



Crafting With Roses

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Introduction to Growing and Enjoying Roses

The American Rose Society Gulf District and Mississippi State University Extension Service

If you grow roses you certainly have cut a few and brought them indoors to enjoy their beauty and fragrance. There is nothing like fresh roses to beautify a home. But have you tried your hand at drying roses to create beautiful, long-lasting home accents? It is easier than you think. All you need are few basic tools and some ideas.

Crafting Ideas-Limited only by your imagination!



So many ways to use dried roses in creative craft projects. This presentation will share with you some techniques for drying and using roses to create beautiful home accessories or gifts. Rose craft projects not only result in beautiful decorative items for the home or office but are a great way to preserve those special flowers that mark so many of the major events in our lives. Have you ever thought of preserving that special prom corsage, boutonniere, wedding flowers, funeral flowers, anniversary flowers. We're going to share some tips to do just that.

Drying Techniques

- Ambient Air
- Dehydrator
- Silica Gel



Limit our discussion to these 3 techniques.

Drying Techniques

- Air drying
 - Easy
 - Economical
 - Weather dependent
 - Drying time-slow
 - Less natural look



Choose fresh, not fully open blooms. Pink, bicolors, light reds, and oranges dry the best colors. White and yellow dry brownish colors. Deep reds dry almost black.

Air Drying

- Bundles-flowering stems
- Newspaper-petals
- Screen-petals



Results





- Dehydrator
 - Less easy
 - Initially expensive
 - Not weather dependent
 - Drying time-fast
 - Less natural look

Best used for petals and small flower heads/buds with tight petals.

Results



- Silica Gel
 - Least easy
 - Initially expensive
 - Less weather dependent
 - Drying time-medium
 - More natural look

