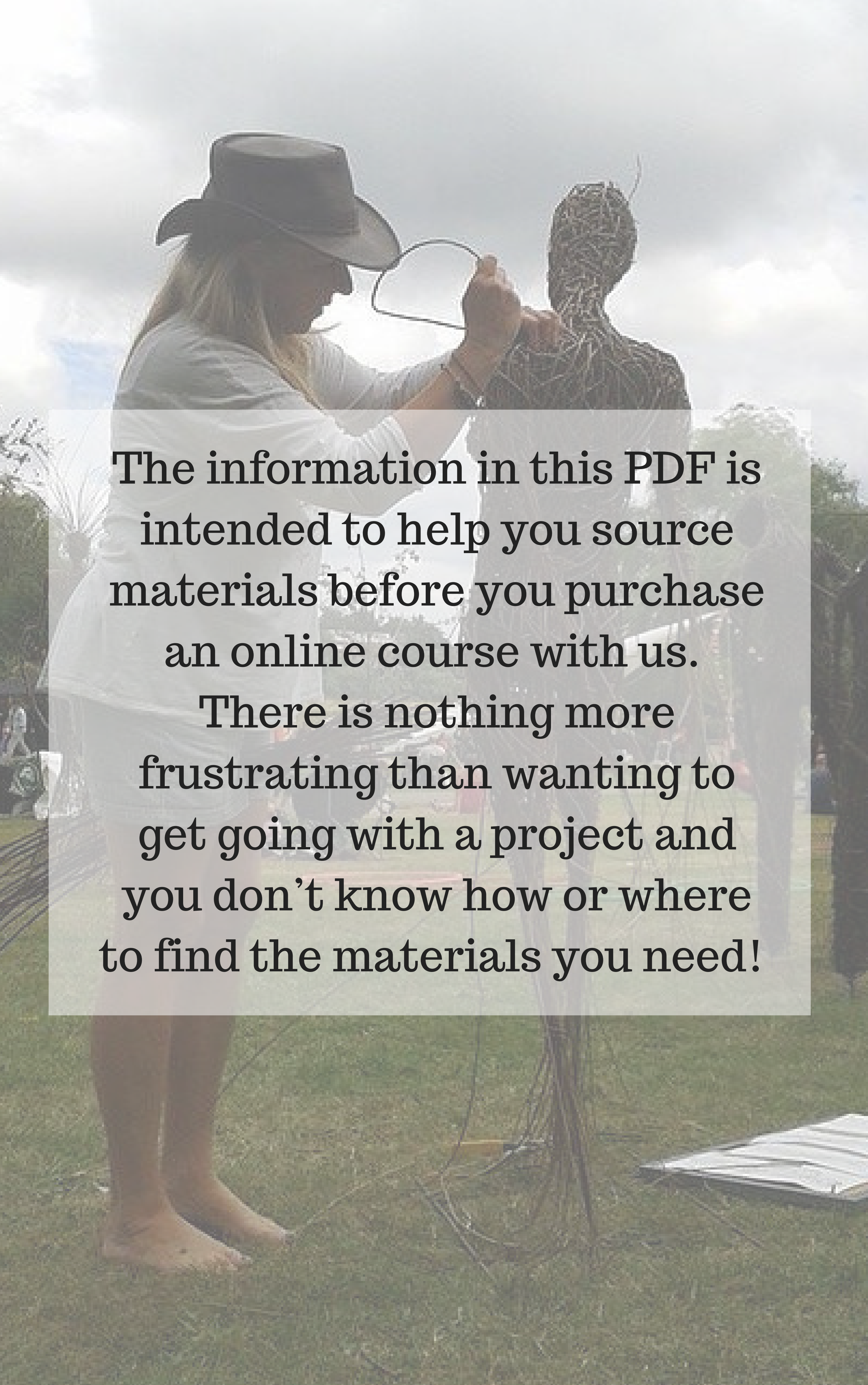


SOURCING MATERIALS

Willow Sphere

**Beginner willow sculpture
course**

A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt is working on a sculpture. She is holding a circular wire frame and appears to be attaching it to a larger, textured sculpture that resembles a human figure. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area under a cloudy sky. The background shows some trees and a fence.

