

Veg Fest Chili Pepper Garland or Salsa on a String Contest

Easy to make and with your creativity it will add a new twist to a traditional garland.

Supplies

24 Paddle wire – (craft store or floral shop will have)

Chile peppers – (from your garden or the farmers' market) you will need 36 to 48 or more if you want a longer garland.

Herbs, garlic, greenery, dried vegetables

Garden shears or scissors

Raffia

Twine

Red ribbons

Tips

Whatever you do, don't rub your eyes or do anything without first washing your hands thoroughly after handling hot chili peppers. Wear kitchen gloves or disposable gloves when working with hot chili peppers.

Work over newspaper, and have plenty of soap and water ready to clean your hands when you're done.

Instructions

1. Gather your peppers check to make sure they are no blemish as this will cause spoilage. Let them sit over night to harden the stem.
2. Prepare them for stringing on the garland by piercing the stem ends with a 6-to-8 inch piece of floral wire or a large needle. Double the wire back after piercing the stem end so that there is at least 3 inches on each side of the stem.
3. Gather other ingredients you want to use such as dried tomatoes, herbs, tips of branches to add texture and color to your garland.
4. Lay a 10-foot length of string or twine on a large, flat surface.
5. Tie a loop in one end of the string.
6. Attach number 24 floral wire (paddle wire) to the loop end of the twine.
7. Select several of the foliage pieces and place them together in a bunch, with the stems at one end.
8. Place the bundle of foliage at the loop end of the twine with the stems pointing toward the long end of the string.
9. Wrap the floral wire around the stems and twine to secure them in place. You will need two hands for this-one to hold the foliage in place against the string, and the other to wrap the wire.
10. Wrap the floral wire around the bundle a second time and pull tight. Make sure to leave the wire attached to the twine, because you still have a long way to go.
11. Lay a wired chili on top of the foliage bundle and wrap the floral wire around the wired stem end.
12. Fold the stem wire back over the wrapping wire so the chili won't slip out of the finished garland.
13. Gather another bundle of foliage and lay it so that the leaves overlap with the first bunch and cover the stems but leave the chili pepper visible.
14. Continue the process of overlapping the bunches of foliage intermixed with the wired chili peppers and other ingredients, wiring both to the twine until you run out of string. When you finally come to the end, twist the wire tightly around the last bundle, and knot the wire and the string together.
15. Leave 12 inches of wire (to attach the garland where you want it) and cut the wire with scissors or pruning shears.
16. Cover the finished end of the garland with a red ribbon or raffia bow.
17. If you want a longer garland, you can wire two completed garlands together.

Have fun, be creative and be sure you bring your garland to the Veg Fest by 10:00 a.m. on September 16th to enter into the contest.

Veg Fest 2007
10 AM, Sept 16, Old Cheney Farmers Market

Please bring with you to the KZUM booth on September 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Chili Pepper Garland Contest

Entry Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Official Use

Contestant # _____