



### Flowers and Material Used for Winter Bouquets

1. Some plant material may be preserved by hanging to dry in a dry, dark closet or attic:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Part of Plant Used</u>	<u>Color</u>
Cattail	Ripe seed head	Brown
Milkweed	Seed pod	Grey-green
Mullein	Seed stalk	Brown
Penny Cress	Seed head	Tan
Pepper Grass	Seed head	Light brown
Pussy Willow	Immature catkin	Grey
Goldenrod	Flower head	Yellow
Tansy	Flower cluster	Deep yellow
Cockscomb	Flower head	Red and yellow
Xanthemum	Flower head	Various
Everlasting	Flower head	Various
Globe amaranth	Flower head	White and purple
Statice	Flower cluster	Various
Strawflower	Flower head	Various
Baby's Breath	Flower cluster	White
Chinese Lantern	Seed pod	Orange
Globe Thistle	Flower	Steel blue
Honesty	Seed pod	Silvery white
Tulip	Seed pod	Light brown
Siberian Iris	Seed pod	Dark brown
Baptisia	Seed pod	Grey-black

2. Plant material may be preserved by pressing between several thicknesses of newspaper. Be sure material is not wet and that leaves do not overlap. Light weights should be used on the material for about three weeks.

Ferns (most species)	Green or yellow
Japanese maple	Deep red
Oaks (scarlet or pin oak)	Red and bronze
Beech	Bronze or yellow
Hosta	Green
Spirea	Green

3. Some plant material is best preserved by the glycerin method. First wash and dry foliage carefully. Make a solution of 2/3 water and 1/3 glycerin. Pound lower 2" of stem with a hammer to allow more rapid absorption of solution. Use a tall jar with 3" to 5" of solution and place cut end of stems in the solutions until leaves become fully saturated. Leaves will darken or change color. This may take 4 days to 2 weeks.

Most suitable material would be woody stemmed plants such as rhododendron, laurel, holly, leucothoe, copper beech, and andromeda.

3. Plant material best preserved by the Borax method. Select light textured flowers for best results.

Procedure: Pour Borax to a depth of about 2" into a box. Wire the flower stems or replace them completely with a pliable wire. Place flat flowers upside down in the Borax. Fluffy, double flowers are best dried face up. Flower sprays may lie directly on the Borax. Carefully sift or sprinkle Borax around and over flowers until completely covered. Some Borax should lie between petals to hold them in their natural position. The length of drying time will vary with the texture of the flower. Be careful not to over-dry flowers. The following table may be helpful:

Astilbe	3 days
Columbine	5 days
Coral Bells	3 days
Cosmos	5 days
Daffodils	4 days
Delphinium	3 days
Dogwood blossoms	1 ½ days
Marigolds	5-6 days
Pansies	2 days
Queen Anne's Lace	5 days
Roses	2-3 days
Zinnias	4 days

When removing flowers, handle with care to prevent breaking of petals. Any Borax left clinging to flowers may be removed with a water color brush.

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