

The Fall Wreath Planner

A printable companion to the six-piece designer fall wreath

Print this planner and keep it with your autumn decorations. It gives you the six-piece shopping list, the three colour schemes, the bow loop guide, the six-minute step checklist, a door-hanging safety check and a four-season rebuild plan — everything you need to make this wreath without scrolling back through the article.

The Six-Piece Shopping List

Piece	What to look for	Have it?
18-inch oval grapevine wreath	Tightly woven, flat on the back, no loose loops	
2 fall foliage picks	Rust, ochre and deep green leaves, flexible wire stems	
2 decorated stems	Small pumpkins, sunflowers and berries on one stem	
1.5-inch burlap wired ribbon	Wired edges — check the selvedge before you buy	
Floral wire (24-gauge)	On a spool, for securing the bow	
Wire cutters	Sharp, used only for stems	

Buy the base first and take it with you. The only way to judge whether a stem is the right scale is to hold it against the base you will actually use.

Colour Scheme Card

Pick one scheme and hold every stem against it before you buy. A wreath that uses every autumn colour at once looks noisy.

Scheme	Colours	Ribbon	Chosen?
Classic harvest	Rust, ochre, deep green	Burlap or oatmeal	
Muted neutral	Cream, sage, soft brown	Oatmeal	
Deep and rich	Burgundy, plum, bronze, dark green	Red or tartan	

Match the door, not the season. Muted neutrals disappear on a cream door; deep burgundy disappears on a black one.

Bow Loop Guide

Three pairs of loops, each pair slightly smaller than the last, secured with floral wire rather than tied. Wire is what stops the bow sagging.

Step	What to do	Done
1	Cut a 14-inch tail and let it hang	
2	Pinch and make a 6-inch loop, twisting at the pinch	
3	Make a matching loop on the other side	
4	Repeat twice more, each pair slightly smaller	
5	Cut a second 14-inch tail for the opposite side	
6	Wrap floral wire around the centre 3–4 times and twist closed	
7	Fluff the loops outward and pull the tails into a soft V	

If the bow looks flat, it is the ribbon. Unwired ribbon cannot hold a loop, however carefully you tie it.

The Six-Minute Step Checklist

- Base laid flat, front side up, natural top identified
- First foliage pick pushed into the bottom, angled to follow the curve
- Second foliage pick at the top, facing the opposite direction
- First decorated stem layered over the bottom foliage pick
- Second decorated stem layered over the top foliage pick
- Wreath turned over and every stem trimmed flush
- Back of the wreath felt by hand — no stem protruding
- Bow wired to the base between the two clusters
- Leaves and berries fluffed outward so nothing looks squashed
- Distance test: stood back six feet and the eye knows where to land

Door-Hanging Safety Check

Check	Why it matters	OK
Every stem trimmed flush at the back	A protruding stem scratches the paint under the wreath's weight	
Hanger padded where it touches the door	Metal presses into paint and leaves a mark	
Adhesive hook surface cleaned and cured	A hook on dust or damp paint fails and drops the wreath	

Check	Why it matters	OK
Wreath weight matched to the hanger	A heavy wreath needs a screw or an over-door hook, not a small adhesive pad	
Ribbon loop checked for fraying	A frayed ribbon can give way in wind	

Four-Season Rebuild Plan

Nothing is glued, so the same grapevine base carries you from September to summer. Pull the stems out, store them flat, and rebuild.

Season	What to add	Ribbon	Planned?
Autumn	Rust foliage, small pumpkins, sunflowers, berries	Burlap or oatmeal	
Christmas	Evergreen sprigs, pinecones, dried orange slices, cinnamon sticks	Red or tartan	
Spring	Pale blossom stems, pussy willow, small eggs	Sage or cream	
Summer	Dried grasses, wheat, eucalyptus, small daisies	Natural jute	

What I Used This Year

Base — size, shape, where bought

Foliage picks — colours and where bought

Decorated stems — what was on them

Ribbon — width, colour, wired or not

What I would change next year

Stem Storage Log

Box label	Season	Stems inside	Stored flat?

Store stems flat in a tissue-lined box, never upright in a vase — standing them bends the wire and crushes the leaves. Keep the base itself somewhere dry; damp makes grapevine brittle.

Next Year's Plan

Write down what you want to change while it is still fresh. A wreath improves every year you rebuild it, and the notes are what make that happen.

Stems to retire (faded or bent)

Stems to buy more of

Colour scheme to try next autumn

Anything to fix on the door or hanger

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