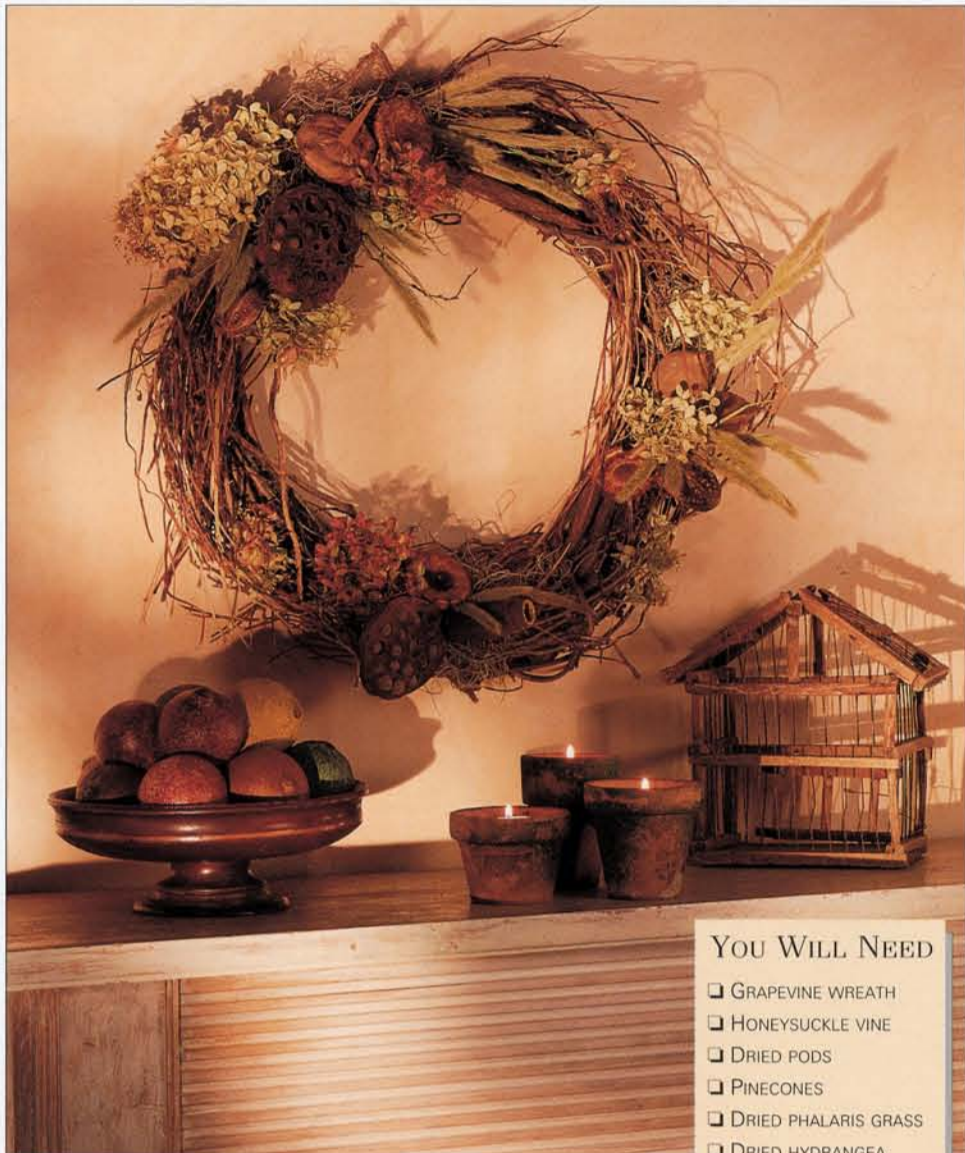


A COUNTRY CLASSIC GRAPEVINE WREATH



Add a charming touch to any wall or table with a woody wreath.

YOU WILL NEED

- GRAPEVINE WREATH
- HONEYSUCKLE VINE
- DRIED PODS
- PINECONES
- DRIED PHALARIS GRASS
- DRIED HYDRANGEA
- FLORIST'S WIRE
- GLUE GUN & GLUE STICKS
- SCISSORS

Bright Ideas

A grapevine wreath becomes a neutral backdrop for works of floral artistry, or a rustic base to display preserved fruits and nuts.



TWO OF A KIND

A variety of dried flowers and matching bows brighten a pair of wreaths with a shot of spring color.

- Use the glue gun to attach fuchsia and pink and yellow roses.
- Add yellow, pink and white zinnias, black-eyed Susans and orange and yellow marigolds.
- Fill out both wreaths with pink and white mums plus deep violet-blue pansies tinged with yellow.

FRUITFUL BOUNTY

Entertain in style with a grapevine wreath covered with dried fruit. It makes a real conversation piece.

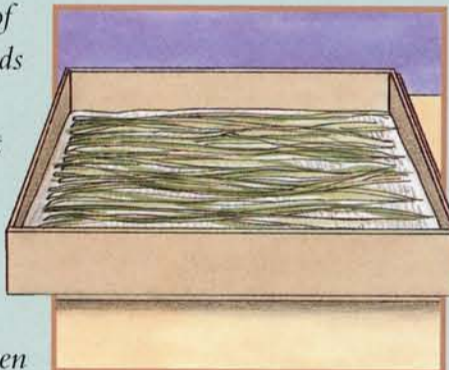
- Glue on some green sheet moss to add soft texture.
- Attach freeze-dried slices of grapefruit, lime, orange and green apple.
- Add dried pomegranates, pinecones and a variety of hard-shelled nuts.
- A pillar candle with dried flowers lights up the center.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Collecting and Preparing Flowers and Plants

A wide variety of dried flowers, pods and grasses are available at most florist's shops and craft stores. But they can also be collected from nature—even from your own backyard.



Lay wild grasses flat along the bottom of a cardboard box lined with newspaper; allow to dry. Turn the grasses over occasionally to ensure even drying.



Hydrangea is best dried upright with water. Pour water into vase to depth of 2". Place the flowers upright in vase; allow to dry. Water evaporates, leaving flowers preserved.



Wheat and other grains should be dried upside down. Bundle the stalks together loosely and secure near the ends of the stems with a rubber band or twine. Hang to dry.

Cones, pods and grasses are natural finds outdoors.

- Collect them after they have fallen to the ground or take them from trees.
- Wild grasses can be snipped at leisure, so travel with scissors on nature walks.
- It's not worth the effort to make your own grapevine wreaths; buy them pre-made at flower or craft stores instead.

QUICK FIX

If flowers or grasses break or fall off the wreath, simply replace them with new ones. This is a great way to add new colors and shapes to change the look of the wreath.

DECORATING THE WREATH



1 Position honeysuckle vine on the wreath. Take florist's wire, attached to the spool, and wrap around wreath to attach the vine. Continue until desired look is achieved. Cut wire and twist ends behind the wreath.



2 Apply glue to the back of a pod and position on the wreath. Hold in place until firmly attached. Repeat with a variety of dried pods and pinecones, gluing them on in clusters of three or four.



3 Cut down the stems of the phalaris grass to about 2" long. Gather into groups of two or three and apply glue to the ends. Place in among the clusters of pods and cones, holding until glue sets.



4 Glue the stem of a dried hydrangea floret and position on wreath. Continue adding hydrangea florets to surround the pod clusters and fill in empty spaces. Tuck in loose honeysuckle vines.

HANDY HINTS

Wreaths decorated with dried and preserved materials are fragile and can break and fade. To make them last as long as possible, keep them out of direct sunlight, away from humid conditions, and move as little as possible.