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BOTANICAL CRAFTS:
AN ANNOTATED LIST OF REFERENCES

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INTRODUCTION

The use of natural materials in crafts has a long history. Flowers were dried (probably in sand) by the ancient Egyptians and in India. Instructions for sand drying were published in Italy in the early 1600's. This remained the best medium for three-dimensional drying until experiments with other agents in the 1940's. Borax and cornmeal were favored for about twenty years, then came the development of the silica gel method. Now a special, fine grade of gel is manufactured just for flowers and it gives nearly foolproof results.

Air dried grasses were used for decorations by the Greeks and Romans. The popular everlasting flower (Helichrysum) may have been known to the Egyptians and was mentioned in writing by Dioscorides. Early English gardening books suggest flowers to dry, such as globe amaranth. Favorite garden flowers that could be dried were brought to America by the colonists. Along with wild flowers like pearly everlasting they were used for winter bouquets, a tradition carried on today in colonial sites such as Williamsburg.

Pressed flowers have been important for scientific study since the 1600's. At first, they were kept in bound books, but later were attached to individual sheets of paper to be stored in cabinets. Such herbarium collections are still used by botanists. The artistic craft of pressing flowers developed in the Victorian era. Seaweed was popular, but all

kinds of flowers and leaves were incorporated into designs that were framed or applied to flat surfaces like fire screens. Scrapbooks of pressed flowers were often made as souvenirs of travel.

In recent years, all of these methods of drying flowers have enjoyed a revival. Courses are being taught, magazine articles and many attractive books are being published. With simple supplies and some practice, one can make colorful decorations that bring a bit of nature indoors. In the rush of enthusiasm for collecting and preserving flowers, one should not forget the concern for rare and endangered plants. Collecting should be confined to abundant wild flowers in accessible areas or to weeds and garden flowers.

Most of the references considered here deal with dried flowers, but some introduce other botanical crafts featuring cones, driftwood, straw and cornhusks. The books and articles listed all have something of merit in them, but some also have shortcomings that are noted in the annotations. My evaluation of the references is based on fifteen years' experience in creating and teaching dried flower crafts. Also included are several books suitable for children. There are a number of privately published books that can be ordered from the authors. Other references, even older ones mentioned for important information they contain, are available from libraries, bookstores and second-hand book dealers.

I would like to thank the staff of the Library of the New York Botanical Garden for their help in preparing this bibliography, which was started while I was on the Garden staff. I also appreciate the facilities of the Public Library of Manhattan, Kansas and the Kansas State University Library where many additional references were found.

Alkema, C. J. 1976. *Crafting with Nature's Materials*. New York, Sterling Publishing Co. 48 p. \$4.50.

Features many unusual ideas for using natural materials, suitable for children or adults. Techniques include seed mosaics, plaques, pine cone sculptures, driftwood arrangements and mobiles of seed pods. The illustrations are good, but instructions could be more detailed for beginners.

Amlick, B. H. 1971. *Getting Started in Dried Flower Craft*. New York, Bruce Publishing Co. 70 p. \$2.95, pap.

A good introduction to dried flowers, especially for arrangements. There are instructions for air drying, silica gel and glycerine preservation and lists of plants suitable for each method. The instructions for pressing are poor and some of the recommended flowers (such as daisy) do not press well. Adequate directions are given for making pressed flower pictures. Black and white or color photographs illustrate all techniques.

Anderson, F. J. 1971. *Nature Printing: A Lost Art Remembered*. *Gard. J.* 21(2): 40-46.

Outlines the long history of nature printing with examples shown in black and white illustrations. The craft started out with the application of ink to leaves that were pressed on paper for an accurate impression. Later, methods were devised to put leaves in a printing press. An interesting discussion for those experimenting with this craft.

Anonymous. 1972. Preserve Your Posies. Timonium, Plantabbs Corp.

(Timonium, MD 21093). 15 p. \$1.00, pap.

A good brochure often included in kits of Flower Dri. It features full instructions for using silica gel, for pressing (in a telephone book) and brief instructions for air drying and preserving in glycerine. There are many ideas for making pictures, lampshades, candles and other items, illustrated in color.

Anonymous. 1974. Flowers for All Seasons. Sphere 3: 32-33.

An excellent discussion of the silica gel method. There are instructions for drying the flowers and attaching wire stems. For lasting beauty, the author wisely recommends spraying flowers or putting them under glass. The list of suitable flowers could have been better, e.g. dandelions and tulip tree blossoms are poor choices for drying.

Anonymous. 1976. Everlasting Flowers. New York, Macmillan. 88 p. \$5.95.

The best book on dried flowers available at the present time. It was originally published in England and unfortunately no author is named. It starts with a list of plants to dry, illustrated in color. There are good instructions for silica gel, air drying, glycerine, pressing and even embedding in plastic. This is one of the few publications to recommend a real plant press with cardboards to allow air circulation and quick drying. An abundance of color photographs show many attractive items to make, such as arrangements in vases, candle rings, holiday decorations, bookmarks and pictures, all with directions.

