

# Keep the Weeds For Decorations

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

"The girls in town" are having fun these days gathering interesting weeds from the field and dried up "leavings" in their flower gardens for bouquets. One of the finest contributions can come from the hips (seed pods) of the multiflora rose hedges.

After gathering in the collection of materials, clean off the unnecessary dried leaves and break off the stems which are too long. Sort the material as to varieties and now you are ready for spraying fun.

YOU will want to do your spraying in a well-ventilated room where you are far away from a gas flame. Set up an old card table and cover it with newspapers. On the table place a cardboard box about 3x3x2 or 3' deep. Place the box so one side is open, resembling a garage.

YOU will be interested in buying spray top cans which contain white, silver, bronze and gold paint. Select those materials you wish a given color and place them within the box — just enough so you can move the sprinkling can around to spray all sides of your treasures. By grouping your materials as to color you save paint. The drying period is only five minutes.



Mrs. Burlingame

MANY of the collected materials you will wish to keep in their natural color to lend warmth and

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contrast to arrangements.

You will find your collected and processed dried materials will be invaluable for door arrangements, decorations on match boxes, place card decorations, lamp shades, table decorations and even attractive "board" pictures.

IT IS possible for the designer in all facets of expression to either take the contemporary path or design a colonial masterpiece. Every year at our home we make gum drop trees from cut hawthorn branches that have been dyed. The sharp thorns are perfect places for bright colored gum drops. They look like a gay Christmas tree.

MANY of our readers have moved into new homes with extensive acreage. Before the snow covers up your driveway and road problems result, you may wish to cover the trouble spots with slag. It is far cheaper than gravel and an ideal base for future paving.

This is also a good time for the rural reader to insert reflection guides along driveways, marking the boundaries of the drive at night.

IT ISN'T too late to dig garden soil to store in the garage for winter plant projects. It is advisable to cover the container, keeping in moisture.

THE owners of the shrub, fire-thorn (pyracantha) islandi, are hearing compliments from their friends this time of year. The shrub grows to be 8-10' tall. The leaves are evergreen and glossy with thorny branches.

In the spring the flowers are in white clusters. In September brilliant orange-scarlet fruits form in great abundance and last until March.

For perfect performance it needs a sunny location at least six hours of the day. When grown against white brick or treated natural wood, it is elegant, assuring the owner material for table decorations all winter.

Frozen food locker plants in the United States numbered 9,047 in January, 1958. So says Department of Agriculture. That's down 247 units from the previous year's figure.

The output of bituminous coal in the United States has increased from 872 net tons a man annually in 1927 to 2,243 net tons in 1947.

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