

TOP TIP

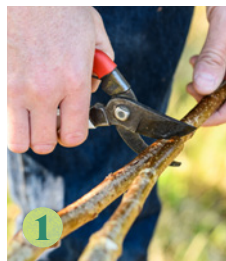
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# Build a hazel stick ladder

WITH ADAM FROST



# This simple ladder is a great way to add personality to your garden and only takes 30-40 minutes to build.



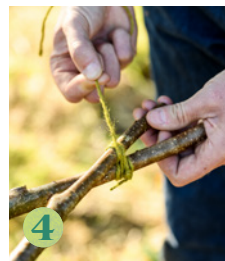
Measure and mark the height you want your ladder's uprights. Then cut two poles to length using sharp secateurs, a small saw, or loppers, depending on the thickness of the wood.



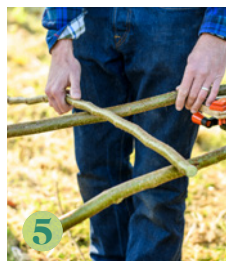
Clamp the poles onto a workbench or have someone hold them for you on a flat surface. Then use a chisel and mallet to slice away the timber to create a point at the base of each one.



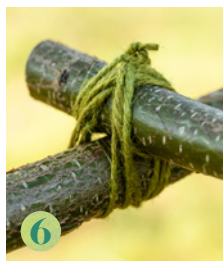
Lay the uprights on a bench or on the ground and position them to the desired width and angle of your ladder. Make sure the tops and bases are flush with each other.



Cut a length of twine to bind the tops of the uprights together. Tie a loop slip knot and slide it over one upright. Weave the twine in a figure of eight pattern where the uprights cross. Tie it off with a simple double knot.



Cut the lowest rung first. Aim for an overhang of 40-50mm either side of the uprights. Work out the distance you want between the other rungs and cut those to length too. My first rung is about 300mm from the bottom of the ladder.



Position the lowest rung on the uprights and fix it in place using garden twine. Use a figure of eight to bind the pieces together securely. Repeat the process with the remaining rungs, making sure they are parallel with each other.



Finally, position the finished ladder, leaning it against your tree at a slight angle. Push the points of the uprights into the ground to help keep it in position.



I planted my rambling rose at the base of the ladder to train it into the tree. You can do this before you position the ladder if you prefer.



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