

# Delaware State University

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

## Plant materials for drying and crafts

When picking flowers to dry, make sure that you select blooms just before they are completely open (usually about 1/3 to 1/2 open and/or petals are curved inward) and perfect. Also, select flowers free of injuries, insect feeding, diseases or bruises. The amount of stem you leave depends on which method you are going to use to dry them. For example, for the hanging method, you may want to leave a longer stem. If you are just going to dry the blooms in a silica gel or sand mixture, you may want to cut off most of the stem—they can be wired with florist

wire after dried. Begin collecting in the early spring and continue until late fall. Always collect more than needed to allow for damage.

**Here is a partial plant list of varieties that are good for drying.**

Acroclinium	Eucalyptus	Queen Anne's Lace or Wild Carrot
Baby's Breath	Globe Thistle	Roses
Bells of Ireland	Goldenrod	Salvia (blues)
Black-eyed Susan	Gomphrena	Statice
Camellia	Hydrangea	Strawflowers
Carnation	Lilac	Sweet Annie
Celosia (Cocks comb)	Lily-of-the-Valley	Violets
Chinese Lantern	Marigold (large flowering varieties)	Yarrow (yellow dries the best)
Daffodil	Money plant	Zinnias
Daisy	Peony	

Seed heads and pods can also be dried and used in arrangements and other crafts.

- Alliums
- Broom Corn
- Lotus seed heads
- Poppy seed heads
- Triticale (Bearded wheat)

Leaves and grasses that go to seed and collected in the fall are also great for drying.

- Fern
- Milletts
- Oats
- Wheat

Gourds should be left on the vine until a frost threatens then cut and leave several inches of the stem (do not handle by the stem), remove any garden soil with a cloth dampened with rubbing alcohol or disinfectant soap. Once dried spread on several layers of newspapers in a warm, dry

location with good air flow. During a sunny day they may be placed outdoors, but brought in the evening. Gourds are dried when you can hear seeds rattle when they are shaken.

For more information, contact:

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