



a natural state

Making a Kudzu Basket

List of Materials:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boots and gloves to wear when gathering the kudzu vines• 3 coils of kudzu, each coil being 15 feet in length. The kudzu should be older growth, and be smooth and tan in appearance. Don't use the end sections with leaves as they will be too soft. The vines you want will be in the woods a bit.• Long flat edge screwdriver• Hand pruning clippers	
Directions		
1)	Unravel the first coil of kudzu. Using the pruning shears, clip any rough stubble off of the vine. You want your basket to look smooth and tidy.	
2)	Even up the vine by bringing the ends together. Using the pruning shears, cut the vine to make four spokes or "fingers". These fingers will be used to form the bottom of your basket.	

3)	Flex the spokes and set them aside.	
4)	Select another fairly long piece to use for weaving through the spokes. Clean up the vine.	
5)	Fold the vine in half. Where the vine folds, this will provide u-shaped, open-ended loop which you will use to start weaving.	
6)	Pick up the four fingers, and cross them to make a "t" shape.	
7)	Loop the long piece of vine over and under each of the parts of the "t". Use your thumb to hold the weave together.	

8)	Keep turning the base, weaving the long vine over and under. The long pieces of vine may tangle, but shake them loose to unwind them as you go.	
10)	Split the fingers and continue to weave over and under, alternating the weaving with the two ends of the vine.	
11)	When the bottom of the basket is the size that you want the basket to be, you will need to start building up the sides.	
12)	Gently but firmly bend the spokes against your leg until they all bend upwards. You should be able to get an idea of what your basket will look like.	
13)	Continue to weave the ends into the basket, poking bits of vine into the base. Use the screwdriver to spread the vines apart a bit so that you have room to poke them in.	

14)	Select another piece of vine and uncoil it. Clean up the vine with the pruning shears. Even up the ends of the vine and make another open-ended loop.	
15)	Repeat process. Remember to use your thumb. The thumb is key to holding the weave together.	
16)	Take the loop and continue to go over and under the spokes in the same way as you did for the base, only this time, work on building up the sides of the basket.	
17)	Continue to weave until you reach the end of the coil. Again, use the screwdriver to poke spaces between the vines so that you can tuck the ends into the basket. This makes the basket stronger.	
18)	Don't worry about mistakes. They will just make your basket unique.	

19)	Next, bend the spokes down and poke them into the top of the basket. Use the screwdriver to help you open up spaces between the weave. Pull the vines straight through, to the bottom of the basket.	
20)	Do all of the spokes this way.	
21)	After all of the spokes have been tucked in, take the pruning shears and cut off the ends that are sticking down. Do this for all ends, neatening up the basket.	
22)	Your basket is now finished. To make your basket last a long time and to provide it with a lovely sheen, brush or spray the basket with a coat of wood sealant like you would use on a deck.	