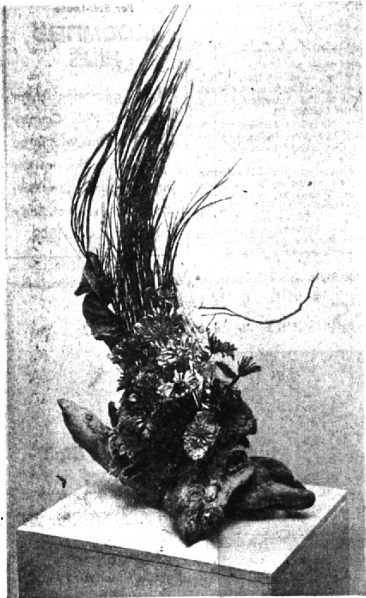


Fall Flowers, Fruit and Foliage



DRIED SCOTCH broom gives a sweeping effect to a design which blends together rich, warm "tapestry" colors. Featured are muted pink and orange zinnias, while an interesting "brocade" fungus, barely visible, is woven into a piece of unusual weathered wood.

By GLADYS GAGE DIBBLE

Fall is a fabulous time of the year for the flower lover and arranger. Fields, meadows and even gardens glow with a special kind of plant glory that cannot be duplicated any other season of the year.

The main supply of the arranger's bounty is a do-it-yourself affair, for more than half of the pleasure comes in the collecting and drying, which should always be done on a dry day when the plants have the least possible water, but are not wilted. Any kind of plant material, from weed to greenhouse grown, is a possible "collector's item," as long as it has good color, artistic form and decorative value.

ALTHOUGH THE art of collecting and arranging dried plant material has grown in leaps the past 15 years, the old saying, "there is nothing new under the sun," holds true here, too.

Centuries ago, the Chinese skeletonized leaves and even flowers while monks in medieval times dried their plants by bunching them and drying them upside down. For many leaves this is still the best and easiest way of achieving desired results.

Purple cabbage, kale, beet and horseradish leaves — also many roadside leaves (be careful of trespassing or picking plants on the conservation list) — assume interesting curls and contours when dried this way. Artichokes, which supply such a forefend form in arrangements, can also be hung, or dried in the slowest of oven heat.

In either case, the scales should be gently opened several times during the drying process to reveal their interesting centers.

Because they are usually picked minus their stems, I insert a small stick into their base while green and allow it to remain for easier arranging.

KINDS OF blue, purple, red and white salvia, Hells of Ireland,

Queen Ann's Lace, celosia, Joe Pye weed, goldenrod, grasses and grains, are a few plants that respond to this method.

Clip cloths are useful for attaching the bunches of plant material to coat hangers. These should always be hung in a dry, preferably dark area with free air circulation, never in an air-tight closet.



A HIGH, pointed arch of dried purple aspidistra leaf and a rubber plant leaf split in two gives this arrangement an ascending quality. Dried yellow yarrow flower heads and yellowish-green and purple grapes bring the design back to earth and to a waiting green ground. The arrangement in a hand-made pottery vase is placed on two lacquered stands.

Newspaper pressing, in which leaves or flowers are laid singly between several folds of paper, which is then weighted down during the drying time, produces some unexpected and satisfactory results. Pressed plant material is particularly suited for use in flowers or prints, plastic mats, screens and plaques.

FOR PRESERVING: the truest color of many flowers, I like best to bury their heads in a mixture of equal parts of powdered borax and yellow corn meal, with three tablespoons of uniodized salt added to each quart of mixture.

Parents Must Expect More Of Children

Most parents used to ask little more of their children than that they be well-behaved. Today's parents must go beyond that, a University of Michigan sociologist says.

As civilization becomes more complex, the task of parents enlarges too," notes Robert O. Blood, Jr., professor on marriage and family relations.

Says Blood, "The rich opportunities of modern life will be missed unless children are introduced to them and motivated to seek them on their own, but this requires, above all things, treating the child as a person in his own right and at the same time expressing high hopes for him and supporting his efforts to fulfill them."

PARENTS MUST differentiate between "encouraging" a child and "pressuring" him with respect to achievement. "The distinction is subtle but important," Blood says.

Parents push too hard usually for selfish reasons. "They want the child to fulfill their own dreams, to accomplish what they didn't, to become someone that they can be proud of."

