

How to make a Scarecrow.



Eaton Scarecrow Competition

Originally used by farmers to keep birds away from important crops, in times gone by they were very much part of the landscape.

Scarecrows are not expensive to make, and you can have fun by easily making a scarecrow from everyday items that are lying about the house, they can be as crazy or silly as you like.

This easy set of instructions may be of help in making your scarecrow, and remember it requires no more complicated skill other than cutting and tying.

You only need a few items to make your scarecrow and clothes that are too far gone to give away are just great. Suggest that you will need a pair of tights or nylons, an old shirt, an old pair of pants or jeans, scraps of fabric, a hat, some glue, old rope for the hair, and paper or hay for stuffing.

Making the scarecrow head is possibly the hardest part, but with an old pair of tights or nylons you can make an easy start. Tie a knot at the top of the leg, or legs in the case of tights, then stuff the top, not the legs with hay or paper (shredded is easier). When the top is full tie a further knot in the top. You will now have a large round base for the head. Now cut scraps of fabric or felt into shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth. You can be very fancy if you wish, but simple triangles, circles, squares work just as well. Glue the shapes to the face and allow them to dry. At this point you can add hair made of long pieces of fabric, string, unplatted synthetic rope, and glue in place. If all fails you can of course simply buy a mask. (If you prefer, faces and hair can be glued on after the scarecrow has been assembled, when it will be easier to determine the front of the head).

For the body, button up the shirt, and starting with the arms fill with straw or paper. If you use hay, you can pull a bundle through the arms to resemble hands. A similar effect can be achieved by tying the wrists of the shirt with string. Fill the shirt as full as possible, but remember you will need room to get your hands into the front and back of the shirt when you assemble the scarecrow.

Next make the scarecrow's legs by stuffing the jeans or trousers with paper or hay, don't forget to close the zip, then fill from the ankles to the waist. Like the wrists, you just tie the pants close to the bottom with string, or let some hay hang out for feet. Leave the pants open at the top.

You now have all your pieces ready to assemble your scarecrow. Take the empty stocking legs of the head and attach them to the body. To do this, run one leg through the neck of the shirt at the front and the other through the back of shirt neck. Pull the nylon legs all the way through to the bottom of the shirt. Tug firmly on the legs so that the head sits firmly on the top of the shirt neck.

Add the legs to the scarecrow. Bring the filled pants close to the assembled head and body. Tie one leg of the nylons to the belt loop in the front of the trousers, making sure to pull the nylon leg through the loop until it's tight. Then do the same for the nylon leg at the back of the shirt.

All that remains is to top off your scarecrow with a hat or cap, with that the scarecrow is complete !!! Now if it is going to stand it will need a stick or broom handle up the back of the shirt, but it could be that you want it to sit on an old chair.

Some weather proofing can be achieved by firstly putting the hay/paper stuffing inside dustbin bags.

Don't forget give your Scarecrow a name!