The information in this PDF is intended to help you source materials before you purchase an online course with us.

There is nothing more frustrating than wanting to get going with a project and you don't know how or where to find the materials you need!

TO MAKE YOUR WILLOW SPHERE YOU WILL NEED

WILLOW

You will need approximately 2 to 3 kilos of 4ft (1.2m) willow rods.

I will also cover willow sourcing and quantities in Lesson 2 'Willow; types, lengths, sourcing and preparation'

MILD STEEL RODS (Optional) only if you want your sphere to be on a stem:

Either : 1 x (approx.)1.5m (5foot) length of mild steel
Or: 1 x barrier stake.

THE WILLOW

What to ask for when ordering - I usually buy my willow dried, it then needs to be soaked. Dried willow with the bark left on is referred to as 'Brown'. For example, when you're ordering you would ask for "8 kilos of 'Brown' Black Maul"

There are many other varieties besides Black Maul that I've often used that are perfectly good for sculpture too. A good supplier will advise you of the next best alternative if Black Maul is out of stock. But if you ask for 'Brown' it will be the right kind of willow whatever the variety.

Depending on the time of year you could ask for 'Green' willow - There is a short season in the UK which starts towards the end of December and ends around April time when the willow is harvested. During this period you can buy 'Green' willow. This means it has been freshly cut and is naturally filled with the moisture it has stored over the year,

This willow can be used straight away without soaking which cuts down on preparation time and the hassle of soaking but it's usually only available for about 3 months a year.



LINKS TO WILLOW SUPPLIERS

I have tried to research as many suppliers as I can who sell the right kind of willow. I'm sorry if there isn't one listed in your area but many of them deliver far and wide. I will add any new suppliers to this ebook, as I come across them.

If you search for willow yourself online the key words to use are 'basketry willow' 'dried willow rods' 'basketry rods' 'brown willow rods' 'willow basketry supplies'

UK SUPPLIERS

<https://www.musgrovewillows.co.uk>

<https://englishwillowbaskets.co.uk>

<https://www.willowgrowers.co.uk/>

<http://www.worldofwillow.co.uk>

http://www.willowwithies.co.uk/product_range/index.htm

https://www.homecrafts.co.uk/willow-withies-brown-7kg?gclid=CjoKcQIArqPgBRcRARIsAPwIH0WKYs67MzsudeWn6-bGngKXzw_sTrzN3Q6KIIoRo3sOOgAUyJa_vtAaAi3xEALw_wcB

FRANCE

https://www.osierprod.com/boutique/27-osier_brut

CANADA

<http://www.lakeshorewillows.com/dried-basketry-willow.html>

USA

http://www.englishbasketrywillows.com/Dried_Willows/index.htm

<http://www.doubleawillow.com/>

<http://www.lakeshorewillows.com/dried-basketry-willow.html>

<http://www.basketfarmer.com/>

THE STEEL

If you are choosing to mount your willow sphere onto a stake (stem) then we thought it would be useful to include which types of steel we use in order to support the weight of your willow sphere.

MILD STEEL RODS OR BARRIER STAKES

Also referred to as Steel Fencing Pins or Stakes. They are super cheap and can be found in most builder's merchants and landscaping suppliers the world over.

Either : 1 x (approx.)1.5m (5foot) length of mild steel
Or: 1 x barrier stake.



UK SUPPLIERS

<https://www.sure-green.com/steel-fencing-road-pins>.

<https://www.wickes.co.uk/search?text=steel+fence+stakes>

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/322183459190>

USA & CANADA

I struggled to find the same kind of stake in the States and Canada but if you're living there you may find them more easily. Or you could probably get them shipped from the UK.

These are optional anyway so not absolutely necessary. But these would do:

https://www.amazon.com/Steel-Rebar-Ground-Stakes-Heavy/dp/B07HWGPZCQ/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1544119568&sr=8-2&keywords=steel+fencing+stakes

We really hope you have found this information useful and if it helps you to decide to try one of our really unique online courses in willow sculpture we are sure you won't be disappointed!

Happy willowing!

Sara and Hanna

