

Set a Sweet Easter Table

Pretty, natural touches make this scene perfect for the season.

Instead of relying on the Easter bunny to inspire the decor for this year's holiday meal, why not shine a spotlight on Mother Nature? Dressed in colors plucked straight from the garden (pale greens, violets, sky-blues), this table manages to look refined—but not the least bit fussy. Woodsy vases lend a rustic effect, while casual choices like mismatched dishes, stemless wineglasses, and wicker seating keep the mood lighthearted. Throw in homegrown bouquets and clever placecards that reinvent the idea of an egg hunt, and you've got a party setting that'll really put a spring in your step!

—JESSICA DODELL-FEDER



For a foolproof table, follow in nature's footsteps—let what you see outdoors dictate your color scheme and design.

1. PLACECARDS Guests will surely crack a smile when you designate their seats with eggs in dainty cups. Just blow out the yolks, then use a Sharpie to write each person's name on the shell. Card-stock circles slipped underneath offer an elegant resting spot.

2. PLATES Strike a fun, informal note by mixing dinnerware in different patterns or colors—like these dishes in shades of blue and green. (From \$20; middlekingdomporcelain.com for stores)

3. MENU Don't make guests wonder what's for dinner; spell it out on a robin's-egg-blue card. A faux nest (it's actually a placecard holder) acts as a stand. (Cards, \$8.50 for 25; paperpresentation.com. Nest, \$24 for four; potterybarn.com)

4. RUNNERS Rather than a single horizontal runner, layer two vertically over a plain white tablecloth. Drape them so they fall under your settings and voilà—place-mats! (\$33 each; sferra.com)

5. VASES To replicate these earthy vessels, cut birch bark to fit around various-size glasses and jars, and hot-glue the ends to form a cylinder. Or buy premade versions. (Bark, \$6.99 per sheet; save-on-crafts.com. Birch tubes, \$25 for four; smallstump.com)

6. FLOWERS Keep your centerpieces simple—and natural—by sticking to early-spring bloomers such as tulips, hyacinths, and narcissi. Stay within a complementary palette and arrange the blossoms in loose bunches organized by height.

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