

# Flechtwerk

Dieter Deringer

Bahnhofstraße 8, D - 72419 Neufra / Hohenzollern

Fon: +49 (0)7574/4236, Fax: 07574/3399

eMail: flechtwerk@aol.com, www.flechtwerk-dieter-deringer.de

---

## Cultivation of willows in the Swabian Alb

### Willow plantation

In 1996 I cultivated different sorts of willows on a plantation of 7 are in the southern Swabian Alb. They differ in colour of bark and in processing-qualities.

### Different sorts of willows

- ♦ salix purpurea - shades of green
- ♦ salix fragialis - shades of brown
- ♦ salix triandra - shades of grey-green
- ♦ salix fiminalis - shades of yellow-green
- ♦ salix alba - shades of brown and orange-brown

Willows spread out in the sun to dry after the harvest change their colour: the original colour turns into various shades of red.

### Cultivation of willow plantations

The cultivation and treatment of the willow plantation is **done by hand**: hoeing, weeding (bind weed, sweat pea, burdock, thistles). To strengthen the plants and to activate the ground I use organic preparations (horn muck, pebbles) and from time to time I fertilize with manure.

### Harvest

Only **one-year-old shoots** can be used for weaving because during the second year of growth the willow gets side shoots and becomes too strong. Between **November** and **February** during the sap rest after the leaves have fallen from the bushes the willows are cut by hand. At first defective or knotty willows are sorted out. After that the willows are thinned out (sorted into different lengths), tied into bunches and put out to dry. Willows can be stored for years after they are completely dry.

Before weaving the willows are sorted (according to width) and afterwards soaked in water without any additives. Unstripped willows need to stay in water for c. 10 to 20 days and stripped about 1 to 2 hours.

### WILLOW

**- a living material  
can be perceived with all senses:**

- ♦ the typical scent especially of unstripped willow
- ♦ the haptical qualities of the wickerwork and the shapes of the baskets tempt to touch and feel it
- ♦ creaking and crackling while using
- ♦ the irregular width of the willow and the different weaving techniques create a variation of shapes and structures in the wickerwork
- ♦ the natural colour of bark from different sorts of willow and the combination of stripped and unstripped willow offer a diverse range of colours

I almost only use willow, because I'm fully convinced that this plant is a special material to work with. There are several ecological reasons for having my own willow cultivation and for using home-grown.

### WILLOW

**- a working material:**

- ♦ various natural colours from different sorts of willow
- ♦ no use of artificial fertilizer or pesticides
- ♦ shortest way of transport

### Neufra/Hohenzollern

is in the Swabian Alb between Tuebingen and Sigmaringen – between Stuttgart and Lake Constance at the northern tip of the district of Sigmaringen

For more information contact:  
www.neufra.de / www.schwaebischealb.deInfos