There is nothing wrong with such motives—"provided that the parent doesn't blind parents to the child's limitations and lead them to disregard his wishes and feelings," Blood points out.

Some arrangers prefer using a chemical compound, silica gel (sold under a variety of trade names), to the borax-corn meal-salt mixture. There is some speeding of the drying time, but the cost of the compound is considerably greater and with the exception of roses—the results seem almost equal.

Stems are cut short on flower heads for easy drying and handling, and when dry the flowers are attached to other stems by making tape which is covered with green floral tape.

Most flowers should be picked and dried as they approach their peak perfection. There are exceptions, among them roses, which should be cut when they are about two-thirds open.

BECAUSE DRIED material, of necessity, becomes more fragile and brittle than fresh plant material, I use the glycerine method for my most costly and harder to find leaves, such as beech, camellia, azalea, pieris japonica, rhododendron. A mixture of one-third glycerine to two-thirds very warm water, into which the stems are placed to a depth of four to five inches and left to brown or color assures supple and pliable foliage which may be used for many seasons.

Weeds, grasses, berries, and leaves look their loveliest in natural containers of drift or forest wood, dull metal, or pottery containers of simple shape and neutral color.

Dried flowers, combined with the elegance of beautiful foliage, seem just as much at home in the more formal containers as do fresh flowers.

Birds, animals, sculptured figures of many kinds, always in the proper scale and feeling of the arrangement, often add interest and distinction if they are used as an integral part and planning of the whole idea.

WITH SUCH a variety of plant material to choose from, the wise arranger will remember Thoreau's admonition to "simplify, simplify, simplify," remembering always that it isn't quantity, but the quality of the material, and how we use it, that will make our arrangement an interesting and decorative present among the other treasures of our home.



A SCULPTURAL piece of forest wood sets the mood and design for this still-life composition, "Wood Song." The arrangement features textural contrasts of wood, dried fern and eucalyptus pods, grapes and an inquisitive squirrel. All three arrangements are done by Mrs. Dibble.

Three Mistakes

A noted psychologist says housewives make three bad mistakes when hiring domestic help. They are: (1) Housewives talk too much during interviews; (2) They fail to prepare for the interview; (3) They put their worse foot forward by emphasizing duties, demands, and drawbacks of the job instead of stressing benefits.

For chiffonade dressing, add chopped hard-cooked egg, green pepper, parsley and pimiento to French dressing. Try it for different green salads.

Shrimp sauce is easily made with frozen cream of shrimp soup which has been thickened with some cream cheese while heating. It's perfect over broccoli or asparagus.

Parents: How to Save Face When Faced With the 'New' Math

Space age mathematics may turn work, many school systems have out to be a "plus" for the younger started what might be called generation, but what it's doing to "arithmetic anonymous" groups, the pride of a generation of parents. Some are briefing sessions for parents definitely on the minus side. For parents who have lost face. Most are more formal adult education trying to help a bright ten-year-old tion courses and are usually called with his "new mathematics" home. "An Introduction to the New Math-

ematics" or something similar. "The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, a department of the National Education Association, reports that such courses are not only "face savers," they can give adults a pretty good glimpse of the world of computers and calculators. They are also reported to be helpful to anyone interested in investing wisely, installment buying, and general economic developments.

IN THE meantime, the Council offers this general background about the new mathematics: The new mathematics, beginning with elementary arithmetic, stresses concepts rather than rote memorization of the proper steps to perform, as in the old system. By shifting emphasis from the mechanical to the creative, most educators agree that students will be better able to cope with new developments requiring new mathematical competencies in this age of the atom.

A higher degree and a different type of proficiency in mathematics is essential in most of today's careers. Even the person who does not work directly with mathematics will find it helps him in his daily life. In reading newspapers, in understanding scientific and economic developments, in making wise investments, and in intelligent installment buying.

Many old fields of mathematics are still highly important and must continue to be taught. However, to help the student gain deeper understanding of basic principles, emphasis is now placed on different aspects of these fields.

Algebra, one of the central topics in both old and new sequences of mathematics, has usually been presented as a collection of rules, which if followed, produce the answer; proofs were reserved for geometry. Algebra, in the new mathematics, will be taught so that its structure—its deductive character—is apparent.

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