

Time To Assemble A Colonial Dried Bouquet

By BETTY MASSON
Special Writer

If bouquets of garden flowers give you pleasure all summer, why settle for plastic blooms in winter?

Dried flowers, foliage and seed pods can be used to create natural bouquets that have a great deal more charm and appeal than any man-made plastic flowers.

These "everlasting" bouquets of real flowers are becoming increasingly popular. Actually, this is not really something new, but is a return to popularity of an old-fashioned type of bouquet.

Dried bouquets were used extensively in 18th century England and in Colonial American homes.

Revival of the art of making dried bouquets is due to people like Mrs. Louise B. Fisher who arranged flowers at Williamsburg, Va. She did extensive research on the kinds of flowers grown and on the art of preserving and arranging them in an appropriate style. Marshall Engel, at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, is also a master at drying and arranging natural plant material to enhance the period rooms.

In 18th century homes flowers were displayed everywhere there was room. One exception where flowers were seldom used, was on the dining room table. Here an arrangement of fruit served a dual purpose - for snacks and decoration.

In Colonial times flowers were preserved by drying in a very simple way. In most cases the blossoms to be preserved were picked when the buds were partly open just before the flowers reached their prime. The stems were stripped bare of leaves and six or eight stems were tied together in a loose bunch and hung head down in a dark, dry, relatively warm room.

The colors fade some, becoming softer, more delicate, more subtle.

This simple treatment doesn't work for all flowers, but there are a great many that can be handled in this way. Most successful are flowers with rather stiff, papery petals.

One of the favorites - now as well as in Colonial times - is globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*). These are showy garden flowers that bloom from mid-summer until frost. The plants, which grow 1 1/2 to two feet tall, bear clover-like leaves and white, pink or red flowers that have a straw-like texture. These grow especially well in hot dry situations.

Dried strawflowers are available at garden centers and florists, but you can easily grow your own. The plants, which are annuals, are grown from seed sown in spring.

From mid-summer on the plants are covered with many-petaled flowers that



Pest Of The Week

Beetles never turn over a new leaf. They eat it. Then your trees, shrubs, vegetables, fruits and flowers. And still they're hungry.

That's because these beetles are grubs, the larvae of the beetles, and while they are growing up, like all the youngsters, they eat more.

They feed on every kind of plant, from root to fruit and seed.

They eat stored food, woods, fabrics, books, and countless other things, including even museum specimens and beetle collections.

Most grubs are soft-bodied, and some, such as the wireworms, are wormlike. They have hard heads and strong jaws and are usually very active.

They are more fierce and greedy than the adults. They resemble caterpillars, but they don't have the stubby prolegs that support the abdomen of caterpillars. Most of them are hairless.

Since insects are the most numerous of all the earth's creatures, the beetles are the numerical world champions.

And if they all seem to be in your garden or lawn or home at the same time, then use an insecticide containing a chemical called diazinon that not only kills white grubs of Japanese beetles, European and Southern chafers but over 120 other known garden insects.

Called Spectracide, the insecticide is a nonpersistent, broad-spectrum bug killer.

Women Take On Remodeling Chores

More women "handymen" are taking on major home remodeling jobs, projects once assigned to the man of the house, according to Judy Johnson, home improvement director for the manufacturer of Marlite paneling.

"The media has done much to convince women of their capabilities in traditionally masculine handicraft areas," Miss Johnson said.

YEWS

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are up to 2 1/2 inches across. Colors include crimson, rose, salmon, russet, yellow, and white. Regular varieties grow 2 1/2 feet tall. There are also dwarfs that are 1 1/2 feet tall.

Similar to strawflowers are acroclium, which are in pale shades of white, buff or soft rose, and xeranthemum, which have silky looking petals in bright shades. These are listed in most catalogs.

Statice is another flower that dries well. The perennial kind produces sprays of bright lavender-purple blooms. The annual statice includes colors such as pink, yellow, rose, and white as well as blue and lavender shades.

Yellow yarrow, a perennial, is a handsome plant in the garden and the flowers are especially effective in dried bouquets. The bright

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your dried arrangements to garden flowers. There are many wild flowers that can be dried and used to add interest to winter bouquets.

Golden rod is one that should not be overlooked. It is coming into bloom now and will soon be plentiful. It can be used as filler in other bouquets, or can be used for a mass of blooms in a large crock or jug, or even in a copper pot or kettle.

However, there's a trick to drying golden rod blooms. Unlike most others, they should be cut before the buds open. Choose blooms with buds that are plump but still closed. They will open and fluff out some after they are cut, but will remain firmly attached to the plants.

Boneset, Joe-pye-weed and pearly everlasting are other wild flowers that can be dried.

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1x6	.82	1.03	1.23	1.44	1.64
1x8	1.09	1.37	1.64	1.91	2.19
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WOODGRAIN ON HARDBOARD

Pick and dry some plummy grasses. A few tucked into a mixed bouquet will add a graceful note.

Also, be on the look-out for interesting pods to include in the arrangements. Look for tassel milkweed, the red hips of wild or hedge roses.

Iris, daylilies, balloon flowers and other garden plants produce interesting seed pods.

There are many others, too, such as hammersweet, Chinese lanterns, silver pennies (lunaria) that can be used alone or in combination with other dried flowers.

Although the easiest way to dry flowers is by hanging them head down in a dark dry place, even better results can be obtained by drying blooms in silica gel crystals or in a mixture of borax and corn meal. Flowers that would otherwise will can be

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