

## Baskets or Bird Nest Weaving

Several invasive plants can be used for basket making. Directions are given for a kudzu basket, but feel free to experiment. You can try making the base and spokes out of kudzu. Then use phragmites or other grasses to weave the sides of the basket.

**Materials:**

- Kudzu or other invasive vines

**Directions:**

1. Take 5 pieces of vine about 24" long and 1 piece about 16" long.
2. Lay 3 of the long vines parallel to each other.
3. Lay the other 3 vines across the first 3, with the shortest vine in the middle. Align 1 end of the short piece with the ends of the other 2 long pieces.
4. Take another long piece of thin, strong vine. Weave the 6 segments together, going over the top 3 (as a group), and under the bottom 3 about 3 times. Make sure the vines are securely fastened together.
5. Do not cut this vine. It will be used for weaving.
6. Spread the vines so they are evenly spaced like spokes of a wheel.
7. Pick up the thin, long vine and start weaving over and under each spine. Pull tightly.  
Note: The short extension of the original 16" piece becomes part of the spine next to it. Weave them together as one. This gives an uneven number of spines for weaving.
8. When you get to the end of the first vine, add another. Make sure they overlap by at least one spine so that the basket won't fall apart.
9. After making the bottom of the basket as large as desired, fold and crease all the spokes upward.
10. Continue weaving up the sides, but don't go up more than 1/3 the height of the spokes.
11. Finish the basket by bending a spoke sideways past the adjacent spoke and pushing it through the space beside the third spoke. You may need an awl or ice pick to tuck the spokes. Then tuck the skipped spoke beside the fourth spoke, etc. Continue all the way around the basket.
12. If the spokes stick out the bottom of the basket, cut off the excess. Finish the basket by tucking or trimming any ends that stick out. Be sure the ends are secure enough to hold the basket together before trimming them.