

How to Make Wattle Fencing Step by Step

Thank you to Arthur Simmons for these instructions, inspired by the website 'forgottenwayfarms.com'. After our own experiments we may be able to refine them!

Insert image – wattle fencing facts

How to Make Wattle Fencing Step by Step

Here is our (forgottenway farm's) pictorial guide in which we use our local and abundant resource, thousands of Bull Pine Trees. But, use whatever YOU have that is pliable and green. For some that is willow, pliable branches of any tree (which makes a beautiful rustic weave) I've even seen bamboo split in half and used!

1. First, gather yourself a large armful of your local material and make two piles. The stake pile needs to be everything 1 1/2" in diameter or larger. The wattle pile should be 1" or less.

Insert image how to wattle 1 (which actually relates to instruction 2)

2. After cutting stakes to 3'-4' feet long put the smaller end in a vise or a shaving horse. I'm using a hand Brace fitted with a 1" auger bit, to score the small end of the stake gently.

Insert images 2 (which relate to instruction 3) ... and so on. There's at least one image for each instruction from here on.

3. Now with a reference line, drawknife a taper leaving as much of the reference line as you can.
4. Take your bundle of tapered stakes to a hurdle jig, made of anything laying around. (ex. log, 2x4, 4x4, scrap lumber) Nail or screw outriggers on both ends of the jig to keep it stable while building the hurdle. Drill 1 1/2" holes in the jig about 16" to 18" apart. The distance the stakes need to be apart totally depends on the size of material you are using for the wattle. The larger the wattle material, the further apart the stakes will need to be.
5. Hammer the stakes smartly and tightly into the jig so that they stand on their own.
6. Remember, that all natural material tapers from thicker at the base to thinner at the top. Because of this make sure to alternate the wattle as you stack your weave.
7. Now for the fun part, weave your green wattle material around the stakes. It always seemed to me that help appeared for this part.
8. I like to stop the weave about 4" from the top of the stakes. They act as handles when it comes time for moving the wattle hurdles.

Important!

9. Secure the hurdle by nailing or screwing the top and bottom of the wattle hurdle. Most importantly screw the wattle rails to the first and last stakes to keep them from going anywhere.
10. You're almost finished, using a sharp handsaw cut the wattle rails that are running wild 3" past the last stakes. Lastly, cut the wattle hurdle from the jig by sawing off the tapered end of the stakes leaving you with a flat-bottomed wattle hurdle panel.
11. Now you know how to make wattle fencing step by step!

Now put that beautiful wattle to work! We used it in our gardens, as a privacy fence for our outdoor living area and of course, for the animals.