Argyle, C. 1972. Preserving Nature's Flowers. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (16017 East Valley Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91744). 23 p. \$2.00, pap.

Good general instructions for pressing flowers, preserving in glycerine and drying in silica gel. There are directions for making arrangements, framed pictures, notepaper, etc. Instructions and finished products are illustrated in photographs.

Bennett, J. 1972. Cones-Seeds-Pods. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (address above). 15 p. \$1.50, pap.

A small book that offers many ideas for processing and using cones and pods. Instructions are given for making wall plaques, wreaths and arrangements, all illustrated in black and white or color photographs.

Bennett, J. 1975. Pressing Flowers for Fun and Profit. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (address above). 15 p. \$1.50, pap.

A good source of ideas for making many attractive items with pressed flowers. Instructions and illustrations are provided for notepaper, candles, pictures, place mats and more. The directions for pressing are adequate.

Bennett, J., Harris, H. and Williams, H. P. 1975. Drying Flowers with Silica Gel. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (address above). 15 p. \$1.50, pap.

Brief but good instructions and many colorful ideas. The technique of drying flowers in silica gel is outlined and illustrated,

including the new microwave method. Instructions illustrated with color photographs show the reader how to make many decorative items.

Betsky, C. 1981. His Garden is His Palette, Petals are His Paints. Smithsonian 11(11): 96-101.

The story of an artist who has transformed dried flower craft into an art form he calls "fleurage". He presses individual flower petals and then uses them to create complex abstract designs. The color illustrations may inspire dried flower hobbyists to try it themselves.

Bodger, L. 1978. Flower Press - Presto! Woman's Day May :12, 236.

Good instructions for making a small plant press of plywood, cardboards and blotters, held together by bolts. The instructions for using the press are less accurate. Flowers should be dry in one week, not the four to six weeks recommended.

Boynton, R. 1976. Beautiful Bouquets all the Year Through. Woman's Day May :122-123, 201.

A brief introduction to the silica gel process, including addition of wire stems to flowers and protective spraying. There are notes on preserving foliage in glycerine. Flowers and foliage are combined in three bouquets, illustrated in color.

Brown, E. 1970. Bouquets that Last. New York, Hearthsides Press. 175 p. \$10.00.

Concentrates on dried arrangements in containers. There are instructions for drying flowers and preserving foliage or berries. An extensive list of plants to dry is included. Styles of arranging are discussed with many unusual examples illustrated.

Bugbee, A. S. 1975. How to Dry Flowers the Easy Way. Boston, Houghton Mifflin. 95 p. \$10.95.

Concentrates on preparing flowers for arrangements either by air drying or drying in sand. Photographs illustrate each step of the sand process. Included is a complete list of flowers and foliage that can be dried. The method is good, but sand has been replaced by the more reliable silica gel.

Bumbaugh, D. 1974. How to Arrange Dried Materials. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (16017 East Valley Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91744). 23 p. \$2.00, pap.

Instructions for twelve dried arrangements, illustrated in color photographs, with notes on design, style and color harmonies. There is an identification chart with line drawings and descriptions of many flowers, seed pods and grasses. Only brief notes are given on the methods of air drying and glycerine preservation.

Clark, J., Collins, M. A. and Collins, G. 1955. Botanical Art. Minneapolis, Burgess Publishing. 61 p. \$2.90, pap.

An attractive book illustrated with line drawings. There are good instructions for drying and pressing flowers in a proper plant press. Included are directions for making several items and lists of plants to dry with interesting notes.

Condon, G. 1958. Blossoms that Defy the Seasons. Natl. Geogr. Mag. CXIV: 420-427.

The story of the discovery of oolite, a special sand formed around the shores of the Great Salt Lake, for drying flowers. Describes

the author's experiments and shows many dried flowers and some methods in color photographs. Oolite is commercially available, but does not seem to be as reliable as silica gel.

Condon, G. 1970. *The Complete Book of Flower Preservation*. New York, Prentice-Hall. 210 p. \$4.95, pap.

Discusses all methods of preserving flowers and foliage for use in arrangements. There are lists of cultivated and wild flowers that dry well. Instructions are illustrated with black and white photographs and a few color photos show finished arrangements. A unique feature is the teacher's manual, with ideas for setting up classes and answering questions.

Cook, H. C. 1978. *Creating Designs with Dried Flowers*. Milwaukee, Ideals Publishing Corp. 64 p. \$3.50, pap.

An excellent book full of fine ideas on many aspects of botanical crafts. It includes clear instructions for drying in silica gel (including microwave), air drying, glycerine and pressing (unfortunately omitting cardboard from the press). For each method there is a list of suitable plants. Color photographs illustrate directions for making several styles of arrangements in vases or inside glass domes, wall plaques and framed pictures. Also discussed are decorative gourds and the process of making artificial flowers from corn husks.

Cramblit, J. and Loebel, J. A. 1979. *Flowers are for Keeping*. New York, Julian Messner (a Simon and Schuster Division). 128 p. \$7.79.

