

HerbWire

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Consider creating wreaths of fragrant herbs and flowers to decorate for upcoming seasons and holidays. Herb and flower gardens in August can provide plenty of material to harvest for craft projects. Some wreaths are constructed of freshly harvested herbs and flowers while others are made from dried material. Gather and dry pods, seeds, cones and leaves for decorative accents. Below are some resources for constructing wreaths.

Websites

Purdue University

Holiday Greens

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-22.pdf>

Instructions for making a homemade wreath frame and creating a greens wreath.

Resources @ Your Library

Books

Eveleigh, Tessa. *Lavender: practical inspirations for natural gifts, country crafts and decorative displays*. New York: Lorenze Books, 1996.

Among the many decorative uses for lavender in this book are found photographs and instructions for creating a Little Lavender Clothes Heart, Fresh Lavender Heart, and Dried Lavender Wreaths.

Hillier, Malcolm & Colin Hilton. *The book of dried flowers: a complete guide to growing, drying & arranging*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986.

Many types of dried material for wreaths and flower arrangement are illustrated. Step-by-step instructions for making dried material wreaths.

Lloyd, Elizabeth Jane. *Enchanted circles: the art of making decorative wreaths for all seasons and special occasions*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990. Although not exclusively natural materials this book offers illustrations and directions for making wreaths of fruit, dried flowers, leaves, chilli, gourds, pods, bread, and leaves. Basic instructions for making a plaited wreath.

Platt, Ellen Spector. *The ultimate wreath book: hundreds of beautiful wreaths to make from natural materials*. Emmaus, Pennsylvania. Rodale Press, 1995.

Many examples of wreaths with seasonal themes made of natural materials. Provides lists of supplies and instructions for constructing each type of wreath. Features circular wreaths and others made in unusual shapes such as: square, interlocked circles, butterfly, and pear. Some of the more unusual wreaths are made of: bread, dried orange slices, bark and bamboo. Suggests using wreaths as a structural support for vines.

Simmons, Adelma Grenier. *Seasonal wreaths from Caprilands*. New York: Mallard, 1991.

Features wreaths to celebrate the seasons and their traditions. Includes wreaths made from hops, wheat, oak leaves and acorn. Provides a list of suggested plants for wreaths.

Simmons, Adelma Grenier. *A world of wreaths from Caprilands*. New York: Wiser & Wieser, 1988.

Information on the historic aspects of wreaths and their use in festivals. Suggests plants for drying. Provides detailed directions for creating wreaths. Also includes directions for making a living wreath. Details the lore and meaning, culture, harvest, preservation, and uses of many plants used for making wreaths.

Taylor, Carol. *Herbal wreaths*. New York: Sterling Lark Books, 1992.

Photographs and illustrations of wreaths highlighting specific herbs. Some of the wreaths include those made of anise hyssop, goldenrod, oregano, lamb's ear, bee-balm, pennyroyal, St. Johns Wort, etc. Briefly covers folklore, historical uses, growing, drying, and wreath construction.

Yonally, Annette. *The wreath book*. Wadsworth, OH: The Lavender Patch, 1982.

A pamphlet discussing the construction of herb wreaths from "the ground up". Tips for planning an herb cutting garden, growing plants from seed, plant selection, harvesting. Basic directions for constructing a wreath provided.

ARTICLE

Williams, Betsy. A Bountiful Summer Wreath. *The Herb Companion*. 1996(8) No. 6 August/September pp. 42-45.

HSA Library News

Although the annual report of the Herb Society has changed in size and content over the years from a scant 15 pages on up to 143 (and then eventually back down to 20) the annual report has informed the membership on the activities and finances of the Herb Society of America. Earlier annual reports included descriptions of annual conferences filled with detail that only someone who attended could know thus, personalizing the experience. Tributes showcase the lives of former members. Scripts of award presenter speeches provide biographical and personal information as well as insight into the award winning qualities of the recipients. Acceptance speeches were also printed in their entirety. Units and members-at-large submitted progress reports on their gardens, plant sales, classes and programs and special projects.

Be sure to view the newly posted archive of annual reports from 1991-2009 in the Members Only section of the HSA website. Plans are to continue the project of posting annual reports.

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