



a natural state

Artist: Nancy Basket

Video 2: Basket Process, Part B: Adding Kudzu

Basket: I'm going to have to do two things in a little bit. The raffia'll get shorter and shorter. You have to add a new piece of raffia and you have to add more...what I call, you have to feed the tail. The tail's always going to the left. The tail's always up on top.

This is a work in hand and a work in finger. You have to hold it like this. This finger holds the raffia out of play...out of the way, so it doesn't keep getting tangled up.

Wait. Now the raffia's too short. When it's too short, like this, you have to take the point of the needle and shove it back through the coils and pull it. You can cut this off later. Get your new piece of raffia. You want the thicker, darker end to go on the needle first. That works with the grain of the plant. Now we're ready. When you pick it up, the tail's always going to the left. The tail's up on top here. You come through a couple of coils. Hold the end of this raffia with your finger. Hold it for two stitches. If you don't, it just keeps pulling out.

This is the stuff I swept up off the floor. I'm trying to make the coil a little bit thinner. You don't want it too thick. Make it even on the end. And to feed the tail, what you're going to do is you're going to take your new stuff and just put it right underneath here, like this. So our start is going to look one way, and then it will get fuzzier.

And I just love the texture. I do love the color. The smell's wonderful. When you get a whole room full of it, the kids sniff, sniff, sniff and say, "O-o-h, what's that?" And I say, "That is the aroma of fresh green apples."

And so, with all these kinds of questions then, it ties into all kinds of other things in our natural world.

