

PRESERVING FLOWERS

STAND 'EM UP TALL (no water)

Plants stand in a pail to dry (5 gallon pails work well)

Cattails	Grasses	Dock	Teasel	Allium	Money Plant
Boxwood	Pods	Pussy willow	Goldenrod		

HANG' EM UPSIDE DOWN

Pick flowers that are not fully developed and free of blemishes when fully dry in the afternoon

Hang in small bunches so air can circulate in a warm, dark dry place.

Strip all foliage from stems and tie the bunch with a rubber band or tightly with string. Fasten to a coat hanger. If flower heads need to be wired, wire when fresh. When dry, removed from coat hanger and store

Flowers to Hang

Celosia	Bells of Ireland	Yarrow	Blue Salvia	Strawflowers	Rosehips
Roses	Globe Thistle	Rudbeckia	Cone Flower		

BURY 'EM IN A BOX

Pick flowers when fully dry in the afternoon. They should be free from blemishes in different stages of development but not over mature. Cut off the stem to within 1" of the flower base and insert a short wire.

Bury in one of these mediums:

Silica gel-blue crystals turn pink when silica has absorbed maximum moisture.

Silica sand-available at building supply, slower than gel, does not over dry.

Silica sand and borax- 1/2 sand to 2/3 borax

Cornmeal and borax-1 part corn meal to 3 parts borax.

Kitty litter (microwave: low power, 1 1/2 to 2 minutes)

Using a box or flat tin with cover, cover the bottom with several inches of medium. Place flower head up. Pour slowly medium along side, in flower, and around each bloom. Cover completely.

Allow several weeks to dry-remove when petals are crisp and firm.

Store in an airtight container with a thin layer of drying medium in the bottom.

GIVE 'EM A DRINK

Use a mixture of 1 part glycerin to 2 parts water. Crush woody stems. Wash branches before treating and removed damaged leaves. Stand stems in mixture in container with a small opening to prevent evaporation

Add a few drops of chlorine bleach to prevent mold. Treatment is completed when new color spreads to edge of leaf and leaf is pliable. Time varies from two days to five weeks.

Foliage to Treat: Boxwood Crab apple Oak Peony Barbary Holly

PRESS 'EM IN A PHONE BOOK or FLOWER PRESS

*Pick flowers when fully dry in the afternoon that are indifferent stages of development and free of blemishes.

*Open the phone book to the back. Lay the flower face down on the righthand page, spreading them a distance apart so they are not touching. Then cover them with about 10-20 pages of the phonebook from the left side. Fill the right hand page again, cover with several pages. Continue this procedure until the entire book is used. Put the phone book on a closet shelf or floor with some weight on it, such as another phone book or a thick catalog. Keep the phone book like this for about two weeks and the plant material will be pressed and dried.

Flower Press: Two pieces of plywood (13 x 15"), Four 8" bolts and four wing nuts. Insert phone book with flowers between the two boards and tighten wing nuts to compress.

Storage of Pressed Material

If you press a small amount of material, just leave it in the phone book until you need it. Once the first material in the book is flat and dry, you can continue to use the book to press, putting new material in the pages between those used the first time. For larger quantities of material, use plastic pages or file folders. Small clear sandwich bags are used for flowers-one kind and one color per bag. Use larger plastic bags for foliage and larger flowers. The plastic bag enables you to see the kind and color of the plant material when you start a project and can pull those bags from your supply very easily.

Store these plastic bags of plant material in a covered box in a **DRY** place, preferably not in your basement. Plant material can be stored like this for years!

Preserved Flower Projects

Book Marks

Supplies: pressed material and colored construction paper or white cardstock
White glue, toothpicks, scissors
Contact paper (clear plastic that adheres)

Cut the piece of construction paper the size you desire for the marker. Arrange the plant material on the paper and dab with a small bit of glue. Cut a piece of contact paper larger than the bookmark. Lay over the piece of construction paper. Trim edges. If desired, punch a hole in the top for a piece of ribbon or yarn.

Stationery

Supplies: Clear white or beige note paper with envelopes/Pressed material-flowers and foliage
Contact paper, white glue, toothpicks and scissors

Put the note paper in front of you so it opens properly. It is very easy to have it backward. Arrange pressed material to your liking. Use a small bit of glue under a few petals and the foliage. Cut a piece of contact paper larger than the front of the note paper. Remove contact packing and cover the front of the notepaper. Open the paper and trim the edges. The contact paper will only be on the front of the notepaper, not on the back.

Decorating Soap

Supplies: Bar of soap, white works the best
Pressed flower and two small leaves
White glue, applied with a toothpick
Tongs and scissors.
Paraffin wax, 2 pound coffee can, sauce pan (to make a double boiler)

Lay your flower in the center of the soap. Put the leaves next to it, cutting them small enough so they do not go over the edge of the bar of soap. Slip a bit of glue under the flower and leaves. If you are doing this with children, take water on your finger, spread on top of the soap and the pressed material will adhere to the surface. Do not use too much glue or it will saturate the plant material and ruin it. Allow the glue to dry for about 15 minutes. Melt a square of paraffin was in the coffee can in a pan of water. Hold the soap with tongs and dip the entire top surface into the melted wax. Smooth the side edges if wax seem to build up as you take it from the can.

Once the wax is cooled, put the cover on the coffee can and store until needed again. Decorated soap makes excellent gifts. You can color coordinate with bathrooms and give a pressed flower picture to match.

Pressed Flower Pictures/Wedding Invitation

Supplies: Picture frame 5" x 7" or smaller/8" x10" for wedding invitation
Background: wallpaper, colored paper or fabric
Pressed material, white glue, scissors

Take frame apart and cut background to fit back piece of frame. Put frame back over background and work inside frame to make sure picture area is centered. Using line, focal and filler material to plan the design. Put a small amount of glue under each flower or leaf. Allow to dry and reassemble the frame. For the wedding invitation, place the invitation on the background first and then plan design around it. For a more antique look, the edges of the invitation can be burned. However, practice burning on scrap paper or a blank part of the invitation.

Fantasy Flowers

Paint dry leaves such as sea grape or magnolia with acrylic craft paint. Using Tacky glue, attach the leaves to a pinecone to make a flower. The bottom of the pinecone (center of the flower) can also be painted or left its natural color.