

Winter Holiday Wreath Making with UC Master Gardeners

By Tracy Celio, UCCE Master Gardener Coordinator

Winter is a great time to bring nature indoors. One way to do that is by making holiday wreaths. There are many varieties of wreaths that people can put together depending on personal taste and style. So how does one construct a holiday wreath? It's easy, fun and here are 4 simple steps to create your own.



First, you'll need to procure materials. Gather wreath form, wire, foliage, natural decorations and any bows and baubles to fit your interest. You will also need gloves, pruners and scissors. Select greenery such as; bay, redwood, juniper, rosemary, pine, boxwood magnolia, toyon are all wonderful choices.

Step two, Take your wreath form and attach wire. You will twist the wire around the form a few times and make sure it is secure. Now you are ready to start adding foliage!

Step three, take foliage and form bundles of 3-4 pieces. You'll then take your wire which is already attached to the wreath form, wrap it around your bundle and affix to form. Take the next bundle, cover to hide the wire from the last bundle and affix until the entire form is covered in foliage. Again, it's up to personal preference whether to mix and match your greens or keep it simple.

Finally, add pine cones, ribbons, bows, ornaments or seasonal color foliage to personalize your wreath. I enjoy adding pomegranates and mandarins in wreaths. Don't forget your hanger so you can affix your wreath to your front door or wherever you want to put some holiday color in your house. A hanger can be made from wire or a piece of ribbon.



Wreaths make great gifts to give friends and neighbors too. If these steps seem too daunting to try on your own and you'd like to have an expert teacher lead you through the wreath making process or perhaps you simply find it more inspiring crafting with a group, don't worry Master Gardeners are here. We've got you covered! Join the UC Master Gardeners to kick-off the holiday season with a wreath making workshop on December 7, 2019 from 9 a.m. to noon. Judy Sherrill, Master Gardener has been hosting popular wreath making parties your many years. This will be the first annual Master Gardener Wreath Workshop led by Judy and other Master Gardener Volunteers.

The Wreath Workshop is an opportunity for participants to create a holiday decoration they can hang from their front door, mantle or anywhere you want some holiday cheer. The Master Gardeners will provide the foliage and greenery, wreath form, wire and natural decorations.

Participants are encouraged to bring unusual greens, cones, fruits, assorted decorations, ribbon and or your favorite ornaments to include on their wreath. Attendees will need to bring gloves to wear, scissors, and hand pruners. Prior registration is required and space is limited. This workshop will be held at the UCCE office located 12200-B Airport Rd. in Jackson. The cost is \$25.00 per person for one wreath, check or cash only, please.

For more information about Master Gardener public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County website at <http://ucanr.edu/mgamador>. UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to noon, by calling (209) 223-6838. Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 12200-B Airport Rd. in Jackson. You can also find us on Facebook.