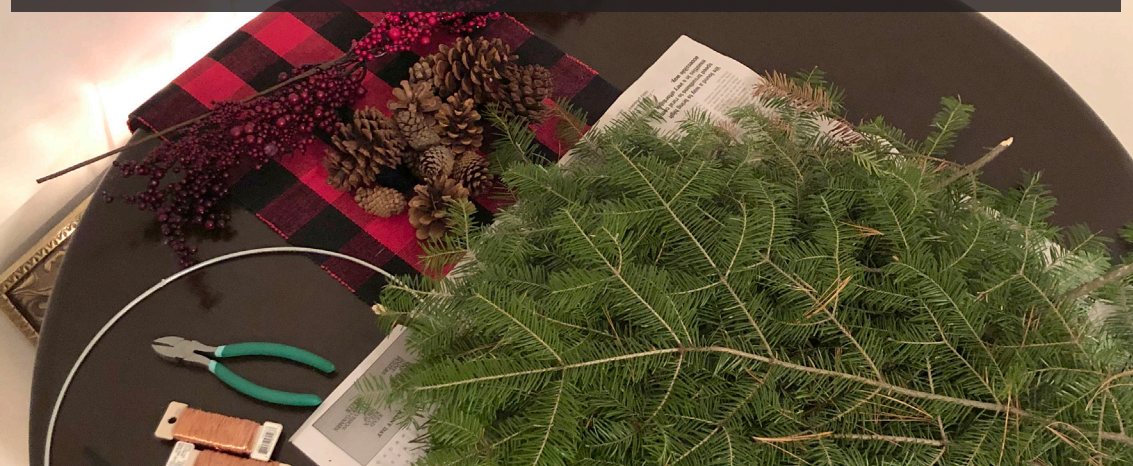


**Step 1:** Gathering supplies perhaps take the most amount of time due to each person's accessibility to the woods. Make sure to cut the greenery — whether it be balsam, spruce or pine — not too early before constructing the wreath and store the clippings in a cool place, preferably a garage or the trunk of a car. Floral wire is in stock at stores like Michaels or Walmart. To save on costs, use a wire hanger and make it into a circular base to act as the wreath form. Pine cones are easy to find in the Yooper woods, but they can also be purchased at your local department stores as well as other decor items. Lay out all of the supplies on a good work space area—a kitchen table works great for pine needles.



**Step 2:** To cut the greenery into appropriate sections, use either garden scissors or wire cutters to easily cut the branches. Start the wreath by bunching up a few different boughs of greenery at the base of the branches. Take the bundle and place it next to the wreath form and begin wrapping wire around the base a few times, firmly. Do not cut the wire until you've reached all around the wreath form.



## How to make a holiday wreath

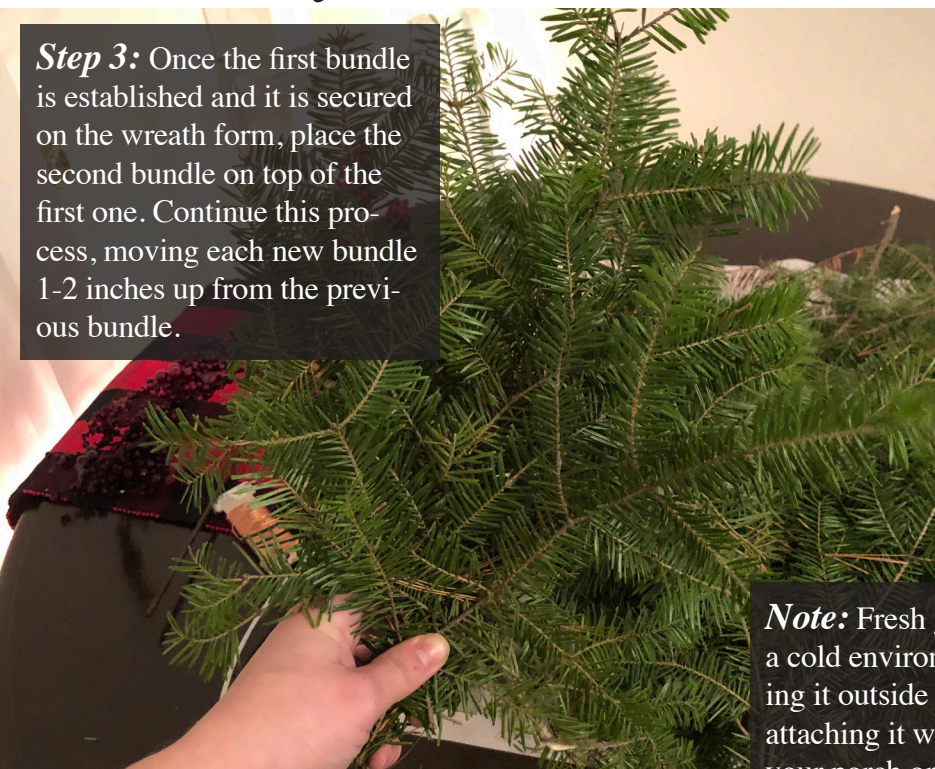
Photos & story by Jackie Jahfjelson  
editor-in-chief

Holidays bring out the lights, trees, Christmas outdoor decorations and action in people's yards. Everyone scrambles to perfect their Whoville-like wonderland

with shiny bulbs and tinsel ornaments. Decorating the house, however, can become costly. But with the right amount of supplies and a creative, festive mind, anyone can create a simple holiday wreath without any previous knowledge on the topic.

**Supplies needed includes:**  
-Fresh greenery (cut into 6-12" sections)  
-Floral wire (green works best for camouflage)  
-12" metal wreath form  
-Pine cones, red berries (real or fake), ribbon

**Step 3:** Once the first bundle is established and it is secured on the wreath form, place the second bundle on top of the first one. Continue this process, moving each new bundle 1-2 inches up from the previous bundle.



**Note:** Fresh greenery requires a cold environment, so placing it outside your door or attaching it with a hook on your porch or garage will keep it thriving all throughout the holidays for up to three weeks. Spritz water on the back of the wreath every two to three days to keep it healthy looking.

**Step 4:** After wrapping and binding down greenery all around, cut the floral wire and clip it over the wreath form. Tuck in any branches that look out of place.



**Step 5:** To attach pinecones, berries and other decor items, use floral wire to wrap around the items and tuck them into branches along the wreath form.



**Step 6:** As you finish the wreath, you may want to include more items depending on what style you're going for. Placing the bow can easily be done by making a bow from ribbon and using floral wire to attach it to the wreath form, either at the bottom or top.