An excellent children's book illustrated with sketches and photographs of children working. There are good instructions for

pressing flowers, air drying and using silica gel. Further directions show the reader how to make bouquets, framed pictures and many other items. Adults will find some interesting ideas in this book!

Crater, D. R. 1980. Cone Crafting. Livingston, NJ, Tribune Publishing Co. 51 p. \$5.95, pap.

A concise and well illustrated introduction to the use of cones. The catalog of cones shows many kinds and indicates sizes. Instructions follow for making wreaths, centerpieces and other decorations, illustrated in black and white photographs.

Crater, D. R. 1981. The Dried Guide. Livingston, NJ, Tribune Publishing Co. 56 p. \$7.95, pap.

Includes concise descriptions of air drying, pressing, silica gel and glycerine methods. Much of the book is devoted to a list of plants with notes on when to pick and how to process them, mostly by air drying. Then there are instructions for choosing colors and textures of flowers and making arrangements. Several examples are illustrated in color.

Creekmore, B. B. 1970. Making Gifts from Oddments & Outdoor Materials. New York, Hearthside Press. 224 p. \$7.95.

Features good instructions and interesting ideas for gift items. The discussions cover all methods of drying flowers, including some unusual ones, such as preserving with paraffin or liquid floor wax. There are lists of suitable materials and notes on pine cone and corn husk crafts. The book would have been improved by more illustrations.

- Day, N. R. 1981. Strawflowers by the Sea. *Americana* 9(5): 46-49.
Interesting account of the strawflower industry in California. Color photographs illustrate the story of growing, processing and arranging of these bright everlasting flowers.
- Derbyshire, J. and Burgess, R. 1975. *The Arco Book of Dried and Pressed Flowers*. New York, Arco Publishing. 96 p. \$7.95.
One of the best books for complete discussions of air drying, glycerine, use of dessicants and pressing. Emphasis is on pressing flowers and designing imaginative pictures. Unfortunately, cardboards for the press and permanent glue for pictures are not recommended. Otherwise, this book gives a good introduction to botanical crafts with many color illustrations.
- Donovan, R. 1981. Weaving with Wheat. *Americana* 9(5): 58-61.
A brief history and introduction to a popular craft of the Great Plains. Techniques of wheat weaving are discussed and there are illustrated instructions for a simple design.
- Eaton, M. 1973. *Flower Pressing*. Minneapolis, Lerner Publications. 32 p. \$3.95.
An introduction to pressing flowers aimed at children. It includes notes on where to find flowers, how to press them and how to make designs. Illustrations are limited to line drawings.
- Emberson, J. 1979. *Pods. Wildflowers and Weeds in Their Final Beauty*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 186 p. \$9.95.
A necessary book for those collectors of dried materials who want to identify the plants. The plants are arranged by habitat, then

by season. For each entry there is a description accompanied by color photographs of the plant in bloom, the dried flower or fruiting stage and the dried plant used in an arrangement. There is a section on grasses and "winter skeletons" that can be collected all winter. While the emphasis is on identification, this book also presents many ideas for arrangements.

Eno, D. 1980. *Pressed Flowers*. La Crosse, WI, The Juniper Press.

39 p. \$3.00, pap.

A charming little book printed in calligraphy. It includes instructions for collecting and pressing flowers and seaweeds. There are ideas for making designs for pictures, candles, bookmarks and note-paper, some illustrated in color.

Facklam, M. and Phibbs, P. 1973. *Corn-Husk Crafts*. New York, Sterling Publishing Co. 48 p.

A good introduction to an old but unfamiliar craft. There are instructions for making dolls, wreaths, artificial flowers and other items. Although the book is meant for children, adults would find it worthwhile.

Flesher, I. 1978. *The Pressed Flower Picture Book*. New York, Butterick Publishing. 192 p. \$7.95, pap.

Although the author's method of pressing flowers under books cannot be recommended, other instructions in this volume are good. There is an illustrated list of flowers that press well and directions for designing pictures and making frames. Color photographs illustrate some examples of attractive pictures.

Floyd, H. 1973. Plant it Now, Dry it Later. New York, McGraw Hill.

231 p. \$12.95.

Features a list of plants that can be dried with notes on how to grow and process them. There are good instructions for silica gel drying of flowers and preserving foliage in glycerine. Attractive dried arrangements are illustrated.

Foster, L. L. 1970. Keeping the Plants You Pick. New York, Thomas J.

Crowell. 149 p. \$4.95.

Written in a simple style suitable for children, but full of sound information. There are instructions for collecting plants, air drying and silica gel. Line drawings illustrate the methods and various items to make with dried flowers.

Fox, R. T. 1978. Christmas Decorations. Information Bulletin 134.

Ithaca (New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853). 17 p. \$.75, pap.

Good instructions for making wreaths, centerpieces and other decorations, most using dried cones and pods. All designs are illustrated.

Geary, I. 1978. Plant Prints and Collages. New York, The Viking Press.

