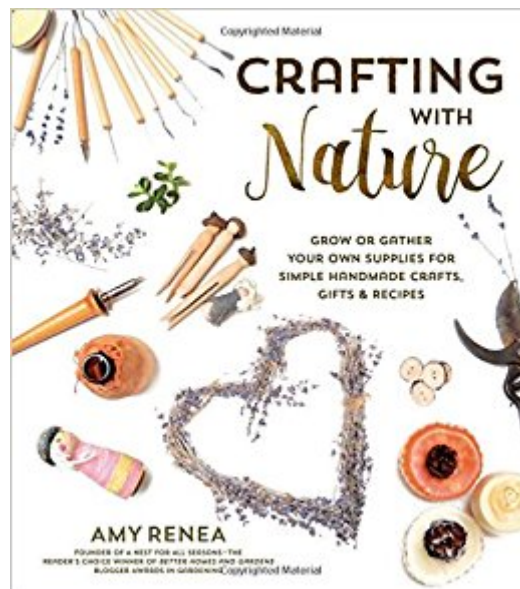




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# Crafting With Nature: Grow Or Gather Your Own Supplies For Simple Handmade Crafts, Gifts & Recipes



## Synopsis

An Inspiring Collection of Handmade Crafts Using Materials from Nature Fuse your love for crafting and the outdoors with this incredible compilation of DIY crafts, recipes and gifts made with natural materials you can grow or gather yourself. Gardening and crafting expert Amy Renea takes you on a journey to collect plant materials from the woods, the backyard, the garden and even the pantry, then craft those items into something special yet easy to do. She provides detailed tutorials and recipes for things like making solid perfume, crafting wooden buttons to accent a hat, preparing natural dye for easy paper flowers, canning your own fruit jam, handcrafting wreaths, using seed pods to create beautifully rustic earrings and even making your own coconut oil for lotions or sea salt for hand scrubs! And throughout the book, you'll learn new crafting techniques like wood burning, imprinting leaves onto clay and how to infuse oil with herbs for culinary and cosmetic delights. Each chapter starts with a common plant and a beginner-friendly guide to growing or gathering it, then dives into ideas for what you can make with it. With this book packed full of tutorials, ideas and Amy's lovely photography, you'll be inspired to craft with nature all year long.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is an absolute treasure and complete delight. I, and many others I'm sure, look forward to many happy hours crafting with nature." —Frances Schultz, author of *The Bee Cottage Story*, contributing editor to *House Beautiful* magazine and former host of the TV show *Southern Living Presents* "In a world where everything is packaged and made for us, this book is a breath of fresh air that reconnects us to our roots and natural resources."

It's about time.... This is how nature intended us to use it. —Sara Bendrick, landscape designer and star of the DIY Network's *I Hate My Yard* —“The projects and photos in this book are so engaging! Crafting guru Amy Renea shows you how to make unique gifts you've never seen before. —Amy Anderson, author of *Mod Podge Rocks!* and *Washi Tape Crafts* —“This book belongs in the collection of every self-respecting gardener or crafter who takes great pride in creating something special with their own hands! —Barbara Corcoran, owner of the crafty clothing company Grace & Lace and star of *ABC's Shark Tank* —“Crafting with Nature brings me back to my childhood and all of the natural products and remedies I used to make. The crafts look beautiful yet easy to do, and the photography is gorgeous! I cannot wait to dig in with my children! Truly inspiring. —Lauren Liess, founder of Pure Style Home and author of *Habitat: The Field Guide to Decorating* —“Pinterest comes to your backyard in this nature-inspired workbook full of beautiful handmade items. This book is a must-read for the creative folks who don't mind getting their hands dirty. —Beth Bryan, founder of *Unskinny Boppy* —“This book has become the reference guide for how to maximize my efforts in being a better gardener and crafter. Amy has demystified the processes involved in sourcing supplies and provided simple, step-by-step directions to create usable art. This is garden and craft alchemy at its best! —Jennifer Carrol, founder of *Celebrating Everyday Life* magazine —“This book takes —reduce, reuse and recycle— to the next level of beautiful. Making fun from nature is a great way to live a little greener —a must-have book for year-round crafting. —Shawna Coronado, author of *Grow a Living Wall* —“As someone who grows lots of herbs and flowers, loves crafts and making natural products for my home, this book speaks volumes to me. What better way to be crafty than by collecting or growing the materials yourself? Amy has written a winner! —Lisa Steele, author of *Fresh Eggs Daily*

