

# basket weaving

Did you know that there are many natural materials found in your garden which can be harvested for a weaving project? These include pampas grass leaves, daylily stems, grapevine, and honeysuckle vines, which can be made into baskets, mats, and wreaths.

Weaving is said to be the most ancient of the arts. Some say humans mimicked the intricate nests of the weaver-bird or the graceful patterns of a spider web. Others credit the combination of human ingenuity and survival needs. Whatever its origin, weaving and other forms of textile production have become so essential that it now has a significant presence in our language, customs, and literature.

Winter is a great time to gather woody vines such as honeysuckle, grapevine, and wisteria from your garden in preparation for weaving. Be sure to harvest them before the sap begins to run and to choose younger vines that are woody but still flexible. Older, thicker vines can be used in making the framework of your basket. In addition to being a fun art project, woven baskets are durable and useful in the garden and can be made with a variety of garden-harvested materials!

**For step-by-step instructions on how to weave a garden basket, visit the Dig Art! website: [www.hort.cornell.edu/gbl/digart](http://www.hort.cornell.edu/gbl/digart)**



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*Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden* is a new project guide for youth that integrates gardening with the arts.