DIY Foraged Wreath

Making your own natural wreath for a sustainable decoration this holiday season.

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Step 1: Gather your supplies

The tools you’ll need to make a wreath include:

- A wreath form (hand-made from weaving flexible vines and branches or a store-bought grapevine or metal form)
- Snips/scissors
- Twine or wire
- Evergreens, dried flowers/grasses, pine cones, berries, etc.
- Any decorative elements, like ribbon.

In the Midwest, it’s easy to find evergreen plants growing in your yard or a family/friend’s yard. Foraging materials for a handmade wreath can be quite simple, but always remember to ask permission before taking cuttings from someone else’s plants. If you aren’t comfortable approaching someone’s door, tree farms usually have limbs and small branches that get cut off and discarded and you could ask about collecting some of the scraps! I started my wreath by using the low branches that we cut off when we were preparing to put our Christmas tree into the stand. Almost any type of evergreen plant could work, so go with your preference. Some common wreath ingredients include: pine, spruce, fir, magnolia, holly, berries, pine cones, and rose hips. For my wreath, I’m using pine, spruce, holly, and a few pine cones.

Step 2: Make small bundles of ingredients

You can either attach individual branches to your wreath frame or make little bundles to attach. I like to use at least 1 twig from each type of my ingredients and secure with twine. You can also use wire, but I am going for a 100% compostable leaf, so twine or raffia is the best choice. This step reminds me of making a bunch of little boutonnieres.

Depending on your wreath frame, you can also stick branches directly into the frame without any wire or string at all.
Step 3: Attach the bundles to the frame

Twine holding the first small bundle onto the frame.

Twine attachment view from the back of the wreath.

Overlap the second bundle over the twine from the first.

Once you’ve made your bundles, you can begin attaching them to the frame. Again, I’m going to use twine for my wreath. Attach your first bundle to the frame and then overlap the second bundle to cover the twine of the first bundle for a seamless look. Keep going in the same direction all the way around your wreath frame.

Step 4: Extras & Hang

Your basic wreath is complete! You can stick in additional branches of berries, pine cones, dried fruit, or whatever your preference is. You can also keep it simple – it’s totally up to you! If you used twine, this wreath can be thrown in the compost pile whenever it starts to turn brown and crispy in the Spring.

Happy Holidays!