

# FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & planetarium

## Household Science for Preschool

*Information on Corm and Stolons*

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*The following instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our "Household Science for Preschool" online class. All materials are the property of Balch Nature School Director Carolyn Guest and Assistant Director Libre Drouin who created them.*

### Basic information for corms and stolons

#### Corms:



Notice the flatness of the Corm, at the bottom it has another corm growing under the basil root system. Corms hold the food to grow a new plant.

#### Stolons:



Both the lily of the valley and the mint plants have stolons, notice the lily of the valley on the left has a stolon that grows underground vs. the mint stolon that can be over or underground. Mint propagates (spreads) in three ways, seeds, roots and stolons). Strawberry stolons grow above ground.



#### Project:

##### Stolon crowns or wreathes

Materials: stolons from plants such as quack grass, wild roses, ground ivy type plants (gathered when thinning or moving plants)

Found natural materials to decorate your crown or wreath such as small cones, pine needles, flowers

Wire or tacky glue to bind on your decorations

Start with an end of the stolon (you can leave nodes and dried plant material attached if desired) and form a ring with the stolon, now continue around and around wrapping the stolon around itself. Tuck ends into a layered part. Add more layers by beginning with tucking in an end into the layers. The first layers may want to come undone, be persistent. If the stolons are fresh, they are more bendable. You may need to soak them in water to keep them pliable.

### Further questions:

What other plants can you find with stolons (runners)? Are they above ground? In the ground? Can you find a plant with a stolon both on top of the ground and under the ground?

**Hint:** plants with stolons frequently spread and make new plants easily. Sometimes we refer to these plants as “invasive” as they grow so easily, they crowd out other plants.



Quack grass crown  
Rose bush stolon wreath

