

A compostable flower crown uses fresh flowers and greenery tied to a ring made from flexible plant stems, with untreated cotton twine holding the pieces together. Leave out wire, plastic tape and synthetic ribbon, then cut the crown into small pieces before adding it to compost.

Collect suitable flowers and supplies

Set out fresh flowers with stems sturdy enough to tie, greenery that bends easily, and cotton twine that has not been treated or dyed. You will also need scissors and a soft measuring tape, but these are tools rather than materials for the crown itself.

Consider the weight and size of each flower before you begin. Small blooms are usually simpler to fasten than large, heavy ones, and sprays of little flowers, such as chamomile, can fill spaces around larger stems. Choose greenery that flexes without breaking. Use only plants you can identify as safe to touch, and avoid thorny stems or anything known to irritate skin.

Read the twine label, since natural fibers may still have treatments or synthetic fibers mixed in. Choose plain cotton with no plastic coating. Do not use floral foam, wire, plastic ties or standard floral tape, as those materials are not suitable for composting.

Make a comfortable ring

Use the measuring tape to find the circumference of your head at the spot where the crown will rest. Allow extra length so the greenery ends can overlap. Cut two or three long, bendable stems for the base. If the stems you have are too short, join several sections with overlapping ends to create one longer strand.

Bend the greenery into a ring, leaving enough room for a comfortable fit. Tie the overlapping sections together with cotton twine at several points. The base should keep its shape when you pick it up, although it need not form a perfect circle. Leave the twine tails long enough to make secure knots, then cut off the extra.

Trim flower stems into short sections, keeping a few inches below each bloom so there is enough stem to tie. Make small bundles of flowers and leaves before fastening them to the ring. Light bundles help prevent the finished crown from feeling heavy.

Fasten each bundle in place

1. Rest the first bundle along the outside of the ring, with its stems following the base. Wind cotton twine around both the stems and greenery several times, then knot it firmly so the bundle stays put.
2. Lay the next bundle over the visible stems of the first one. Face its flowers in the same direction, then tie its stems down. This overlap conceals the ties and makes the flowers look like a connected line.
3. Keep working around the ring, filling open spots with greenery or smaller blooms. Leave the inside mostly unobstructed so stems and knots are less likely to press against your head.
4. Pick up the crown and see if anything moves. Secure any shifting bundle with another tie, then trim stems or twine ends that stick out.

Store and compost it after use

Keep the crown somewhere cool until it is time to wear it. Flowers do not all wilt at the same speed, so making the crown close to the planned wearing time helps it stay fresh.

Once you are done wearing it, take off any additions that cannot be composted. Chop the plant material and cotton twine into small pieces before adding them to an appropriate compost system. Thick stems and cotton can take longer to break down, and collection rules differ by location, so check local requirements if using a collection service.

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