



# Growing Guru



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## DRYING PLANTS FOR DECORATION

Fall is a good time to gather plants to dry and use for indoor or outdoor decoration, because they tend to dry fast. Every year I save my switch grass seed stalks, Japanese lantern fruits, gray Artemisia leaves and flowers, and Hydrangea flower heads. I bundle them with rubber bands (which stay tight as the stalks dry) and use a bent paper clip hooked into the rubber band to hang them upside down to dry indoors.



Plants with showy flower heads, such as Hydrangea (shown to right) are popular as dried plants. Other flowers to consider drying during the growing season are yellow yarrow, purple lavender, blue statice, white baby's breath, hot pink globe amaranth, and red strawflower (shown below).



Grasses with large plumes as in pampas grass or Chinese silver grass (shown above) dry well, as do interesting seed heads of northern sea oats or foxtail grass.



Seed heads of daylilies, irises, poppies, money plant, and ornamental onions can add a lot of interest to your decorations as well. And don't forget to save twigs as well.

For lists and photographs of additional plants to consider growing for drying and the best way to dry flowers, see these articles: [30 Best Flowers for Drying](#), [Another 30 Best for Arrangements or Crafts](#), [How to Dry Flowers](#)

Find some great advice in [Preserving the Ornamental Garden](#) including [Drying Hydrangea Flowers](#) to retain colors. This 7-page PDF may inspire you to try other [Ways to Preserve Plants for Decorative Uses](#) other than air drying, including desiccants and microwaving.