



Now's a good time to take a walk along the roadside, fields, and woodlands to get flowers, leaves and seed pods suitable for use in winter bouquets.

The list is endless. Some of the wild plants that can be gathered and hung upside down to dry in a warm room include catkins, milkweed pods, golden rod, Queen Anne's lace, sunart, curly dock, yarrow and many wild grasses.

In your garden, plants known as everlastings are ideal for drying in your garage or attic. Such plants include strawflowers, globe amaranth, statice, money plant and celosia.

Many gardeners dry their flowers in a mixture of sand and borax, others use silica-gel. The sand-borax mixture is made from one part borax added to an equal amount of clean sand.

Commeal or vermiculite are sometimes used in place of sand. Their lighter weight makes them less likely to mash down petals during drying.

After the flowers have been carefully placed in the mixture, the open container should be placed in a warm, dry place. Usually most flowers will dry in about two weeks.

Colorful Gazebo Brightens Yard

Why not a lattice-work gazebo, boldly painted in red, white and blue to give that humdrum backyard a zestful new appeal?

One California couple has created just such a cooling summer haven in patriotic hues. This one dominates a small yard, but a gazebo becomes a happy accent in a garden of any size.

The structure can have four or more sides, and the framework is basically post and beam. Lattice work is 1/2-inch cedar or other western wood, and can be applied in a horizontal-vertical pattern or crossed diagonally.

flowers very rapidly, and thereby flower color is often better preserved. We've had some flowers dry in this material in 36 to 48 hours.

NOTE: Silica-gel must be used in airtight container, or it will absorb moisture from the air and flowers will dry poorly. It can be used over and over again.

Here are some items you can dry either in silica or borax: marigold, zinnia, aster, rose, dahlias, chrysanthemum, carnation, larkspur, delphinium and snapdrag.

Before you put flowers in the drying material, remove the stems. Then get some wire from the florist and make stems for the flowers. Use a piece of wire four to six inches long, and place a small hook in the end. Plug the wire through the flower by placing the straight end in the top of the flower and pushing it through the center of the flower until the hook catches in the flower and is hidden among the petals.

Dry more flowers than needed because not all will be perfect and some must be discarded.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We've had a lot of white flies on our house plants and tomatoes. Is there a good control for this pest?"

Ans: Try using a parasite known as Encarsia. Some hobbyists use a vacuum sweeper to get rid of the pest. Try spraying undersides of leaves with nicotine sulfate.

Homeowners Warned Of Waterproofing Methods

Want to end that leaky basement problem permanently?

Many Michigan homeowners find the summer months the best time to get to the root of the problem, but before you do, the Michigan Consumers Council advises that you contact several waterproofing companies first, since claims and guarantees are as varied as the methods used.

Homeowners generally have two methods to choose from in waterproofing their basements. One method consists of injecting a mineral substance into the soil around the house, while the other involves excavation around the outside of the

house or inside the basement to find the leak. Companies using the injection method claim that when the substance comes in contact with water it expands to form a seal around the leaky spot in the basement wall, making it impermeable to moisture.

While the major attraction of this method is that it does not require extensive digging, there is some speculation as to its effectiveness, since the operator cannot see the leak he is supposedly plugging. Exterior or interior digging to expose the foundation along the contractor to see the leaks, which can be then plugged with a waterproof substance.

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