



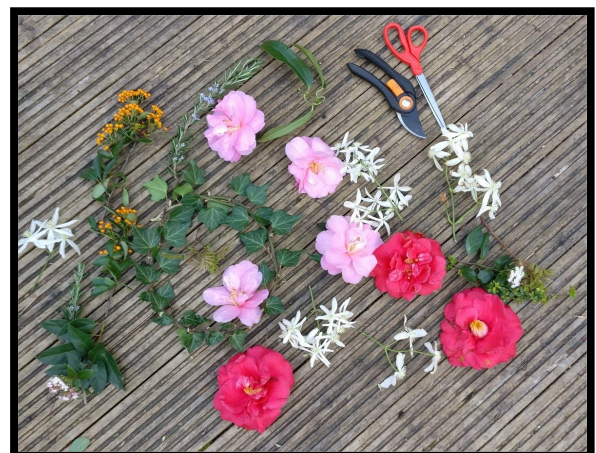
How to...

make a foraged (fully biodegradable) spring wreath
while out on a much needed walk.



What you will need:

- A walk around the block
- Secateurs or if you don't have any scissors
- Thread preferably green or dark
- Ivy
- Foraged plants and flowers of your choice *but remember to always leave flowers on the plant for pollinators*





Steps:

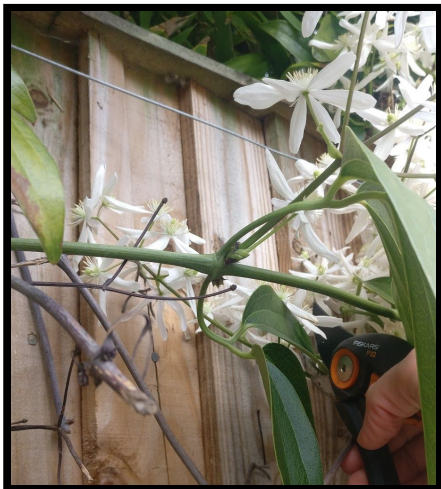
1.



Take a walk and find some interesting plants and flowers. When cutting make sure each plant has a long stalk, you will need this stalk when making the wreath.

Collect only one or two flowers to leave flowers on the plant for insect pollinators and not to damage the plant.

2.



Choose flowers that are hidden in the back or low down so others can enjoy the display after you. The flowers here are *Clematis armandii* which is a spring flowering climber native to China and Burma but it grows successfully in the UK as well.

3.



Find some hanging ivy and cut two or three long strands (it grows everywhere). This will make the base of the wreath. Make a circle with the two threads of ivy entwining the stems. The stems should hold the wreath structure themselves and by entwining the leaves as well you can keep the wreath base in position. If it doesn't hold, tie it with a thread.

4.



Once the ivy base of your wreath is secure, start decorating with the flowers you've collected. Start with base decorations such as small green leaves, berries or smaller flowers.

Take the plant and remove the leaves or flowers from the lower part of the stem, to leave a lot of clean stem for entwining into your wreath.

5.



Push the stem between the entwined ivy then wrap around the base and once again push into the entwined ivy to hold the flowers in place.

6



If you have some plants with woody stems then cut the stem to about 3 cm then tie a thread around the stem.

Push the stem into the entwined ivy and attach with the thread.

I attached *Pyracantha* 'Orange Glow' with a thread as it has a woody stem and thorns so I had to cut the stems short.



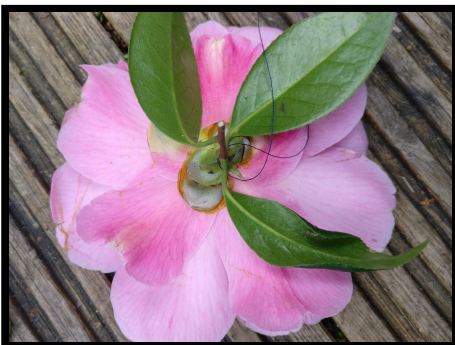
5.



Finally decorate with your large flowers. I asked my neighbours for some *Camellia japonica* which is now in bloom and has spectacular pink or red flowers.

The stem is woody and needs to be cut short to push it through the entwined ivy.

6.



Tie thread around the stem just under the flower by the sepals. Push the stem through the entwined ivy and tie it firmly to the base to hold in place.

Push the leaves through the entwined ivy for additional support.

7.



Check if your wreath looks good all around and add some flowers to balance out the back, front and sides.



8.



Congratulations your spring wreath is ready!

9.



Now take a look at the discarded flowers and look at their construction. Try to guess which flowers are interesting to pollinators and why?

Which flowers have a strong smell and which ones don't?

While you were foraging did you see any insects looking for pollen and nectar in the flowers?