

THE BASICS

Tepees

✦ For a tepee (after stages 1-3, circle and all rods in ground) simply gather the upright rods together at the top and tie off tightly at the required height, using thin willow strips or bio-degradable ties.

(Diagram 7)



Windows

✦ Circles of willow can be added to your structures to add an extra feature and strength. Simply take a piece of weaving willow and create a circle. Add another piece to build it up to form a circular wreath, position your circle and secure with the weaving willow.

(Diagram 8)



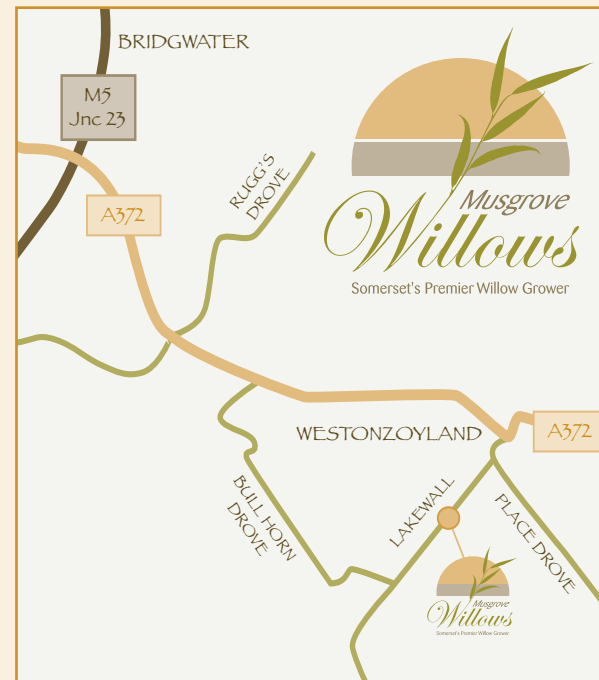
✦ Tie off the ends, as before, trim where necessary, then water well and leave to grow and thrive.

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INFORMATION

If you require any more information we are happy to recommend some excellent books, all of which are available to buy from Musgrove Willows at very competitive prices. Or, even better, why not come and join us in the beautiful Somerset countryside for one of our popular willow craft courses? Our courses will enable you to learn many different weaving methods. Please visit our website to find out more about what Musgrove Willows has to offer you.

WE ARE HERE



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‘Working sensitively with the environment



to continue a traditional rural business.

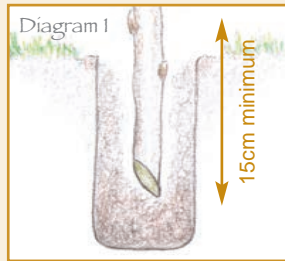
DOMES & TEPEE'S

GENERAL INFORMATION

To start ...

! You will need basic tools such as a spade, string, marker pegs, garden gloves, pruners, and bio-degradable 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 Beginning!

! Mark out the base, use a peg attached to some string to 'scratch' a circle into your turf. Don't forget to leave a door space (about 1 metre)! (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 the 'doorpost' push two long rods into the ground close together, to a minimum depth of 15cm. Continue pushing the remaining single large rods into the prepared ground every 30cm. Finish at the other 'doorpost' with another two long rods close together.

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THE BASICS...

! Twist two 'doorpost' sets of rods around each other and gently towards each other to make a doorway, twist again and secure, at the required height, to complete the entrance arch. (Diagram 3)



Diagram 3



Diagram 4

! Take an opposite pair of the remaining upright rods and bend towards each other to meet in the centre and tie off at your required height (Diagram 4) approx 1.5m or 1.8m. You may need extra help for this! Continue to do this until you achieve your dome shape.

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



Diagram 7

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THE BASICS...

! Next add the medium length willow to weave into the frame. Push two rods into the ground in a lattice fashion at 45 degree angles, halfway between the larger rods (approx 8cm). 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 5).



Diagram 5

Pairing weave...

! 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.

! 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 6, Diagram 7 showing the pairing weave in the structure.)

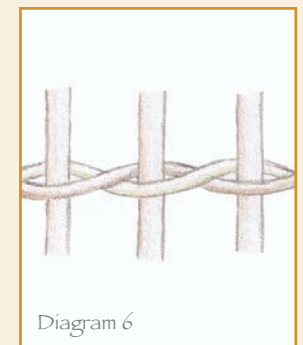


Diagram 6

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