101 p. \$14.95.

A different approach to dried plants is featured: applying ink to plant parts and printing them on paper. Clear instructions for pressing plants are included with ideas for making notecards. A short section introduces the unusual craft of making seaweed pictures. Examples are illustrated in black and white and a few color photographs.

German, R. 1970. Decorations from Dried Flowers and Grasses. London, Search Press (available from Leisure Crafts, P.O. Box 5528, 3061 East Maria St., Compton, CA 90221). 31 p. \$1.95, pap.

An unusual use of dried plant material that will appeal to children. Small dried flowers, seed pods and cones are fashioned into mobiles and decorations. There are instructions for many designs, each illustrated in a photograph.

Hamél, E. V. 1971. Creative Designs with Dried and Contrived Flowers. New York, Simon and Schuster. 157 p. \$8.95.

A book full of original designs and good instructions. The first part emphasizes creativity, making designs with wood, dried foliage and flower-like forms contrived from cones and pods. Many are illustrated by color or black and white photographs. The second part deals with the methods of preservation and the making of arrangements. The final chapter is a long list of plants with notes on how to preserve and use them.

Hartley, R. C. and Holliday, J. B. 1980. Botanical Wreaths: A Guide to Collecting, Preserving and Designing with Natural Materials. Warner, Secret Garden Botanicals (Warner, NH 03278). 31 p. \$4.65, pap.

A good book for those who want to design wreaths. There are instructions for growing suitable flowers and gathering wild materials. The methods of air drying, silica gel and glycerine preservation are discussed, followed by instructions for making wreaths, with black and white photos.

Hawk, R. L. 1978. Save Some Summer for Winter. Modern Maturity Aug.-Sept. 21(4): 42-43.

- A good discussion of the use of everlasting. There are descriptions of strawflowers, celosia and other plants suitable for air drying. Brief instructions tell how to pick and process the flowers. Several attractive arrangements are illustrated in color.
- Hayes, T. 1979. Simple Flowers Made of Seeds. *Crafts* 2(9): 22-24, 79. A different way to use dried seeds. There are notes on the kinds of seeds to buy or collect from fruits. Instructions follow for making artificial flowers from cardboard patterns covered with seeds. Several designs are illustrated in color.
- Hersey, J. 1977. Adventuring with Dried Wildflowers. *Woman's Day* May: 78, 184, 186. Introduces the techniques of pressing (using only newspaper), air drying and silica gel, with lists of suitable flowers. There are brief instructions for making placemats and notepaper with pressed flowers, illustrated in color.
- Herweg, M. M. 1980. Everlasting Bouquets. *Horticulture* 58: 44-47. Reviews methods of three-dimensional drying. There are brief instructions for air drying and dessicants (including microwave oven) which are adequate, except that recommended time for silica gel is much too long. A table of over 60 plants, mostly cultivated, shows the best way to dry each. A pretty example of a dried arrangement is pictured in a color photograph.
- Hesse, R. 1975. Seed Art. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (16017 East Valley Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91744). 15 p. \$1.50, pap. Most of this short book is devoted to instructions for designs with

seeds in frames, on plaques, tabletops, etc., all illustrated in color. It provides good ideas for using seeds, but could have given more information on the different kinds of seeds available.

Hossenlopp, A. and Schaufler, E. 1972. Be an Artist: Make Your Own Pressed Flower Pictures. Information Bulletin 34. Ithaca (New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853). 8 p. \$.30, pap.

A fine short introduction to pressing flowers. The recommended equipment includes a plant press with cardboards. There is a list of flowers and leaves that press well. Instructions show how to design and put together pictures. Several attractive examples are illustrated in color.

Hutton, H. 1977. Mosaic Making Techniques. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 138 p. \$12.00.

A general book on mosaics with a chapter on using natural materials. There are notes on many kinds of store-bought or wild seeds to use and different colors of bark to collect. Illustrated instructions are given for two designs, but others in the book can be adapted for seeds.

Johnson, E. M. and Pearson, K. 1980. Nature Crafts. Birmingham, AL, Oxmoor House. 154 p. \$17.95.

An interesting assortment of craft ideas for the four seasons, using natural materials. Black and white or color photographs and diagrams illustrate such items as pine needle or willow baskets, dried spice necklaces, herb and corn husk wreaths. The section on dried flowers gives brief instructions, not always accurate.

Karel, L. 1973. Dried Flowers from Antiquity to Present. Metuchen, NJ
The Scarecrow Press. 184 p. \$6.00.

Here are the results of years of study on methods for drying flowers. After a brief history of dried flower crafts, the book consists of charts listing over 300 varieties of flowers. For each there are notes on color changes during drying, how long to dry and which medium to use.

Karel, L. 1975. Dried Grasses, Grains, Gourds, Pods and Cones. Metuchen, NJ, The Scarecrow Press. 201 p. \$11.00

A companion to the volume on dried flowers, focusing on grasses and seed pods for air drying. There is a history of the uses of these materials. Most of the book is devoted to tables of plants to dry, with comments on each.

