

WILLOW BARK CORDAGE

Cordage is made from the inner bark of the willow. During Spring and Summer the sap rises through the plant and the bark can easily be removed. In winter the bark clings tightly and requires other techniques to remove from the branch.

The outer bark is first scraped off using the back of your knife or saw or can be peeled later using the back of your axe.

The bark is then scored the length of branch and removed with the aid of a sharpened stick.



To strengthen the cordage, the strips along with handfuls of ash and the bark scrapings are boiled for 1 hour in a pot.

The bark will have turned a pinkish brown colour and will be soft enough to tear into thin strips. After drying, the strips can be re-soaked to make them flexible enough for twisting into cordage.



This is the inner bark of Sweet Chestnut and the wide strips were used to weave into a Quiver.