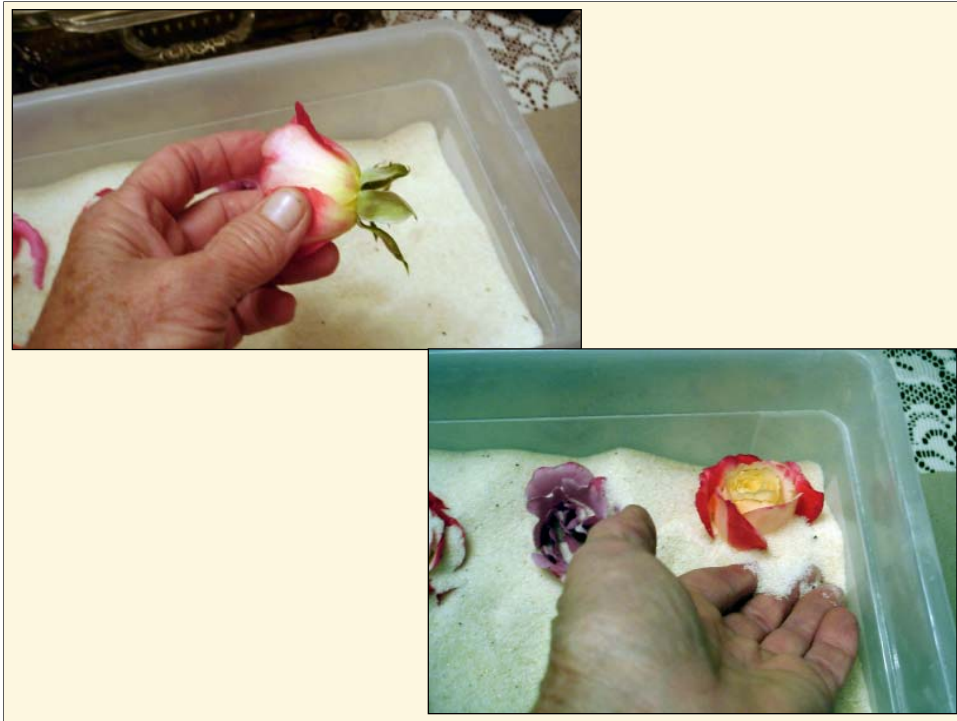


Read and Follow All Instructions and Precautions on Label

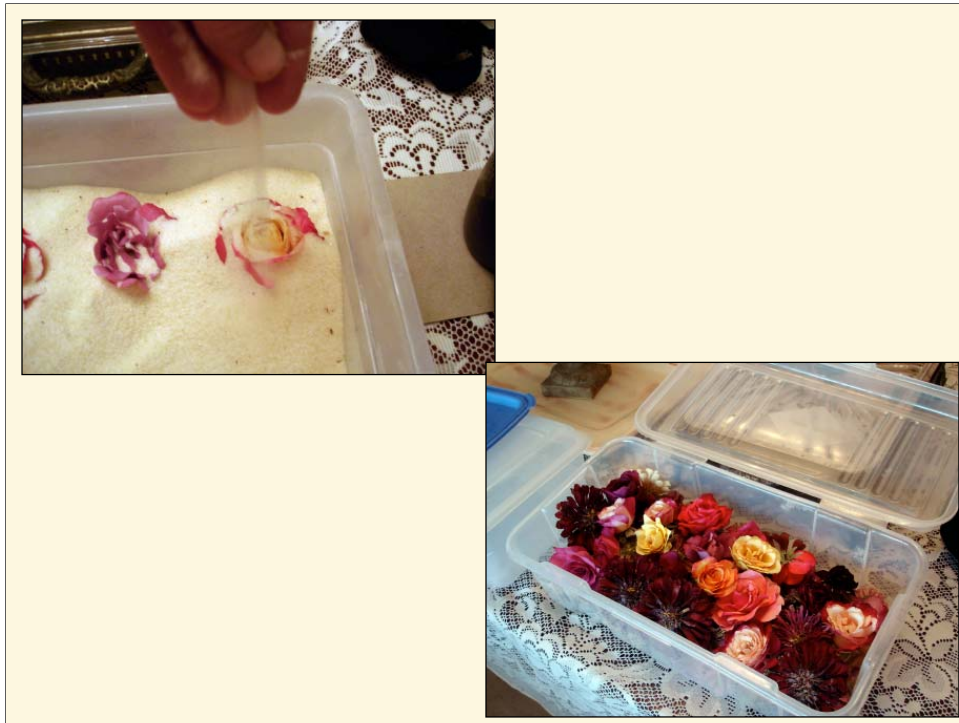
- Use fresh, not fully open flowers
- Cut right below bloom



Five pound bag costs around \$13.00. Can be re-used indefinitely.



Put layer of silica gel (which look and feels like sand) in a air tight plastic box.
Set bloom upright into gel and push gel around base to support petals.



Gently add gel to completely cover blooms. If container is deep enough can have several layers. Check in a few days for dryness. Gently pour off gel when blooms are dry. Store in an airtight container if not using in craft projects immediately.

Results



Most lifelike of the 3 techniques. One most recommended for preserving the natural beauty of those special occasion flowers.



Project Ideas



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Wreaths



Many wreath bases to choose from. Combining colors, textures of roses with other dried plant material can be very beautiful. Creative juices not flowing! Just visit your local bookstore's floral craft section or visit a local florist to get ideas.

Wreaths



- Base for-
 - Candle
 - Punch/Serving Bowl
 - Cake



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Dried Floral Arrangements

- Stemmed roses from
 - Funeral sprays
 - Wedding bouquets
 - Other special occasions



The fresh floral arrangements were separated into individual flower stems and put into small bundles to air dry. Only the best, freshest flowers were chosen from arrangements. Then the flower bouquet was created using these individual dried stem roses and other dried material.

Nosegays

- Stems or blooms from
 - Wedding bouquets
 - Other bouquets or arrangements



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Again, use only the freshest flowers, disassembling the original bouquet or arrangement. If using stemmed roses, bundle and air dry. Can cut blooms from stems and dry just blooms using silica gel-results more lifelike. Reassemble into nosegay using flower bouquet holders and floral tape from hobby or floral supply stores.

Bell Jars



- Keepsake blooms from
 - Boutonnieres
 - Corsages
 - Funerals
 - Weddings
 - Other special occasions



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Silica gel recommended for these special blooms. If big enough bell jar can recreate wedding bouquets in part or whole.

Potpourri



- Petals from deadheading
- Petals from shattered dried roses
- Floor sweepings from craft work room!



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Easy craft to make using dried petals from many sources. Add essential oil and fixative and you have a fragrant addition to your home décor or a lovely gift—straight from your garden!

Sealing

- Polyurethane spray
- Hair spray
- Wax



To help keep dried roses from reabsorbing moisture it is recommended that you seal them with a polyurethane spray or can use hair spray. Some folks dip them in wax. Wax dipped roses are very fragile. Periodically re-spray your crafts to keep them looking glossy and to blow away the accumulated dust!

Have Fun Crafting!



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The End

- All photographs were taken by Lelia Scott Kelly
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