Kawasaki, M. 1969. Ikebana Everlasting. Dried Flower Arrangements. New York, Japan Publications Trading Co. 61 p. \$5.75.

An excellent introduction to the Oriental style of arranging dried flowers. There are instructions for drying and for making simple yet imaginative designs. All are illustrated.

Knight, M. G. 1968. Weathered Wood with Flowers. New York, William Morris. 127 p.

A good discussion of the use of driftwood in flower arrangements. There are notes on collecting and preparing the wood. Photographs of many handsome arrangements using fresh and dried flowers are accompanied by brief instructions.

Lieb, L. 1980. Summer Salutations: Garden Flower Greeting Cards. Crafts 3(7): 28-29.

Directions for making a plant press do not include cardboards, but instructions for pressing flowers are adequate. Further instructions, illustrated in color, show how to make colorful greeting cards.

Linsley, L. 1977. *Wildcrafts*. Garden City, NY, Doubleday. 192 p. \$12.95.

A diverse and intriguing guide to crafts using natural materials. Instructions for pressing flowers and leaves are good, followed by several ideas for designs. Also included are instructions for silica gel and air drying (even mushrooms) as well as notes on bayberry candles, corn husk dolls and driftwood. All are illustrated in black and white or color photographs.

MacDermot, E. 1973. *The Art of Preserving Flowers*. Toronto, James Lewis & Samuel. 87 p.

Emphasizes drying flowers for arrangements. Each chapter is written by a different expert, covering the history of dried flowers, growing flowers for air drying, arranging flowers and special hints for apartment dwellers who want to collect for dried arrangements. Instructions are given for basic techniques of air drying, glycerine preservation and silica gel. These are illustrated by numerous black and white photographs, while color photos show examples of bright arrangements. A final chapter features a table of wild and cultivated plants with notes on how best to dry them.

McDowall, P. 1971. *Pressed Flower Collages and Other Ideas*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 112 p. \$12.50.

A book containing many original ideas. Directions for pressing recommend the book method which tends to discolor plants. The author's warning that green leaves darken is not true if one uses a plant press. There are notes on designing pictures, matchbox

covers, notecards and other items. The unique feature is a chapter on cartoon pictures: using pressed flowers and leaves to create delightful animal and human figures. All designs are illustrated in black and white or color photographs.

McDowall, P. 1975. *Pressed Flower Pictures*. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 78 p. \$5.95, pap.

This paperback edition of a 1969 book introduces the author's fine work somehow achieved with poor pressing methods. There is a list of flowers suitable for pressing and instructions for making framed pictures. A section of color plates illustrates many beautiful designs.

McGourty, F. (editor) 1974. *Dried Flower Designs*. Brooklyn (Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225). 69 p. \$3.05, pap.

Many authors have contributed chapters on their specialities, providing as much information as larger books. There are good discussions of air drying, glycerine and silica gel (some timing is too long), but a plant press is not recommended. Lists of suitable plants accompany each discussion. Instructions show how to make arrangements of many styles, pictures and notepaper, mobiles, wall hangings and wreaths. Numerous photographs illustrate the attractive designs.

Magullion, S. 1977. *A Guide by Plant Family to Foliage Preservation*. *Arnoldia* 37: 289-304.

A complete guide to preserving foliage in glycerine. It consists of an alphabetical list of families and genera with notes on when to collect leaves (and fruits) and color change during treatment. Included are notes on leaves that cannot be successfully preserved.

There are photographs of several arrangements using the preserved materials.

Mandrell, P. 1979. Herbs and Flowers Everlasting. Williamsville, Parish Hill Press (Williamsville, VT 05362). 40 p. \$2.50, pap.

A guide for those who can grow plants for drying. The first part includes necessary advice for planning and starting the garden. The second part gives a list of the plants that can be air dried, illustrated by simple line drawings. A few notes are added on the process of air drying and the making of wreaths or arrangements.

Metzler, R. 1972. Forever Flowers. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 157 p. \$10.95.

A different approach to using dried materials. Instructions are given for fashioning "flowers" out of seed pods, parts of cones and other plant parts. There are many ideas, each one illustrated.

Mierhof, A. 1981. The Dried Flower Book. New York, E.P. Dutton. 96 p. \$13.50, pap.

A book featuring delicate watercolor illustrations. It emphasizes information for growing (and collecting) flowers to air dry for arrangements or other decorations. There are also instructions for glycerine, pressing and drying in sand, but there are few suggestions for using flowers preserved in these ways. A short chapter introduces the craft of straw weaving.

Miles, B. 1975. Designing with Natural Materials. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold. 131 p. \$10.95.

An excellent guide to the use of air dried plant materials. Notes are given on collecting flowers, grasses, cones and seed pods.

There are instructions for making wreaths, arrangements in containers and a variety of holiday decorations, all illustrated by black and white or color photographs.

