Topiary Bunny

These are instructions for making an approximately 25 inch tall topiary bunny.

Materials

- Chicken wire
- Florist wire or other wire to connect the chicken wire pieces together
- Sheet moss approximately 10-12 large bags
- Monofilament-20 lb test weight
- Gloves and long sleeves to protect your arms
- Wire cutters
- Pliers
- Wooden dowel to pack the moss into the frame
- Vine, such as creeping fig or ivy
- U shaped florist pins

Instructions

- Body - Cut a piece of chicken wire 24” by 12”. Shape wire into a cone 24” long. Attach the ends by folding the ends of the chicken wire over onto the body and closing tightly with the pliers or use a piece of florist wire to close the body. Stuff the body tightly with sheet moss.
- Cut a piece of chicken wire to fit the bottom of the body (larger end of the cone) and attach with florist wire.
- Arms-Cut 2 pieces of chicken wire 11”by 10”. Shape ½ of the length into a circle making the lower arm and paw. Close with florist wire or by folding ends of the chicken wire onto the form. Leave the upper half of the length open to form the shoulder. Attach open ends of the shoulders to the body at or near the closing in the back of the body. Leave an opening to stuff the shoulder and lower arm. Close opening as above. Shape lower arms to look natural.
- Legs-Cut 2 pieces of chicken wire 12”by7”. Shape, stuff and attach as above, placing legs on lower portion of the body and positioning larger portion near closing in back of body. Shape lower portion of legs to look as if the bunny is sitting.
- Head and ears. Cut a piece of chicken wire 14”by14”. Cut down the center of the wire for 7”. This will form the ears. Attach the uncut portion of the head onto the upper portion of the body, forming to fit and attaching with florist wire or folding ends of the chicken wire onto the form. Fold each half of the upper portion of the head into 2 long 7” ears. Shape to look like bunny ears. Be sure you have left openings for stuffing the head and ears. After stuffing the head and ears, close the openings.
• Nose and tail. Cut 2 pieces of chicken wire into a 6-8” oval. Attach 1 piece to
the front of the head. Stuff and attach as before. Attach the last piece to the lower
portion of the body in back. Stuff and close as before.
• Tie end of monofilament to frame and begin placing sheet moss to the outside of
the frame, holding in place by wrapping with the monofilament. Continue placing
moss and holding in place with monofilament until entire frame is covered.
• To plant, punch holes through the moss and into the frame. The holes should be
large enough to accommodate a small vine such as creeping fig or ivy with dirt
intact.
• Wet thoroughly and keep wet.
• You may choose to plant the vine in the ground instead and train up the topiary.
• Hold plant in place with U shaped florist pins.

As you can see there is a lot of “wiggle” room in making this topiary. Use your own
judgment to make it look right to you. Most importantly, HAVE FUN!

You should be able to complete the project in 2-4 hours. Most of the materials are
available at your local craft store. The chicken wire can be found at farming supply
stores.