

## Create Your Own Dried Flower Topiary

In last month's issue of D&D I wrote about preserving flowers from the garden ( using the air drying method) . Now that summer is behind us I would like to share with you an easy and interesting way of using some of these precious reminders of the gardens - a dried flower topiary. This elegant floral arrangement is surprisingly easy to create and a great way to try your hand at designing with flowers. You'll need the following dried flowers roses, hydrangeas, baby's breath or other small flowers. Other materials needed are a glue gun and good quality hot glue, a container, ferning pins or heavy florist wire, a stem, Spanish and sheet moss as well as floral foam. A good height for a table top topiary is 24-30". Take a clay pot or other decorative container (for this size topiary a 6" tall clay pot works well) and fill it with dried floral foam Be sure to use foam specifically made for dried and artificial flowers as the other one which is soaked with water and used in fresh arrangements is not strong enough to hold the weight of a topiary ball. Use hot glue to attach it firmly into the pot

Next you'll need a stem and a 5" diameter foam ball. Ready made grapevine topiary stems are ideal but a white birch branch (1" to 2" diameter) or several red twig dogwood branches tied together both make very striking stems. Insert one end of the topiary stem into the foam ball and the other end into the foam in the pot. Glue everything in place with hot glue. Next, cover the ball with Spanish moss, pinning into place using ferning pins or short pieces of florist wire. Next carefully glue dried roses onto the foam sphere. Try to space them evenly over the surface. It is not necessary to completely cover the surface with roses. The spaces between can be filled in with pieces of dried hydrangeas blooms, dried lavender, baby's breath, or any other treasures preserved from the garden. To finish off your topiary, cover the foam in the pot with sheet moss or Spanish moss. Remember to place the finished creation away from direct heat and sunlight to keep it lasting as long as possible. Special sealant sprays can help preserve and protect the finished piece and occasional cleaning with a special floral spray will keep it looking great.

This beautiful ,long lasting creation is a fitting tribute to the hard work we put into our beloved gardens as well as a reminder that spring will return and the garden will indeed bloom again. Everything required to create this topiary including the dried flowers can be purchased here at the Cedar Rose. We can also help anyone to create their own, here in the shop. In addition ,helpful and encouraging professional advice is always available. For more creative ideas, check out our article on "Using Dried Flowers for Christmas" in next month's issue of D&D . and don't miss the Cedar Rose's Annual Christmas Open House Nov. 2nd & 3rd 2002.You will be inspired!

... Annette, Sept/Oct