Millard, N. 1967. Dried Flower Arrangements from Garden, Bush and Seashore. Sydney, Australia, Murray (distributed by Sportshelf, P.O. Box 634, New Rochelle, NY 10802). 128 p. \$9.00.

A book featuring many unusual ideas for dried materials, including driftwood and bark. There are instructions for pressing, air drying, borax and glycerine methods. Directions and color illustrations show how to make arrangements, wall plaques and pictures. Although some of the Australian plants are not available here, the creative designs can be adapted to native flowers.

Miller, C. and Harding, D. 1976. Capture the Beauty of Your Garden Forever. Family Circle June: 104-105, 142, 144.

Features a very useful chart of flowers suitable for drying that bloom from June to September, with advice on which method to use. There are brief instructions for pressing, air drying and silica gel (some timing is too long). Directions for making pretty arrangements and pictures are illustrated in color.

Moffitt, R. 1975. The Step-by-Step Book of Dried Bouquets. Wilmington (available from author, 104 Montchan Drive, P.O. Box 3597, Wilmington, DE 19807). 96 p. \$7.95, pap.

Meant as a companion for Ms Moffitt's later book, since there are no instructions for drying here. However, there is a very detailed discussion of how to make arrangements with dried flowers. Black and white photographs show how each design is put together and the finished arrangements are pictured in color.

Moffitt, R. 1978. Roberta Moffitt's Step-by-Step Book of Preserved Flowers. Wilmington (available from author, address above). 48 p. \$2.95, pap.

Features complete instructions for drying flowers in silica gel, including the new microwave method and air drying. Each step of the processes is illustrated. There is a lengthy flower index, listing those that can be dried, with notes on when to pick and how long to dry.

Morrison, W. 1973. Drying and Preserving Flowers. London, B. T. Batsford, Ltd. 96 p. \$4.95.

Another of the small number of books that recommends a real plant press. There are instructions for all methods of drying with short lists of suitable plants for each. Illustrated directions show arrangements, pictures and other gift items.

O'Neil, S. 1979. Dried Flowers with a Difference. Bethesda (available from author, 7106 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20034). 24 p. \$1.75, pap. Ms O'Neil concentrates on preparing plants for arrangements in containers by air drying, silica gel or preserving in glycerine. Color illustrations supplement instructions for making various kinds of arrangements and bridal bouquets.

O'Neil, S. 1979. A Frame for Your Flowers. Woman's Day June:30, 180. Includes brief instructions for pressing in a telephone book, with a list of suitable flowers. Directions follow for designing pictures, including reassembling daisies and roses from separate pressed petals. Three attractive framed pictures are shown in color.

O'Neil, S. 1980. Pressing Flowers for Lasting Beauty. Bethesda (available from author, address above). 16 p. \$1.75, pap.

Instructions for pressing are adequate, but omit the use of cardboard. There is a list of flowers that will press successfully. Directions are given for making designs in framed pictures and notepaper, illustrated in color.

Pennell, E. S. 1979. Dried Flower Ideas from Williamsburg. Williamsburg, Williamsburg Publishing Co. (P.O. Box 1865, Williamsburg, VA 23185). 32 p. \$2.95, pap.

A guide to making the famous Williamsburg style of dried arrangements, featuring masses of flowers color-matched to the container and the surroundings. There are only brief instructions for air drying, but the color photographs are inspiring.

Peterson, J. 1981. Pressed Flower Fantasy Paintings. Crafts 4(10): 46-47. Describes a technique similar to the fleurage used by Betsky (above), in which flower petals are pressed separately. The dried petals are arranged in bouquet-like designs for framing. Several attractive samples are illustrated in color.

Phelps, R. 1975. Fun with Seeds. London, Search Press (available from Leisure Crafts, P.O. Box 5528, 3061 Maria St., Compton, CA 90224). 31 p. \$1.95, pap.

An excellent introduction to seed crafts. There is information on where to collect or buy seeds, other supplies and where to find inspiration for designs. Instructions are given for making attractive items, such as boxes, lamp bases and pictures, all illustrated in color.

Princess Grace of Monaco with Robyns, G. 1980. My Book of Flowers.

Garden City, NY, Doubleday. 224 p. \$24.95.

A general book on flower lore with one chapter on pressed flowers. Although the techniques are not very good, the designs are beautiful. The several large collages illustrated in color will give the reader many ideas.

Rahn, J. E. 1978. Seven Ways to Collect Plants. New York, Atheneum.

83 p. \$6.95.

A book for children that has three chapters on dried plants. There are hints for collecting and using cones, seed pods, etc. Clear instructions outline the method of drying flowers in a dessicant. Instructions for pressing are not as good, but there are notes on mounting and displaying pressed flowers. Black and white photographs and line drawings help elucidate the text.

Rohrer, E. 1967. Dried Flower Arrangement. New York, Van Nostrand

Reinhold. 88 p. \$5.95.

A very good guide to making dried arrangements. It discusses collecting, drying methods and supplies. There is an illustrated list of suitable flowers. Instructions follow for making attractive arrangements, some using candles or driftwood, also illustrated.

