This is an overview and “step-by-step” guide to how I produce certain types of flora found in manuscripts throughout the period covered by the SCA.

The terms I use to describe the leaves and flowers are not the true names, but a way of differentiating them based on their appearance.

Please keep in mind that the methods for drawing that are outlined in this handout are not the “one true way”, but simply a guide as to how I draw the items. What works for me, might not work for you.
“CLOUD” LEAVES

Found in many bar and ivy manuscripts.

Left Handed:

Step One

Step Two

Step Three

Step Four

Right Handed:

Step One

Step Two

Step Three

Step Four

Practice Space

“TADPOLE” LEAVES”

Good Space Filler

Left Handed

Right Handed

Practice Space
Example of “Cloud” and “Tadpole” Leaves

“The Nativity” by the Master of the Morgan Infancy Cycle. c. 1415-20
Located at the Pierpont Morgan Library.
Painted Prayers: The Book of Hours in Medieval and Renaissance Art, pg. 63
**“LINDEN” LEAVES**

Left Handed

![Step One](image1)

Step One

![Step Two](image2)

Step Two

Right Handed

![Step One](image3)

Step One

![Step Two](image4)

Step Two

**Practice Space**

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**“SMASHED SPIDERS”**

Used throughout the gothic period as space filler in ivy work

![Step One](image5)

Or

![Step One](image6)

Step One

![Step Two](image7)

Step Two

**Practice Space**
Example of “linden leaves” and “smashed spiders”

“Pierre Salmon: Replies of Charles IV and Complains to the King about His Condition”
By the Bouciaut Master c. 1409
The Golden Age: Manuscript Painting at the Time of Jean, Duke of Berry, pg. 97 (plate 29)
"WALTZING" LEAVES
This is the term used throughout most of the Scribal Community to describe the most common type of leaf found in gothic illumination. It gets its name from the fact that it is made in a 1-2-3 pattern.

Left-Handed

Step One  Step Two  Step Three  Step Four

Right-Handed

Step One  Step Two  Step Three  Step Four

Another way to draw these leaves is to draw the veins of the leaf with a pencil, draw the outline, then erase the veins.

Step One  Step Two  Step Three

You can also get a different style of waltzing leaf by drawing either the points or the curves first.

Step One  Step Two

Step One  Step Two
“WALTZING” LEAVES

Practice Space
Example of “Waltzing” Leaves


Example of “Waltzing” Leaves with “Smashed Spiders”

“Le Petite Heures of Jean De Berry”
by the Limbourg Brothers c. 1370-1390
The Art of Medieval Manuscripts, pg. 98
“HEART” LEAVES
These leaves are similar to linden leaves except that they have more definition of shape.

Left-Handed

Step One

Step Two

Right-Handed

Step One

Step Two

Practice Space
"Chroniques de France ou de St Denis" (The Coronation of Pharamond)
by Mahiet, Master of the Cambrai Missal c. after 1332, before 1350
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&IllID=34242
Example of “Waltzing” and “Cloud” Leaves

“Pontifical, Use of Sens” (Historiated initial; heraldic arms.)
c. 1350
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/record.asp?MSID=8539&CollID=28&NStart=931
Example of “Waltzing” and “Heart” Leaves

“Breviary, Dominican use” (Miniature of The Trinity.)
By the Master of the Bible of Jean de Sy c. 1350
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&IllID=12619
Example of “Waltzing” and “Heart” Leaves

“Psalter-Hours” (Historiated initial with the Adoration of the Magi)
c. 2nd or 3rd quarter of the 14th century
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&ILLID=24358
“PRICKLY PEARs” A.K.A. Teasels
Prickly Pears are a cross between tadpole leaves and smashed spiders. Common in gothic illumination

![Step One](image1) ![Step Two](image2)

Practice Space

“FOUR PETAL” FLOWER
Mostly these look just like the flowers we all drew back in elementary school art class.

![Step One](image3) ![Step Two](image4) ![Step Three](image5) ![Step Four](image6) ![Step Five](image7) ![Step Six](image8)

Practice Space
Example of “Linden” & “Heart” Leaves with “Prickly Pears” and “Four Petal” Flowers

“Book of Hours, Use of Sarum” (George and the dragon)
c. 1430- c. 1440
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&llID=27173
Example of “Waltzing” & “Tadpole” Leaves with “Prickly Pears” and “Four Petal” Flowers

“Hours for Rome Use/februrary”. c. 1395-1405
Located at the Pierpont Morgan Library.
Painted Prayers: The Book of Hours in Medieval and Renaissance Art, pg. 29
http://corsair.morganlibrary.org/icaimages/2/m264.002r.jpg
Example of “Heart” & “Tadpole” Leaves with “Cloud Leaves” and “Four Petal” Flowers

“Hours for Windesheim use”. (St. Ursula and the 11,000 Virgins)
By a Master of the Delft Grisailles c. 1440
Located at the Pierpont Morgan Library.
Painted Prayers: The Book of Hours in Medieval and Renaissance Art, pg. 113
http://corsair.morganlibrary.org/icaimages/3/m349.181v.jpg
I, personally, have only seen these in one manuscript, but they are simple as well as nice looking

“CLAW” LEAVES

or

Step One  Step Two

Practice Space

“ROCKET” FLOWERS

Left-Handed

Step One  Step Two  Step Three

Right-Handed

Step One  Step Two  Step Three

Practice Space
Example of “Heart” & “Claw” Leaves with “Rocket” & “Four Petal” Flowers

“Hours for Sarum and Rome use”. (Thomas Beckett murdered at the Alter)
By the Master of Guillebert de Mets c. 1420-30
Located at the Pierpont Morgan Library.
http://corsair.morganlibrary.org/icaimages/4/m46.027v.jpg

“Hours for Sarum and Rome use”. (St. George Fighting the Dragon)
By the Master of Guillebert de Mets c. 1420-30
Located at the Pierpont Morgan Library.
Painted Prayers: The Book of Hours in Medieval and Renaissance Art, pg. 111
http://corsair.morganlibrary.org/icaimages/4/m46.027v.jpg
“SEA SHELL” FLOWERS

Dab of Paint

Step One

Step Two

Practice Space

“SOCCER BALL” FLOWERS

This type of flower, before it’s painted, resembles a soccer ball. VERY similar to the Four Petal Flower

Step One

Step Two

Step Three

Step Four

Step Five

Step Six

Practice Space
Example of “Tadpole” Leaves with “Sea Shell” & “Four Petal” Flowers

“TheBreviary of Marie De Gueldre”. (Marie de Gueldre depicted as the Virgin Mary)
By the scribes of the Augustinian monastery in Marienborn c. 1415
The Golden Age of Manuscript Painting at the Time of Jean, Duke of Berry. pg. 106 (plate 34)
Example of “Tadpole” Leaves with “Soccer Ball” Flowers

“Missal, Use of Cologne” (the Virgin)
c. 1st quarter of the 15th century
The Illuminated Page: Ten Centuries of Manuscript Painting in the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&Id=11683
Example of “Tadpole” and “heart” Leaves with “Four-Petal” and “Soccer Ball” Flowers and some others we didn’t cover

“Breviary (Temporal), Use of Sarum”
c. 1400
The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts of the British Library
http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/ILLUMIN.ASP?Size=mid&IllID=23975