

Garden Variety

by xtina d.



Knit vegetables have more uses than you'd think. You can use them as decorative centerpieces for your table. Toys for children, pets, or yourself. Fill them with something heavy and you'll have an interesting paperweight. Fill them with something fragrant and you'll have a unique sachet. Or let everyone know how much you like to knit and start filling your fridge with them.

Difficulty Level

Simple to Intermediate

Materials

Worsted weight yarn in vegetable colors. Shown in Reynolds Lopi Lite, Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride Worsted and Naturespun Worsted

US 5 / 3.75mm double pointed and straight needles

Stuffing material

Scrap yarn or stitch holder

Tapestry needle

Yarn Substitutions

You can substitute using any yarn as long as you use an appropriate needle size/gauge that will produce a tightly knit fabric (which will help prevent the stuffing showing through). You can experiment making larger and smaller vegetables this way by using a thicker or thinner yarn.

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Sizes

Corn approximately 6" (15cm)
Celery approximately 8" (20cm)
Broccoli approximately 3" (7.5cm)
Carrot approximately 6" (15cm)
Tomato approximately 8" around (20cm)

Gauge

While gauge is not important, your knit fabric should be relatively tight. If your fabric is too loose, adjust your needle size accordingly. You don't want the stuffing to show through.

Abbreviations

Kfb--knit into the front and back of the same stitch (1 st increased)
SSK--slip 2 sts knitwise one at a time, insert left needle into both sts and k together (1 st decreased)
M1--Pick up bar between stitches, place it on the left needle untwisted, and knit into it through the back loop
TBL--through the back loop



Broccoli

Worked in the round using set of 4 DPNs.

Main Stem

Cast on 9 sts evenly over 3 needles. (3 sts on each)

Mark beginning of round and join.

Knit 12 rounds.

Round 13: k5, place remaining 4 stitches on spare needle or on scrap yarn.

1st Floret

Floret stem: Working on only 5 sts, join, and mark beginning of round. Knit 4 rounds. (If it is too difficult to successfully work so few stitches on 4 needles, it is possible to use 3, just make sure to knit tightly to prevent any gaps from forming between needles. Revert back to 4 needles on Round 5.)

Floret: Round 5: Kfb around. (10sts)

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: Repeat Round 5. (20sts)

Rounds 8-13: Purl.

Round 14: P2, *p2tog, p1, repeat from * around. (14sts)

Round 15: P2tog around. (7sts)

Round 16: Purl.

Cut yarn and draw through the 7 remaining stitches, through the inside of the floret and out through the bottom of the stem.

2nd Floret

Floret stem: Pick up the 4 held sts and pick up 1 stitch from the base of the 1st floret stem. (5 sts)

Reattach yarn, mark beginning of round, and join. Knit 3 rounds.

Work the same as 1st floret beginning with Round 5.

Finishing

Stuff the florets if desired. Take a small amount of stuffing material and push carefully (using a knitting needle or other small implement) through the stem of the broccoli and into the floret. To finish, hide the ends inside the broccoli and either weave in or hide the cast on tail.



Celery

Worked flat with straight needles.

Stalk

Cast on 15 sts. Work in stockinette stitch for approx. 6" (15cm) ending with a knit row.

Leaves

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K2tog, k5, k2tog, turn. (7 sts) Place remaining 6 sts on holder or scrap yarn.

1st Leaf: (Now working only on these 7 stitches)

Row 3: K2tog, k3, k2tog. (5 sts)

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Cast on 2 sts, k to end. (9 sts)

Row 6: Cast on 3 sts, k to end. (12 sts)

Row 7: Cast off 1 st, ssk, k2tog, k to end. (9 sts)

Row 8: Cast off 2 sts, k across. (7 sts)

Row 9: Kfb in first 2 sts, k to end. (9 sts)

Row 10: Repeat Row 9. (11 sts)

Row 11: K2tog, k1, ssk, k2tog, k2. (8 sts)

Row 12: Cast on 3 sts, k to end. (11 sts)

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Row 13: Knit.

Row 14: Cast off 3 sts, k to last 2 sts, kfb in each remaining st. (10 sts)

Row 15: Cast off 3 sts, k to last 2 sts, k2tog. (6 sts)

Row 16: K2tog, k2, k2tog. (4 sts)

Row 17: K1, k2tog, k1. (3 sts)

Row 18: Sl 1, k2tog, pssso. (1st)

Cut yarn, pull through remaining stitch and fasten off.

2nd Leaf: Replace held sts on needle. Pick up 2 sts from the lower set of garter ridges of the second row on the back of the first leaf.

Row 1 (knit side of stalk facing): Reattach yarn, k1, k2tog, k5. (7sts)

Now work as the first leaf starting at Row 3.

3rd Leaf

Pick up 3 sts from the bottom of the 1st Leaf, 1 from the middle, and 3 from the 2nd Leaf on the wrong side (purl side of stalk facing). (7 sts)

Row 1 (knit side of stalk facing): Reattach yarn and k across.

Work same as the first leaf starting at Row 3.

Finishing

Weave in ends.



Tomato

Knit in the round using set of 4 DPNs.

Cast on 6 sts (2 on each needle). Join and mark beginning of round.

Round 1: Kfb around. (12 sts)

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: Repeat round 1. (24 sts)

Round 4: (P1, k6) twice, (p1, k4) twice.

Round 5: (P1, k1, m1, k4, m1, k1) twice, (p1, k1, m1, k2, m1, k1) twice. (32 sts)

Round 6: (P1, k8) twice, (p1, k6) twice.

