

for the holidays

A fun project for all in the family

Holiday spirit doesn't last long. All too quickly the season's over.

This year keep yule memories as long as possible by making potpourri (a fragrant mixture of dried petals) out of the rose and other flowers you received as gifts or used to decorate your home.

Making potpourri is a fun project that everyone can help with. The sweet-smelling finished product will remind you again and again of the happy holiday season.

Rose Information Bureau spokeswoman Judi Ford Johnson suggests planning refreshments suitable for the gift-giving occasion, makes wonderful birthday and housewarming presents you can give all year.

Johnson gives the following recipe for turning your holiday flowers into a fragrant remembrance.

AFTER THE flowers have peaked — but before they begin to turn brown — remove the petals. Let them dry for several days on a cookie sheet. If you own a microwave oven place them in your oven in a microwave-proof container and dry the petals quickly, enabling you to begin making potpourri the same day.

For each quart of petals you collect, add one tablespoon of fixative — dried

lavender and oak moss are the most common and are available at herb and spice shops and most drugstores. Put the petals and fixative in a glass container and add two or three drops of your favorite perfume — perhaps from a bottle you received as a Christmas present. Close the container, shake well and shake again every other day for 10 days.

FOR ADDITIONAL aroma, add one cinnamon stick and two to four vanilla beans. The peel of one lemon, dried and grated, will help to preserve the potpourri and will add additional scent.

As the months go by, continue collecting petals from the bouquets you receive for Valentine's Day, birthdays, anniversaries — or any time you buy or receive flowers.

"Add these petals to the potpourri, along with additional spices as needed. Soon you'll have an overflowing and permanent stock of potpourri to keep and give away any time," Johnson added.

Last, you might try making little sachets out of the mixture and putting them in dresser drawers for a daily fragrant remembrance. Or, you could display the potpourri in a glass jar placed in a powder room, on a nightstand or in a kitchen corner.

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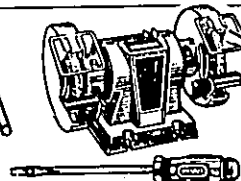
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