Gunky scissors won't make neat cuts. Clean scissors as soon as they get sticky by dipping them in warm water and wiping them dry.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK
CREATE A PLANT OR SEED LIBRARY

A plant or seed library is a way to exchange plants or seeds for free. It's also a great way to help support the local ecosystem. For example, growing more wildflowers helps feed more pollinators, like bees and butterflies. With an adult's help, you can set up your own plant or seed library. Invite friends to participate. You will need a bench or stand for everyone to put their plants. You can use a binder with plastic pockets to collect seeds for sharing. Make a sign with basic rules, such as "Leave a plant, take a plant." You can keep your library open through the warm gardening months, then put it away until gardening season next year.

Set up a spot to trade plants.