Round 7: (P1, k1, m1, k6, m1, k1) twice, (p1, k1, m1, k4, m1, k1) twice. (40 sts)

Round 8: (P1, k10) twice, (p1, k8) twice.

Rounds 9-16: Repeat round 8.

Note: The next five rounds are the decreases. You can stuff the tomato between any of these rounds. Take into consideration that you will need to knit the remainder of the tomato with the stuffing in. I recommend stuffing it between rounds 18 and 19.

Round 17: (P1, k1, ssk, k4, k2tog, k1) twice, (p1, k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1) twice. (32 sts)

Round 18: (P1, k1, ssk, k2, k2tog, k1) twice, (p1, k1, ssk, k2tog, k1) twice. (24 sts)

Round 19: (P1, k1, ssk, k2tog, k1) twice, (p1, ssk, k2tog) twice. (16 sts)

Round 20: (P1, ssk, k2tog) twice, (p1, ssk) twice. (8 sts)

Round 21: (P1, k2tog) twice, k1, p1, k1. (6 sts)

Add more stuffing if necessary. Draw end through stitches and pull closed. Weave ends into the tomato.

Finishing

With yarn for the stem, cut a 15" piece and thread through yarn needle. Insert through bottom of tomato (the cast on side) leaving about a 3" tail. Draw through to top center of tomato. Reinsert needle a stitch over and draw back to the bottom. Leave the needle threaded and tie ends together tightly to create a tomato-like shape. Take the needle and draw it up through to the top of tomato again and make four stitches in a cross shape, after last stitch draw the yarn down to the bottom center, over a stitch, then back up through the top center. This makes the stem, cut to the height you'd like. Weave in any other ends.



Corn

Knit in the round using set of 4 DPNs.

Cast on 6 sts over 3 needles (2 sts on each). Mark beginning of round and join. Knit 4 rounds.

Round 5: Kfb around. (12 sts)

Round 6: Knit.

Round 7: (K1, p1) around

Round 8: (Kfb, k1, p1, kfb) 3 times. (18 sts)

Round 9: (P1, k1) around.

Round 10: (Kfb, p1, k1, p1, k1, kfb) 3 times. (24 sts)

Round 11: (P1, k1) around.

Round 12: (K1, p1) around.

Rep rounds 11-12 until corn measures about 4" / 10cm from beginning, ending with round 11.

Top decreases:

Round 1: K2tog, (k1, p1) 5 times, p2tog, (k1, p1) to end of round. (22 sts)

Round 2: P2tog, (k1, p1) 4 times, p2tog, (p1, k1) to end of round. (20 sts)

Round 3: (K1, p1) 3 times, k2tog, (p1, k1) 4 times, p2tog, k1, <FONT-COLOR="RED">p1. (18 sts)

Round 4: (P1, k1) around.

Round 5: (K1, p1) around.

You can start stuffing the corn at this point.

Round 6: (P1, k1) around.

Round 7: K1, (p2tog, k1, p1) 3 times, p2tog, p1, k1, p1. (14 sts)

Round 8: (P2tog, k1) 4 times, p1, k1. (10 sts)

Round 9: (P2tog, p1, p2tog) around. (6 sts)

Weave end through remaining stitches and stuff a little more if needed.

Weave in any other ends. Shape into corn-like shape.

Husk.

Cast on 6 sts over 3 needles (2 on each). Mark beginning of round and join. Knit 4 rounds.

Round 5: Kfb around. (12 sts)

Round 6 & 7 : Knit.

Round 8: (Kfb, k2, kfb) 3 times. (18 sts)

Round 9: Knit.

Round 10: (Kfb, k4, kfb) 3 times. (24 sts)

Knit even until the husk is about 1/3 the size of the finished corn.

Points

Row 1: K 8, turn. Place rem sts on holder or scrap yarn.

Row 2 (now working flat on 8 sts): p2tog, p5, p2tog-tbl (6sts)

Row 3: K across.

Row 4: P across.

Row 5: Ssk, k2, k2tog. (4sts)

Row 6: P across.

Row 7: Ssk, k2tog. (2sts)

Row 8: P2tog, pull yarn through loop and fasten off.

Reattach yarn and repeat rows 1-8 on each of the next two sets of 8 stitches.

Finishing

Weave in ends and insert corn into husk.

Carrot

Worked in the round using set of 4 DPNS.

Cast on 6 sts. Mark beginning of round and join.

Round 1: Kfb around. (12 sts)

Round 2: Knit.

Round 3: (Kfb, k2, kfb) around. (18 sts)

Rounds 4-19: Knit.

The carrot begins to taper at this point. You can begin stuffing now and add more gradually towards the end.

Round 20: K1, k2tog, k7, k2tog, k6. (16 sts)

Rounds 21&22: Knit.

Round 23: K6, k2tog, k6, k2tog. (14 sts)

Rounds 24-26: Knit.

Round 27: K1, k2tog, k5, k2tog, k4. (12 sts)

Rounds 28&29: Knit.

Round 30: K4, k2tog, k4, k2tog. (10 sts)

Rounds 31-33: Knit.

Round 34: K1, k2tog, k3, k2tog, k2. (8 sts)

Round 35: Knit.

Round 36: K2tog around. (4 sts)

Round 37: K2tog around. (2 sts)

K2tog last 2 sts. Pull yarn through and fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in ends. With green yarn make the leaf part by threading a long piece of yarn through a tapestry needle. Draw the yarn through the topmost part of the carrot till the tail of the yarn is the desired length, make a simple knot with the two ends, trim the longer end, and repeat until you get the look you'd like.