

Today we're gonna take up **making dogwood net hoops.**

In order to make a dogwood net hoop you must first have 2 perfect dogwood branches of almost the same diameter. Perfect means a branch with no main branches protruding from it and it must be at least 4 feet and preferably 6 feet long.

Now make twine bands the length of the stick you are going to shape into a hoop. Lay one of the sticks on the ground, put one end of your string loop under the big end and step on the stick. Reach down and take the small end in your hand and pull upward, shaping the stick into the shape of a bow). Now put the other end of the string loop on the end of the stick that is in your hand. Lay the bow aside to get used to the shape it's in and repeat the process with the other stick.

After a few days bend the bows some more by winding the string loop several wraps on either end of them. Every few days repeat this process until you have your hoops in the shape of the letter U. Once the dogwood sticks are in the U shape let them cure for several weeks ... more in the winter, less in the summer. If at any point in the process the hoop cracks open in the bend discard it and make another one.

Put the two U halves together by overlapping the ends and binding them together with fishing twine. Presto ... you have a perfect flattened oval dogwood net hoop.