

You can make a compostable flower crown by fastening fresh blooms and greenery to a ring of bendable plant stems with untreated cotton twine. Leave out wire, plastic tape and synthetic ribbon, then snip the crown into small pieces before adding it to compost.

Collect suitable supplies

Set out fresh flowers with reasonably firm stems, flexible greenery and cotton twine that is untreated and undyed. You will also need scissors and a soft measuring tape. These are tools for making the crown, not materials that should stay in it.

Flowers with small heads are simpler to secure than large, weighty blooms. Clusters of little flowers, including chamomile, can fill spaces around bigger stems. Pick greenery that will bend without breaking, and handle only plants you can identify as safe. Steer clear of thorny stems and any plants known to irritate skin.

Read the twine label before using it. Natural fibers may have treatments or be mixed with synthetic fibers, so choose plain cotton with no plastic coating. Do not use floral foam, wire, plastic ties or standard floral tape.

Make the leafy ring

Measure around your head at the spot where you want the crown to rest. Allow extra length for the greenery ends to overlap, then cut two or three long, pliable stems. If you have only shorter stems, join several with overlaps to create one longer piece.

Bend the greenery into a ring, leaving enough room for a comfortable fit. Secure the overlapped ends with cotton twine at several points. It should keep its shape when you pick it up, though it need not be an exact circle.

Leave the twine long enough to make secure knots, then cut off the extra.

Trim the flower stems into short lengths, keeping a few inches beneath each bloom so there is space to tie it onto the ring. Make small bundles of flowers and leaves before you begin attaching them. Use light bundles to help the finished crown stay comfortable.

Fasten each bundle in place

1. Lay the first bundle against the ring's outer side, with the stems following the base. Wind cotton twine around both the stems and the base several times, then knot it firmly.
2. Position the next bundle across the visible stems of the first. Aim its flowers in the same direction and tie its stems to the ring. The overlap covers the knots and helps the crown look continuous.
3. Work around the ring in the same way. Add greenery or smaller flowers to any open spots, and keep the inside fairly clear so stems and knots do not rub against your head.
4. Pick up the crown to look for anything that moves. Secure a shifting bundle with another tie, then trim any stems or twine ends that stick out.

Care for it after use

Store the crown somewhere cool until you are ready to wear it. Fresh flowers do not all wilt at the same speed, so make the crown as near as practical to the time you plan to put it on.

Once you have worn it, take off any additions that cannot be composted. Cut the flowers, greenery and cotton twine into small pieces before putting them in a suitable compost system. Thick stems and cotton can take longer to break down, and rules for local compost collection may differ.

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