

Gathering and Preparing Your Pine Needles

1-Week Prior to Class



1. Gather your needles from the ground, do not pull green needles off the trees. You are looking for needles that are at least 6" long. Longer is better. I use needles that are 8-12" long. You are looking for straight needles still in their cluster of 3. Once gathered, line them up facing the same direction to dry.



2. This is roughly the amount of needles you will need for the class, but please feel free to gather more while the gathering is good!



3. Gently wash your needles using a small amount of dish soap. Then rinse.



4. Now we are going to soak the needles. Place needles (still laying in the same direction) in sink or old pan and cover with boiling water. Weight the needles down with something heavy like a plate and leave to soak for 30 mins.



5. Remove needles from hot water soak, lay on towel and remove the top of the needle cluster. Be gentle enough to keep the cluster in tact (if the cluster pulls apart keep the needles, they can be still be used)

OVER



6. Store needles in sealed plastic bag in refrigerator or freezer. They need to stay moist.

NEEDLE PREP SHOULD BE COMPLETED 1 WEEK PRIOR TO FIRST CLASS.

(If completed prior to 1 week before class they need to be stored in freezer to avoid mold)