THE BASICS...

For added strength …

+ We recommend using a pairing weave, is a very strong weave, which simply uses two ‘weavers’ together, crossing them over each other every time the pass an upright. (Diagram 5)

Diagram 5

+ Using two rods of non living Black Maul weaving willow add a pairing weave approx 30cm from base and again 30cm from the top. This will give strength to your structure and help it maintain its shape in the first year of growth. After the first year, it can be removed from the structure or left to decompose naturally. (Diagram 6)

Diagram 6

‘Working sensitively with the environment to continue a traditional rural business.

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Creating Your Own Living Willow Structures

- You will need basic tools such as a spade, string, marker pegs, garden gloves, pruners, and biodegradable garden ties (or fine willow to tie-off – some included) and mulch (optional).

- After finding a suitable position for your structure, snip each rod’s base diagonally to ease planting. (Diagram 1)

The Basics ...

- Mark out the base, use two pegs attached to some string to make a straight line and then ‘scratch’ the line into your turf (either 2 or 3m depending on purchased kit). Repeat for other side, remembering to leave space for the walk way – 1m. (Diagram 2)

- Use a spade to clear a 30cm wide strip of excess turf from your base – leave the doorway space intact. Add some compost to the cleared base, if desired.

- Starting at one end – push the long rods into the ground to a minimum depth of 15cm. Continue pushing single large rods into the prepared ground every 30cm.

- Bring the opposite rods gently towards each other to make an arch twist again and secure, at the required height. Continue until all rods are in an arch pattern. (Diagram 3)

- Excess length can be twisted around itself to keep it neat, or trimmed off later.

- Next add the medium length willow to weave into the frame. Push two rods into the ground at 45 degree angles, halfway between the larger rods. Then simply weave them upwards into your structure in a lattice or diamond pattern. If you are creating a doorway, simply ‘go back on your self’ to avoid blocking the entrance. (Diagram 4).

- Tie off the ends, as before, trim where necessary, then water well and leave to grow and thrive.

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