

## How To Make Natural Christmas Wreaths

### Things you will need:

- Flexible stems to use as the base of your wreath – e.g. Willow; Hazel; or Dogwood.
- Raffia or jute twine.
- Scissors or secateurs to cut stems.
- Evergreen leaves to fill out your wreath – e.g. Holly; Ivy; Fir; Rosemary.
- Colourful natural decorations – e.g. Rose hips; Cotoneaster berries; Poppy Seed heads; Old Man's Beard; Larch or Fir cones; Hops; Mistletoe; Aniseed stars; orange peel cut into shapes; dried apple rings.

1. Spend some time in your garden or local public green spaces collecting the twigs, leaves and decorations you will need to make your wreath/s.

Only take twigs that are loose on the ground and do not pull anything out by its roots. Only take as much as you need and be careful not to damage the plants.

2. Cut pieces of Dogwood, Willow, Hazel or any other flexible stems you can find. The length of these will determine the size of your wreath, so the longer the better. But you could tie shorter ones together if that's all you can find. Again do not pull anything out of the ground exposing the roots.

3. Twist the flexible stems together in a loop and tie in place using jute twine or raffia. Continue adding more stems until you have a strong base.

If you are feeling more adventurous you can make two triangles and join them together to make a star.



4. Decorate your base shape with evergreens — Holly, Ivy, Bay, Rosemary etc by weaving sprigs into the frame or tying them in place.

5. Once you have a good covering of evergreen leaves start to add more colourful decorations like berries and fir cones. It is best to leave these on quite long twigs to make them easier to attach.

6. Add a loop of raffia or jute to your wreath if needed to hang it.

7. Display the finished wreath with pride on you door!

Thanks to by Penny Theobald who led this activity at River Bourne Community Farm. Nature Of Art In Wessex is an innovative three year project using art to help more people explore the nature on their doorstep. Funding to work with 6 communities until 2012 has been awarded by Natural England as part of its Access to Nature programme funded from the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme.

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