

## Christmas mini-series

### Creating a sustainable Christmas wreath

#### Episode Description

In the first episode of our Christmas mini-series, Sarah and Arthur give you all the tools you need to make a sustainable Christmas wreath that will stand out this festive period. From their top foraged finds to the best ways to add a little sparkle to your homemade wreath for less...

#### In this episode, discover...

- ❖ Real inspiration for wreaths from outside your back door
- ❖ Sarah and Arthur's top choices for a Christmas wreath

## Mini-series episode 1 advice sheet

### Top materials for a foraged Christmas wreath

- ❖ A dried tapestry of dock leaves. Great for decorating on a budget and really unusual
- ❖ Arthur used a moss base for his wreath and made the dock seed heads into individual posies. Reminiscent of a grouse's nest – copper-wire fairy lights create a wonderful contrast against the tones of brown and make anything look stylish
- ❖ Bracken - Before it gets sopping wet, a beautiful, burnished honey blond – the colour of highland cattle. The structure of bracken also forms a really lovely base, which no one will mind you picking!
- ❖ Sarah and Arthur often forage for silver birch – a wonderful material for any Christmas wreath, it's willingness to bend makes it so easy to use. Don't tie it too tightly, as it's shagginess creates a gorgeous organic look
- ❖ Eucalyptus – the silver underside of the leaves is a great way to lift your wreath and isn't just stylish, but very much in vogue! Not to mention that when dried, it can be used over, and over again
- ❖ Rosemary – an evergreen that's still looking fresh as a daisy way into the winter months. When crushed, evokes a wonderful aroma
- ❖ Hebe – great for wreath making
- ❖ Evergreen Viburnum – Sarah goes for Viburnum 'Tinus'

### **For more flowery or berry bling, add...**

- ❖ Ivy flowers and their waxy leaves – ensure they've absorbed lots of water or they'll quickly need rehydrating
- ❖ Crab apple – a bit of this is great for colour
- ❖ Holly
- ❖ Chinese lanterns
- ❖ Spindle – an incredible pink colour – sings out against eucalyptus and silver birch
- ❖ Hydrangeas - red burgundy, acrid green 'Annabelle' and 'Incrediball' – pick in advance before the first frost to retain colour

### **Sarah's top 5 for a Christmas wreath**

- ❖ Japanese anemone
- ❖ Malus hupehensis (crab apple)
- ❖ Clematis seedheads
- ❖ Old man's beard - spray with cheap hairspray to keep the fluff
- ❖ Chinese lantern
- ❖ Hellabores – 'Maestro' is a great choice

### **Arthur's top 5 for a spectacular Christmas wreath**

- ❖ Panicum capillare 'Sparkling Fountain' – delicate so pick by the handful
- ❖ Honesty
- ❖ Opium poppy seedheads
- ❖ Perennial grasses
- ❖ Cobaea scandens – an exotic touch