

# The Garden Basket

by Beth Hester

#8396 - Pattern  
The Garden Basket



Size: 10" diameter  
Height: 7"

*The Scottsville, Kentucky Garden Club organized a basket workshop for its members and they asked me to create a useful basket with wooden base, braided seagrass and one of our signature oak swing handles. They've named it 'The Garden Basket'; it's pretty, it's practical and it's one you'll use often whether outside in the garden or indoors. Starting with an 8" round slotted base and using 5/8" flat for the spokes, this easy-to-make Garden Basket has accent rows of #0 seagrass, braided seagrass and moss green dyed reed.*

*What a great addition to your collection.*

## Materials/Supplies:

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8" Slotted Base	1 Each
5/8" Flat Reed	35 ft. Stakes
1/4" Flat Reed	70 ft. Weavers & Lashing
5/8" Braided Seagrass	4 ft. Weaver
#0 Seagrass	50 ft. Weavers & Rim Filler
1/4" Dyed Reed	8 ft. Weavers
3/8" Flat	4 ft. Weaver
1/2" Flat Oval	8 ft. Rims
10" Oak Swing Handle/Ears	1 Each

## Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your flat reed, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible; seagrass needs only to be spritzed. Soak the Flat Oval Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water. If reed becomes dry while you are weaving, dip it in water.
2. Soak dyed reed separately, rinse well and wipe with towel before using.
3. Do not over soak your reed, it will become mushy.
4. Flat reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
5. As you weave you'll want to maintain an equal space between stakes by gently pushing on the stakes to keep them vertical and to maintain a diameter of 10 inches.
6. When weaving the sides, do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving.
7. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

## Weaving Your Basket

Sand your slotted base and apply the finish of your choice, allowing the finish to dry completely. Cut 28 pieces (stakes) 10" long from 5/8" flat reed. Trace the outline of the base onto a piece of paper. Cut out the shape; fold in half and in half again. Unfold and, using the crease lines as your template, mark the edge of the base in 4 places to indicate the 4 quarters. Soak all the stakes then insert each stake into the slot with the rough side up. Place 7 stakes evenly spaced into each quarter. Twine 1 row of #0 Seagrass--be sure to place each twine stitch as close to the edge of your base as possible. Twine 2 more rows and secure the ends of seagrass underneath a couple of twined stitches before trimming.

To check the security of your stakes, push each stake into the slot, reseating the stakes if needed, then crease each stake upward at the edge of the third row of twining. Weave 11 stop/start rows with 1/4" Flat (rough side of reed to the inside of the basket). As you weave, hold stakes upright, establishing and maintaining an even space between all stakes and keeping the diameter at 10".

Now for the accent rows:

Twine 2 rows of #0 Seagrass. (If the seagrass is long enough to go around the basket 4 times plus several inches extra, I just fold that piece of seagrass in half and begin twining. Once I complete these 2 rows, I lay the seagrass to the inside of my basket and I'll just pick it up when I need it again in a few rows.)

Weave 1 row dyed 1/4" Flat.

Weave 1 row 5/8" Braided Seagrass (there is not right and wrong side of the braid).

Weave 1 row dyed 1/4" Flat (weave this row in the same pattern as the previous 1/4" Flat dyed row).

Twine 2 rows of #0 Seagrass then tuck ends behind some previous rows of weaving.

Weave 7 rows of 1/4" Flat.

Weave 1 final row of 3/8" Flat. (Note: see list of all rows below.)

Here's the overall plan:

Rows 1 - 3	Twine with #0 Seagrass	
Rows 4 - 14	1/4" Flat (weave 11 rows of 1/4" Flat)	
Rows 15 - 16	Twine with #0 Seagrass	
Row 17**	1/4" Dyed Flat	
Row 18	5/8" Braided Seagrass	
Row 19**	1/4" Dyed Flat	<b>**<u>Weave Rows 17 and 19 in same pattern</u></b>
Rows 20 - 21	Twine with #0 Seagrass	
Rows 22 - 28	1/4" Flat (weave 7 rows of 1/4" Flat)	
Row 29	3/8" Flat	

Pack rows. Soak stakes that extend above the top row for several minutes--don't rewet the woven sides of the basket. Identify each stake where the top row of weaver is on the inside of the basket; crease, trim to length, then tuck each of these stakes behind two rows of weaving on the inside of your basket. Cut all remaining stakes flush with the top of the basket.

### **Handle, Rims and Lashing**

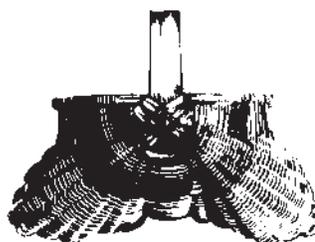
Locate two stakes, one on either side of the basket, on which to position the handle. Beginning at the upper row of twined seagrass, insert the tapered ends of one of the Swing Handle's ears behind the weavers along one of the chosen stakes. Place the ear behind the weavers on the inside and the outside of the basket, pushing the ear downward behind one row of weaving at a time. Position the shelf of the ear's notch so it's level with the bottom of the rim row. Insert the other ear along its chosen stake. See photo for placement

Soak the 1/2" Flat Oval. Determine the rim lengths, allowing about a 4" overlap. Mark and carve the overlap.

Attach rims and 2 or 3 lengths of #0 Seagrass rim filler to the basket with cable ties.

Using 1/4" Flat Reed, single lash the rims to the basket creating a backstitch at the handles.

Enjoy!



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