

Hello students, we're looking at Unit 3 flower arrangement. Module number 16 is Dry flower arrangement. My name is Ashish Prabhugaonkar, Assistant Professor at DCT's Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar. In this module will get introduced to the art of making dry flower arrangement. Procedure for making dry flower arrangement and we should be able to illustrate the process of making dry flower arrangement at the end of this module.

Dry Decoration is the art of interior decoration in which dried flowers and leaves are arranged beautifully in containers is called dry decoration. A wide variety of plant materials can be used in dry decoration like flowers, fern leaves, grasses, cones of gymnosperms etc. Dried flowers are arranged on a wooden block which serves as a base for the decoration.

What is drying? Drying of flowers is a method of preservation of flowers or the method of removing moisture from the flowers. Dry flowers are dehydrated flower botanicals and parts of plants. Anything from flowers to petals, to buds, stems, roots, fruits and leaves in a dried form come under the domain of dry flower. These hydrated botanicals can be used in natural, dyed, bleached or Importance of dry flowers Dry flowers have good demand both in Indian and international markets. The abundance of available materials. It is estimated that about 80% of flower species can be dried and preserved successfully. Drying is also cheap and easy to do. Sophisticated training and expensive equipment are not needed to come up with a variety of designs. Unlike fresh flowers that easily lose their marketable value and quality, dried ornamentals offer longer periods of sale if properly preserved, packaged, and handled. Another unique characteristic of dried ornamental is their versatility. They can be arranged into different crafts according to one's preferred style, design, and use. Dried plant materials provide distinctive indoor decoration. Arrangements made from dried materials are long lasting and require little care .

There are few principles to be followed for dry decoration:

Much importance should be given to designs of dried decoration as they are not attractive like the fresh flowers. Massing arrangement may be preferred. The shape of dry arrangement can be round, oval, pyramidal, L-shaped, S- shaped, triangular etc. Clips, pin holders and wires can be used to place flowers in position. Dust on the flowers can be wiped using a moist cloth.

#### Dehydration Techniques

1. Air Drying- Air-drying is the easiest method of preserving flowers and plant materials. Many garden flowers and wild plants can be collected, tied together at the stem ends in loose bundles with rubber bands or pipe cleaners, and hung upside down in a warm, dry area. Some flowers have a weak stem and require that a wire be inserted before drying to support the flower.
2. Embedding Method- The flowers can be dried with embedding in desiccants. The important desiccants are silica gel (white and blue), borax Powder, white river sand, alum powder, corn powder, saw dust, etc. The use of Borax for preserving flowers has an advantage in that the flowers hold their shape and shrinkage is minimal.
3. Silica gel - Silica gel is a fairly expensive moisture-absorbing chemical desiccant. It is an excellent product for drying flowers. It is lightweight, dries flowers faster than borax mixtures do, and can be used over and over again if dried properly. To dry silica gel for reuse, spread it in a shallow baking pan, and heat it at 250 degrees F for 1 hour.

4. Sand Drying - To dry with sand, place an inch or two of sand in a container; scoop away a small amount of sand to form a depression on the surface; place the flower head upright in this depression and press the sand in and around the outside of the flower to support it. Flowers dried with sand are fragile so be very careful when removing them from the sand.
5. Hot Air Oven Drying - The material must be dried at a very low temperature over many hours. Compact flowers like marigolds, chrysanthemums, cornflowers and zinnias dry well in a fan-assisted, convection oven.
6. Microwave Drying - Place the flowers and material into microwave-safe containers, uncovered. Drying time varies according to the size and moisture content of the flower, but in microwave oven plants are normally dried for 2-5 minutes and the material is kept at room temperature for 4-5 hours as setting time.
7. Pressing - Pressing is done by placing plant materials between layers of an absorbent paper material and applying weight or pressure for at least 5 to 10 days or until the plants are dried. Pressing is a method of preserving plants to use on pictures, stationery, place cards, etc. Ferns make excellent pressed plants. Leaves and branches with foliage can be pressed to form plant materials with natural curve. These are my references. Thank you.