Amy Renea is a crafter, gardener and photographer. She is the creator of *A Nest for All Seasons* —chosen as the “best gardening blog” in the Better Homes & Gardens Blogger Awards. She has written for Houzz, Hobby Farm Home, *Celebrating Everyday Life* magazine and Forbes.com. Amy and her family divide their time between central Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico.

This is such a beautiful book, full of fun and unique ideas I can't wait to try! The fairy garden section is absolutely adorable and I'm completely enamored by the fact that I now know how to turn twigs

into buttons. (Twigs into buttons!! Who knew!) Also on my must-make list are the firestarter cone cupcakes, which are going to be perfect for this summer's camping trips. Overall, a great book and instant favorite that's not just going to sit on my bookshelf looking pretty. (Though it is - very pretty!) I see this one being well-loved and used and toted on many a nature walk with my kids.

Gave this as a gift, and the person really liked the variety of projects.

This book is a dud. Same old stuff.

Live it & looking forward to doing a few of the crafts with my granddaughter!

Gave this for a gift to my Reddit Secret Santa recipient - she said she loved it and was excited to try the crafts.

Perfect

This book dabbles in a little bit of everything related to crafts. Although the focus is mostly on crafting with materials that can be re-purposed from the wild or that you can grow yourself, there are other recipes related to using items in your pantry. In 194 pages, the author discusses how to create a fairy garden, make a simple jam, work with pine cones, create natural dyes, grow certain foods such as beets, create lotions from items purchased in the grocery store, knit a slouch hat with a circle loom, concoct a rosewater face toner, etc. Most items are simple and some other items are extremely simple, like making vanilla or cinnamon sugar. Since I already made vanilla sugar before, I made cinnamon sugar using her recipe which came out great. Cinnamon sugar is delicious on buttered toast. I can see myself one day making the "beach-in-a-jar coconut whip" or "Amy's red, white, and blue jam." I read through many of the recipes and the caveats of each. For instance, in the recipe for the mango, coconut and beeswax lotion bars, she warns the crafter not to boil the mixture or it could explode. Although, the intro to each craft provides some good information, what I would have liked is some mention of whether the lotion and potion recipes can be mixed using my kitchen bowls that I use for food. I am wondering if I have to re-purpose some kitchen implements for just these tasks and retire them from food service. I refrained from trying those recipes because I do not have (nor do I want) a second set of kitchen tools and mixers dedicated solely to these

recipes. In summary, this is a small crafting book with such varied craft ideas that there are sure to be two or more items that a beginner crafter (like me) will find useful. It does not go in-depth on anything but instead provides a smattering of suggestions on how to craft with nature and with items from your pantry. This, however, does not mean that the crafts will be "free." Purchases will have to be made for many of the items being crafted—such as a circle loom for creating a slouch hat, scented oils for the lotions, etc.

I am terrible at putting things together, and wanted some inspiring ideas to help me along when trying to put together gifts of sorts. I wanted cool ideas, not lame ones. This book exceeded my expectations. Crafting with Nature offers a large number of various nature-based crafting ideas. Not only is practicality found throughout several projects, but also materials so easily accessible for whichever ideas one chooses to indulge in. This book is sensibly organized into sections which feature woodland ingredients, or household pantry goods, among others. My biggest concern was whether or not this book would be more regionally focused. If it is, I'm glad I'm in the region in which the lavenders can thrive, the grape vines can be found in my back yard, rosemary landscapes nearly every local gas station, and a forest of branches, pine cones, and acorns is but a hop, skip, and a jump away. The crafting projects are plentiful, each interesting, practical, or whimsical in its own way. There are clear guidelines for creating bath salts, natural jewelry, decorations, and more without any complicated procedures to worry about. No matter where one begins with this book, it is certain to end with satisfaction in your project. So many fun, accessible, and affordable ideas from which to choose. Crafting with Nature is certainly worth exploring.

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