

How to Make Nature Dragonflies

Materials Needed (Per Dragonfly)

- Two dried Norway Maple or Silver Maple seeds (Double Samaras) without stems (see photo below). Seeds from other species of Maple will work but they will make smaller dragonflies. You would need to resize the twig and twig slices as needed, to match these smaller “wings.”
- One twig piece – approx. 4” – 5” long – or cut to the size of the dragonfly *you* want to make. The twig piece should have a knob on one end that would represent the dragonfly’s head. The twig could otherwise be straight or curved and would represent the dragonfly’s body.
- Hot glue gun and glue (thick paste and other glues may work but these have not been tested)
- Two small slices of twigs that would represent the eyes
- Optional: Craft paint and small plastic beads can be used to decorate the dragonfly, and pieces of floral wire or string can be used to hang the dragonfly

Directions

- Find naturally dried Norway Maple or Silver Maple seeds, or dry your own. Naturally dried Silver Maple seeds can be found on the ground during this time of year (spring). Note: Silver Maple seeds, when dry, tend to separate from each other. Therefore, if using Silver Maple seeds, collect four seed pieces for each dragonfly. Norway Maple seeds are currently green and may still be found attached to branches on the trees. You can pick them now and air dry them for later use.
To air dry Norway Maple seeds, spread collected seeds out on a single-layer of newspaper. Allow them to dry in a sunny place indoors for 1-2 weeks.
- Using the twig as the dragonfly body, hot glue two maple seeds, one behind the other to the twig, about 1/3 of the way from the “head” of the twig (See photo below).
- Hot glue the two slices of twig pieces to each side of the “head” of the twig, as the eyes.
- Optional: Small plastic beads can be used for the dragonfly eyes instead of pieces of twig. Craft paint can be applied to the “wings,” if desired. However, all-natural dragonflies look neat too.
- Completed dragonflies look great “flying” over your indoor potted plants or flowers. Just attach your dragonfly to some scrap wire/floral wire by knotting it or by using glue, then suspend it over a plant. You can also attach the dragonfly to a long stick and push the stick into the potted plant’s container. Dragonflies can also enhance a vine wreath or floral wreath.

