

Balsam Fir Wreaths

Making a balsam fir wreath is not necessarily a difficult process but there is definitely a lot more to it than just tying some random tips together on a wire ring with some wire.

The basic structure of a wreath is a ring form, and while the size of the ring determines the final size of the wreath you must take into account that the branches will add substantial volume to the finished product. For example, a 20 cm (8") ring will yield a 30-35 cm (12-14") wreath.

To make a wreath from balsam fir tips, first many tips of the same length must be gathered. Secondly, the branches are gathered in small bundles and then they are attached to the form using wire. Continue to attach tips, working centrally until the tips are attached over the whole ring form.

A good wreath should be compact and sturdy, with a distinct round hole in the center. If you can still spot the ring, wire or broken stems on the wreath, this probably means that it needs more tips or that it was not constructed properly. Wreaths should also be of appropriate weight. For example, a 30-35 cm (12-14") wreath should weigh approximately 0.7-0.9 kg (1.5-2 lbs), while a 50-60 cm (20-24") wreath should weigh approximately 1.6-1.8 kg (3.5-4 lbs).

Getting the most from your wreath is also important. If possible, your wreath should be hung in a cool and damp location, where it is not going to be directly hit by wind, rain or sunlight. If it is kept indoors, keep it in a well ventilated area. Finally, if your wreath begins to wilt or dry out, spray it with some water. It needs to be hydrated too just as your natural Christmas tree needs to be watered regularly.