Rothenberger, R. R. and Smith, J. E. 1978. Drying Flowers and Foliage for Arrangements. Columbia (Cooperative Extension Service,

University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201). 4 p. Free, pap.

Short discussion of major methods: air drying, silica gel, pressing and preserving in glycerine. There are lists of suitable plants,

but some of flowers recommended for pressing are not ideal. This pamphlet provides adequate information to get started in dried flower craft.

Schofield, E. K. 1978. Everlasting Summer Flowers. Garden 2(4): 10-11, 30.

Gives complete instructions for drying flowers in silica gel. There are notes on maintaining the silica gel, placing flowers in gel, adding stems and spraying. Suggestions are made for ways to use the flowers, some illustrated in a color photograph. A list of appropriate wild and garden flowers is provided.

Schofield, E. K. 1979. Mosaic Art with Beans and Seeds. Garden 3(2): 32-33.

Provides a brief history of mosaics, followed by instructions for making seed mosaics. There are notes on the kinds of seeds to use, where to find them and directions for designing decorative mosaics on various backgrounds.

Scobey, J. and Myers, N. 1975. Gifts from Your Garden. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill. 160 p.

Nearly half of this book deals with dried flowers. Included are instructions for air drying, silica gel and glycerine methods with lists of plants, followed by instructions for making arrangements. A whole chapter is devoted to pressing, although cardboards are not mentioned and drying time is unnecessarily long. However, directions for making pictures and other items are good. Unfortunately, there are no color illustrations.

Shanks, L. 1972. The Regal Pine Cone. City of Industry, Hazel Pearson Handicrafts (16017 East Valley Blvd., City of Industry, CA 91744). 15 p. \$1.50, pap.

A good outline of supplies needed to work with pine cones and many ideas for making decorations with them. Several items are especially appropriate for the holiday season. All are illustrated, some in color.

Shipman, D. and McWilliam, M. 1975. Everlasting Flowercraft. New York, Arco Publishing Co. 95 p.

A collection of ideas for using strawflowers, the most accessible of dried flowers. They can be purchased from a florist or easily grown in the garden. There are instructions and illustrations for using these bright flowers on cards, in wreaths and various arrangements.

Simmons, E. 1977. Preserving Summer Flowers. The Conservationist Sept.-Oct.: 19-22.

A fine discussion of drying flowers in agents, recommending either silica gel or sand (less expensive). There is a list of flowers to dry, notes on how to process and how to add wire stems. Brief instructions cover air drying and glycerine preservation of foliage. Then there are directions for putting all these materials together in arrangements, with examples illustrated in color.

Simms, C. and Simms, G. 1971. Introducing Seed Collage. New York, Watson-Guptill Publications. 104 p. \$7.95.

An excellent introduction to the creative use of seeds. There are notes on the various kinds of seeds to use, including a color chart, how to make bases and work out simple designs. One chapter offers

suggestions for children, showing examples made by youngsters from ages four to fourteen. Further directions concentrate on more complex designs, including sources of interesting patterns in nature. Many diverse mosaics are illustrated, only a few in color.

Smith, M. 1976. *Pressed Flowers*. London, Search Press (available from Leisure Crafts, P.O. Box 5528, 3061 East Maria St., Compton, CA 90221). 31 p. \$1.95, pap.

An adequate introduction to pressing flowers, with many ideas for their use, although a plant press is not described. There are instructions for making pretty designs in pictures, on bookmarks, table mats, etc., all illustrated in color.

Spencer, M. 1975. *Pressed Flower Decorations*. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill. 80 p.

A well organized discussion about pressing plants. It tells the reader when to pick, which flowers press well and how to press (using a book with weights on top). There are instructions for making pictures, notecards, lampshades and smaller items that children can manage. Many black and white photographs illustrate the instructions, while finished designs are shown in color. Much in this book, especially the cartoon pictures, shows the influence of Pamela McDowall, whose books are cited above.

Squires, M. 1958. *The Art of Drying Plants and Flowers*. New York, Bonanza Books. 258 p. \$8.95.

One of the early books on dried flowers, a bit out of date, but still full of good information. Instructions are given for air drying, drying with agents (before silica gel became popular),

pressing and preserving in glycerine. There are lists of plants suitable for each method and many ideas for using dried materials. All illustrations are black and white, but they show the author's original designs.

Squires, M. 1964. A Handbook of Dried Arrangements and Decorations. New York, M. Barrows. 95 p. \$7.00.

Concentrates on making arrangements in containers. There are simple instructions for air drying and drying agents. Arrangements combine dried flowers with wood, shells and other natural materials. One chapter discusses making "flowers" from dried corn husks. Unfortunately, most illustrations are black and white.

Stribling, M. C. 1975. "Printing" with Patterns from Nature. Family Circle Oct :10,12.

Good instructions for using leaves to make designs on clear acetate that is then mounted over fabric and made into pictures or desk accessories. This is an easy and versatile nature craft.

