

Williamsburg Inspired Foraged Wreath

by Valarie Canale • December 8 Zoom Workshop



Supplies needed: grapevine wreath, clippers, wire, glue gun and sticks, recipe ingredients

Recipe:

This is Valerie's recipe for the 16" wreath pictured (she will create at our workshop). You can vary this according to your desires, **items bolded are key for her design :**

Fresh Foliage

- 10-15 large stems of fresh cut holly (fresh cut green ingredient)
- **10-15 stems of pine/cedar/cypress (any fresh cut works! If you are looking for a more full look, feel free to add more greens)**

Dried Foliage Filler

- 5-10 stems of bracken fern (foliage filler)

Dried Accent Filler

- **Strive for a minimum of 6 of the following or similar items, vary color and texture – or use more!**
- 15 stems of gomphrena/or something with a small round head
- 15 poppy pods, or dried seed heads
- 5 stems of triloba rudbeckia (small accent ingredient)
- 15-20 stems of strawflower (focal flower filler)
- 10 stems of miscanthus (fluffy grass)
- 3 hydrangea heads (used as a filler)
- **10 large stems of bittersweet vine (any ingredient with length & wisp) I chose this because I loved the added pop of red and the shape of the**

vine. Winter berry could work well too). Green/not dried will work best and will dry as they age in your wreath

- 5-10 assorted mushrooms varying in size
- **5 white pine cones, or regular pine cones**
- **2 whole oranges sliced and dried (dehydrated/dried), sometimes the Food Coop has these in bags by the nut section or some other dried fruit**
- branches (lichen/mossy branches, pine cone branch, etc.)

Did you know....

While Williamsburg wreaths have become an iconic holiday “look”, early Williamsburg settlers did not have these holiday decorations. The design of the Williamsburg wreath, garlands and door décor was developed in the 1920-30’s to beautify (thereby increasing tourism) the recently restored Colonial Historic Williamsburg, the 18th century Virginia capital. Nevertheless the design was intended to look appropriate for the early colonial period thereby choosing all natural, foraged or easily available decorative elements such as magnolia leaves, evergreen boughs, local fruits, nuts and even clam shells.

Tip: *while it is more common to use fresh fruit, drying your fruit before putting it in your wreath will prevent rotting and the need to replace the fruit.*