

# Williamsburg®

## DECORATING TIPS

### HOW TO MAKE FLORAL BANDS FOR HATS AND HAIR

*Supplies and materials needed:* coat hanger wire or similar heavy wire, wire cutters, needle nose pliers, green floral tape, #28 gauge spool wire, clippers, ribbon (optional), and conditioned plant materials.

A garden wedding is the perfect occasion for flower-garlanded straw hats or wreaths of flowers for the bride and her attendants.

Bend a piece of heavy wire into a circle or oval so that it will fit loosely around the brim of the hat or the head of the wearer. Cut the wire, allowing extra wire for a loop at each end, and interlock the 2 loops as shown. Wrap the wire with green floral tape. Select flowers that will stay fresh out of water for several hours.



There are 2 ways to prepare the bunches before they are wired onto the frame.

(1) Wrap the stems of tiny bunches of fresh flowers and foliage about 2 1/2 inches long with green floral tape. The floral tape will help the stems stay moist longer. Using a process similar to making a full-size wreath, attach the end of the spool wire to the wire frame. Leave the wire attached to the spool. Hold a bunch of flowers on the frame and wrap the spool wire around the ends and the frame several times. Hold another



bunch of flowers to cover the wired ends of the previous bunch and attach this bunch by wrapping the spool wire around the ends and frame several times.

Continue to wire the bunches to the frame until it is completely covered. The last bunch should be wired underneath the blooms of the first bunch. Cut the spool wire and wrap the end securely around the frame. Be sure to keep the size of the bunches and the distance between them uniform. Mist the band, put it in a plastic bag, and keep it in the refrigerator until needed. The band may be made the day before the wedding.

(2) For very fragile flowers, the floral bunches can be made the day before the wedding. Wire the small bunches of flowers and foliage. Place the bunches in a shallow container of water, mist, and keep them covered with plastic in the refrigerator. When you are ready to attach the bunches to the wire frame, blot the stems and secure to the frame with green floral tape. Place the flower band over the crown of the hat and attach it to the front and back with a small piece of spool wire. Attach ribbon streamers to the wire loops if desired.



*A small nosegay of fresh flowers and foliage – goldenrod, chrysanthemums, miniature roses, and Alexandrian laurel – is secured to the back of a fine Milan straw hat.*

This article was taken from Susan Hight Rountree's book *Entertaining Ideas from Williamsburg*.