



a natural state

Artist: Nancy Basket

Video 5: Collecting Kudzu

Basket: I bought the property because it had kudzu on it, and kudzu was coming in the house. But I love this part of the back, where it was kind of secluded. They've logged behind us, and I was really afraid that they were going to take these trees out—all full of the big, thick kudzu. But unfor...fortunately, for me, I guess they thought they weren't worth anything.

Child: Here's some more.

Basket: I know. Aren't we fortunate we have so much?

Child: Ugh!

Basket: Oh, you're so strong. Thank you, honey.

Child: ...[indecipherable]

Basket: I know.

Child: ...[indecipherable]

Basket: What I like to do is pull on it a little bit, but you've got to be careful. Yep. Like that. It can fall on you. Now I've just saved my tree here from dying.

I really wanted to get it out so I don't have to cut too much of it off because the rest is still good. I'll start here. Nice sharp knife. Let's see. Now if it's too small, like this, it splits like a green bean because it's a member of the legume family. So you want something a little bit older.

I take it here and split it like this. I just keep splitting it. It's so easy to split. And when they don't split it exactly right, they get these short pieces. That's why I scoop them all up. I don't let them throw anything away. And that's what you're going to see me working with...is the small, split pieces.

End.

