

What can you do with a gourd?

As a rule of thumb, anything you can do with wood you can also do with a gourd. One of the objectives of the Idaho Gourd Society is to discover different methods and techniques for crafting gourds and sharing this information with the public.



Where do gourds come from?

Gourds are found globally and represent some of the earliest prehistoric organic artifacts. They were used by ancient man as storage containers, musical instruments and sometimes for ceremonial purposes.

How many kinds of gourds are there?

The varieties of gourds are innumerable. If you were to count the soft-shelled, the ornamental and the large hard-shelled types, the diversity is staggering.

Are gourds edible?

For the most part, the answer is no; even though gourds are members of the cucurbitaceae family, which also include cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins and luffas.

But I'm not an artist!

Do not feel distressed. You do not need to be an artist to craft gourds. Many techniques are easy to learn with basic instructions.

Most meetings include workshops featuring hands-on instructions taught by our talented members. Demonstrations are common at our meetings and at our annual festival.



What kind of paints can I use?

Numerous paints, stains, dyes and other art media can be applied to gourds. IDGS workshops and demonstrations cover these topics.

How long will gourds last?

Properly dried and protected, gourds will last almost indefinitely.

How do I clean a dried gourd?

Soak the gourd in warm soapy water, scrub with a plastic pan scrubber and scrape the tough spots with a non-serrated table knife.

Will gourds grow in Idaho?

Most assuredly! We have many Idaho members who are successful gourd growers. Part of the Idaho Gourd Society's mission is to educate and assist local growers.



When and how do I plant them?

Generally, gourds need to be seeded outdoors after the danger of the last spring frost. To jump the season, you can start seeds indoors for planting outdoors later.

How do I dry gourds?

Keep them in a well ventilated area outside and occasionally turn them or leave them on the vine to dry. DO NOT dry them in your home! The mold spores that develop during drying can cause respiratory problems. Molding, by the way, is normal. Discard only soft or shriveled gourds. DO NOT drill holes in gourds for the drying process. They will dry just fine when left alone. It generally takes 3 to 6 months for gourds to dry completely.

