

## How to Make a Scarecrow

Scarecrows aren't just for scaring crows anymore. They can be a lot of fun, putting some accent on the garden and scaring off crows. That's a lot for a little scarecrow. For more information on scarecrows and their history, check out these two web sites, [The History of Scarecrows](#) and [Scarecrow History](#) .

Kids will love to come up with ideas on how to build the right scarecrow for them. It can be as simple as a hat on a pole with a few articles of clothing or an elaborate scarecrow complete with a face, head, hair, hat and even legs and feet!

### Planning Your Scarecrow

Stop and think, what you want your scarecrow to look like?

- An old farmer or a farmer's wife?
- A child?
- An animal?
- A character in a story or a movie?

How do you want to dress the scarecrow?

- A dress and apron?
- Overalls and an old work shirt?
- Pants and a coat?
- Cowboy hat?
- Straw hat?
- Cowboy attire?
- A sombrero?
- An old evening gown?
- Bath robe?



### Scarecrow Basics

You need a pole for the scarecrow. Give the kids a job to do. The kids need to find two sticks for the base on which the scarecrow will be placed upon.

If for some reason two sticks of approximately the same size can't be

found, two old broomsticks or garden stakes can be used. The sticks or branches will give the scarecrow a rustic look whereas the other material will give it a more modern contemporary look.

Fasten the two sticks together in a manner that will assure stability and strength. Fasten the sticks in a T shape. One way is to use a good strong garden twine to tie at the intersection.

You could fasten the sticks in many other ways as you see fit.

### **A Simple Scarecrow**

For a simple working scarecrow, you will need a head and possibly a torso with a little straw for stuffing. Those old newspapers that keep piling on the floor? Give them a use by putting them as stuffing for the body of the scarecrow.

The head could be anything from a bucket to a stuffed pillow case. Have the kids write or list things that could be used as a head. My kids used a pumpkin bucket leftover from a many years ago trick or treat night. They painted a face on it.

Attach the head to the upper portion of the upright stick. Or if you wanted laughs from the neighbors and your kids, you might want to stick the head at the bottom. Scarecrow scared himself so hard that his head came off.

Stuff the torso. Use an old flannel shirt. Maybe your kids have a shirt they don't want anymore. You can give it life again by using it in the scarecrow. Put the cross beams of the stick base through the sleeves of the shirt, tie it or button the shirt in front and stuff the shirt so that it has bulk.

### **A Little More Scarecrow**

Add pants, perhaps some old pants no one wears or one that perhaps has holes in it. It's a good way to get rid of the holey pants your kids seem to wear constantly.

Stuff those the same way as the shirt. You could add boots or shoes and even gloves for hands. A little straw would give the scarecrow a rustic look.

### **Technologically Gifted Scarecrow**

This is for the handy kids, the ones who would like to be in electronics some day. Just a little idea but you could make the scarecrow move. Add

some motion detectors and a little bit of wiring. Ask around the hardware store. They might be able to help you figure out what you might need to do this task. It would be fun to see someone walk into your garden next time and get the pants scared off them (more pants next time you make a scarecrow) when they see your scarecrow move. Good luck with the scarecrow kids and have a great critter scaring time!