Svinicki, E. 1977. Step-by-Step Flowercraft. Racine, WI, Western Publishing Co. 64 p. \$2.95, pap.

A book with many ideas for using dried flowers. The methods of pressing, air drying, silica gel and glycerine preservation are discussed. The pressing directions are not good. There are instructions for making arrangements, wreaths, pictures, note-paper, potpourri and designs embedded in plastic.

Thompson, D. 1972. The New Creative Decorations with Dried Flowers. Great Neck, NY, Hearthside Press. 156 p. \$6.95.

A most detailed discussion of the silica gel method by one of

the first workers to experiment with that medium. There is also a brief description of pressing. Most of the book emphasizes instructions and ideas for making decorations and gifts with dried flowers. They are illustrated in black and white or color photographs.

Upjohn, B. 1981. Nature Prints on Notecards. *Crafts* 3(9): 85.

Brief but adequate instructions for nature printing. The article includes how to choose plants, how to apply the ink and how to print notecards. Attractive examples are shown in a color photograph.

Vance, G. S. 1972. *The Decorative Art of Dried Flower Arrangements*.

Garden City, NY, Doubleday. 194 p. \$9.95.

Concentrates on making arrangements in vases, with some fine examples illustrated in color. Includes a discussion of the history of flower arranging and instructions for recreating the different styles. A feature of this book is a step-by-step illustrated guide to the use of silica gel.

Van Renssalaer, E. 1960. *Decorating with Seed Mosaics, Chipped Glass and Plant Materials*. Princeton, D. van Nostrand. 214 p.

A book covering various subjects, notably making mosaics with seeds. There are also instructions for wreaths and other decorations with dried pods and cones. The illustrated designs provide ideas for unusual gifts.

Wach, N. 1975. *The Elegant Art of Pressing and Preserving Seeds, Leaves and Flowers*. Norwalk, CT, C. R. Gibson. 48 p. \$2.00, pap.

An adequate short introduction to drying flowers. Includes hints on gathering plants and brief instructions for pressing, air drying and preserving in silica gel. A helpful chart of flowers with notes on how to dry them is arranged by season.

Wagner, L. 1974. How to Have Fun Pressing Flowers. Mankato, Creative Education (123 South Broad St., P.O. Box 227, Mankato, MN 56001). 31 p. \$4.95.

A book for children featuring a short history and methods of preservation (and "pressing" is actually three-dimensional drying). There are instructions for making pictures, notepaper and other items, illustrated by drawings.

Warren, C. L. 1977. Preserving Woody Plant Material for Winter Arrangements. *Arnoldia* 37: 285-288.

A brief review of methods of preservation, especially air drying and glycerine. Suitable plants are pictured in black and white photographs.

Webb, I. (editor). 1979. The Complete Guide to Flower & Foliage Arrangement. Garden City, NY, Doubleday. 256 p. \$19.95.

An excellent book on the history and techniques of flower arranging. The chapter on drying includes instructions for all major methods of preservation. There are brief notes on pressed flower pictures, but the emphasis is on dried materials for arrangements. Beautiful examples are shown in color photographs, including some unusual copies of Victorian jewelry using bits of dried plants.

Westland, P. 1976. Decorating with Wild Flowers. Emmaus, PA, Rodale Press. 128 p. \$12.95.

Another varied look at dried flowers, even including recipes. There are instructions for pressing and air drying. The method recommended for decorating candles does not work very well. Excellent color photographs illustrate attractive designs in framed pictures, arrangements, etc.

Westland, P. and Critchley, P. 1974. The Art of Dried and Pressed Flowers. New York, Crown Publishers. 128 p. \$9.95.

A book dealing with many uses of dried flowers, including potpourri and herb teas. It is one of the recent books that describes a real plant press, but advises leaving flowers in it much too long. There are also instructions for air drying, silica gel and glycerine, with lists of suitable plants for each method. Many ideas are presented for making decorative items, illustrated in fine color photographs.

Whitlock, S. and Rankin, M. 1962. Dried Flowers, How to Prepare Them. New York, Dover Publications. 32 p. \$1.00, pap.

A lot of information is packed into this small book: instructions for air drying, drying in silica gel, glycerine, notes on color, lists of flowers and foliage suitable for drying, notes on storage and making arrangements. The method described for silica gel is unnecessarily complicated, but other instructions are better. Illustrations are limited to line drawings.

Williams, F. R. 1948. Flowers Dried in Borax. J. New York Bot. Gard. 49: 251-253.

A report by the first person to experiment with agents for drying flowers. There is a list of 120 plants, with Latin and common names, ranked by how well they dry. Although results in silica gel may be slightly different, this is still a useful source of information.

Yarburgh-Bateson, N. de 1972. Dried Flowers. The Art of Preserving and Arranging. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 169 p. \$12.50.

A guide to harvesting, preserving and arranging dried flowers. Methods are discussed and there is a long catalog of plants useful for drying. Each entry has notes on how to dry, history and uses in folklore or literature. Some beautiful examples of arrangements are illustrated.

