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CREATE A MODERN WREATH GARDEN WITH PLANTS SUCH AS SUCCULENTS, MOSS, STRAWBERRY, TOMATO, HERB, LAVENDER, AND MORE!

CRAFT/GARDENING

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LIVING WREATHS

BERNHISEL ROBINSON

LIVING WREATHS

20 BEAUTIFUL PROJECTS FOR GIFTS AND DÉCOR



NATALIE BERNHISEL ROBINSON

From the simplest herb wreath to more extravagant succulent designs, the strong outlines and shapes of these living wreaths have great visual impact. Floral designer Natalie Bernhisel Robinson uses step-by-step instructions, an encouraging voice, and gorgeous photographs illustrating her techniques to teach how to make not just a wreath but a modern garden in miniature that changes to become even more beautiful as the plants mature.

Includes designs with the following plants:

- ECHEVERIA
- HENS & CHICKS
- CACTUS
- MOSS
- STRAWBERRY
- TOMATO
- HERB
- LETTUCE
- LAVENDER
- MIXED FLOWERS





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PLANTING

- 1 Start with a damp living wreath base.
- 2 With forceps, a wooden skewer or a screwdriver, make a hole through the moss into the core of the wreath-base soil. Planting with forceps is ideal and highly recommended! Forceps allow for easy placement of slender, delicate stems into the soil. They can also open a wedge or hole in the wreath base, and the tips help tuck in delicate roots.
- 3 Insert the succulent cutting or the plant roots into the hole as deeply as possible. Push the surrounding moss and soil toward the stem from all directions to secure. Add a pinch of extra moss around the stem to fill in the hole, if needed.
- 4 If the succulent feels as if it might fall out, add a U-shaped pin for support. A 1½-inch wire bent into a U-shape is a great size. You can make larger pins to secure larger succulents. I tend to use quite a few pins in my succulent wreath making, especially around the steep outer sides of the base. You don't want all your hard work to come undone! Never stick the pin into the flesh of the stem or leaf, but, rather, position the pin to straddle the section. On a large succulent rosette that can be quite heavy, I've pinned around the stem from below and even gently straddled down on top of a leaf for added support. Be sure not to crush the plump leaves.

After planting, the wreath should lay flat for five to six weeks to help roots take hold.

WATERING

Succulents are easy to care for, as they don't need a lot of water to flourish. Most succulents are drought tolerant and are accustomed to long periods between watering. Squeeze the wreath from behind, if the base is hard and dry, give it a deep watering. If the moss is dry on the outside but soft inside when you squeeze, do not water. Water the wreath once every two weeks by fully submerging it in water for 2 to 3 minutes or until the bubbles that escape cease coming to the surface. If watering with a garden hose is preferred, take the utmost care. A heavy stream of water from your hose will knock all your beautifully rooted succulents loose. A slow dribble from the hose is an effective wreath-watering procedure, provided that it's done at a slow and gentle rate with repeated applications. Succulents do not tolerate overwatering or misting in particular along with most other plants in general. Make sure to drain thoroughly before you rehang.

HANGING LOCATION

Think about where you want to hang a succulent wreath. Succulents can look different and vary in color and texture depending on sun exposure. I suggest keeping your newly constructed wreath in bright light but out of direct sunlight for one week and gradually introduce it to full exposure. However, wreaths might benefit most in partial shade from the midday sun. To be on the safe side, protect all succulent wreaths from freezing temperatures. Bright light is generally a requirement for the healthy growth of succulent wreaths with protection from midday sun in intense heat. The same bright-light needs exist for indoor succulent wreaths.

