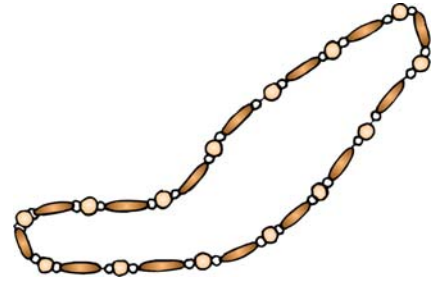


# Sassafras bead instructions

By Caroline Jones, Indiana Dunes State Park

## Materials:

- Sassafras beads (*see below*)
- pliers
- sewing needle
- needle threader
- thread (elastic thread works well)



## Directions:

1. Locate a sassafras tree. If the tree is not on your property, get permission from the property owner before cutting!
2. Using hand pruners, cut twigs from a sassafras branch. The twigs should be no thicker than a pencil. A twig 12" long should yield enough beads for a bracelet.
3. Cut the twigs into ½ inch long "beads". Avoid any areas where other twigs branch out, as these do not work well for beads.

**Note:** Beads cut in spring and summer are generally easier to work with than those cut in fall and winter. Do not store freshly cut beads in a closed container, or they may mold!!!

## Bracelet Instructions:

1. Wrap the thread around your wrist, to determine how much thread you will need. If you are using elastic thread, wrap the thread loosely, as it will stretch so you can slip it on and off.
2. Thread the needle and tie a knot in one end of the thread.
3. Arrange the beads in the order you want them to appear on your finished bracelet. Some people like to alternate green and brown beads; others will put all small beads or all large beads, or a mixture of the two. Plastic or glass beads can be added to your design as well.

4. Begin putting the beads on by sliding the needle into the pith of the bead.
5. Push the bead to the knot at the end of the thread, and repeat for each bead.
6. When all of the beads are on the thread, remove the needle and tie the 2 ends of thread together.

Slip onto your wrist and enjoy!