



Lay the templates on the crepe paper so that the paper's ridges run the length of the leaf; this allows you to pull the ridges open when cupping the crepe-paper shape and gives it proper body and support. For multiple petals, you can cut through as many as nine layers at once. For the teardrop leaf, you can cut small notches or fringes in the top edge to make it look more like a true rose leaf.

For the grassy leaves, use the same cutting technique as for the continuous petals: Crepe paper comes in "folds" (a sheet or more that has been folded to a narrower width). For continuous strips, cut off a prefolded piece as tall as the template. The creases in the paper should run from the bottom of the leaves to the top; this gives the leaves proper body and support.

Place the template on top of the prefolded paper, aligning the dotted bottom edge with the bottom of the folded crepe paper. (You can cut through up to nine layers at once.) Cut along the solid lines to create spiky leaves; do not cut all the way down the paper at the folds, but stop at the dotted line so that you leave the petals attached in a continuous strip. (The jagged top edge of carnation petals can be cut with pinking shears.)