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Illinois Country Harvest

Heritage Farm & Gardens



Dried Flowers

Post Harvest Handling and Drying Techniques

Selection

Types

- Obtain list from
- Online searches
- Books
- Other farmer / florist examples
- Self trial

Criteria

- Does not shed
- Keeps color
- Stays workable

Tips

- Focal Flowers
- Filler Flowers
- Greenery
- Grow flowers for multiple purposes



Some Favorites



Harvesting Flowers for Drying

- ◇ In cooler parts of the day
- ◇ During peak bloom
- ◇ Strip stems in field
- ◇ Store in a cool location until ready to process
- ◇ When open (strawflower)

Flower Drying Methods

- ◇ Air dry by hanging
- ◇ In Water
- ◇ Sand or Silica
- ◇ Pressing
- ◇ Freeze Drying

Air Drying by Hanging

Location

- Low Humidity
- Hot
- Dark
- Good Air Circulation
- Free from pest

Air Drying by Hanging

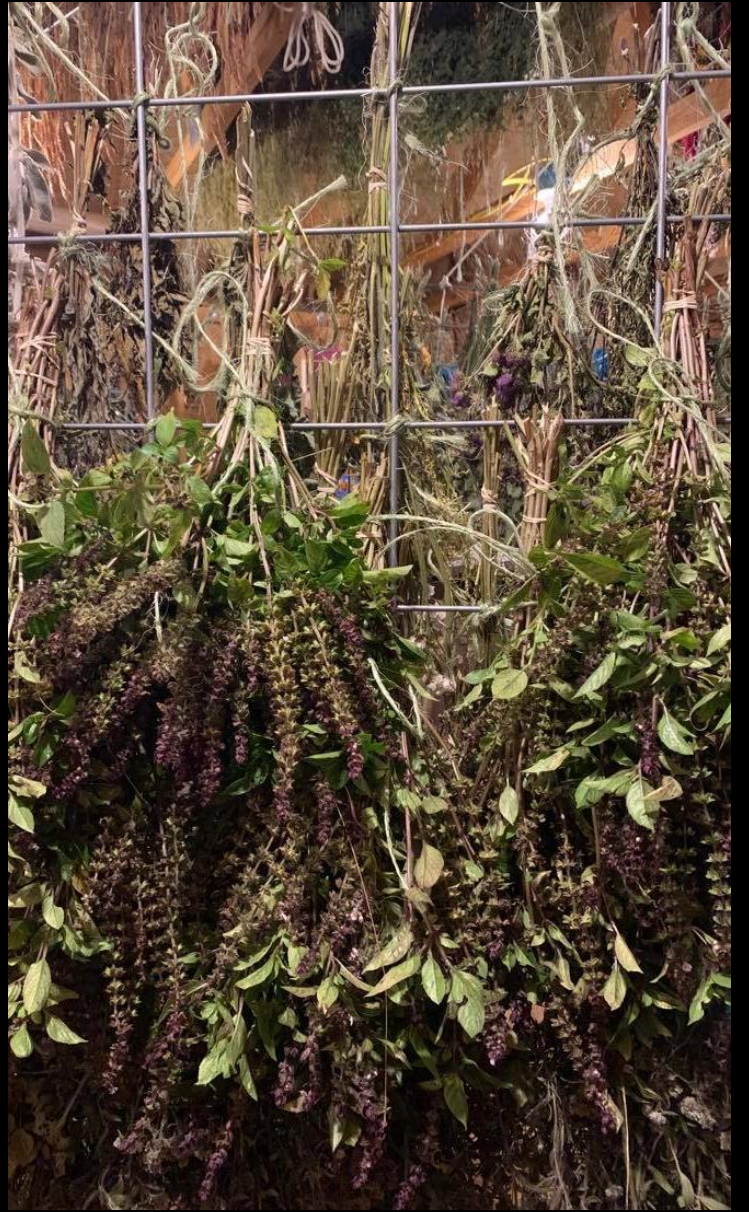
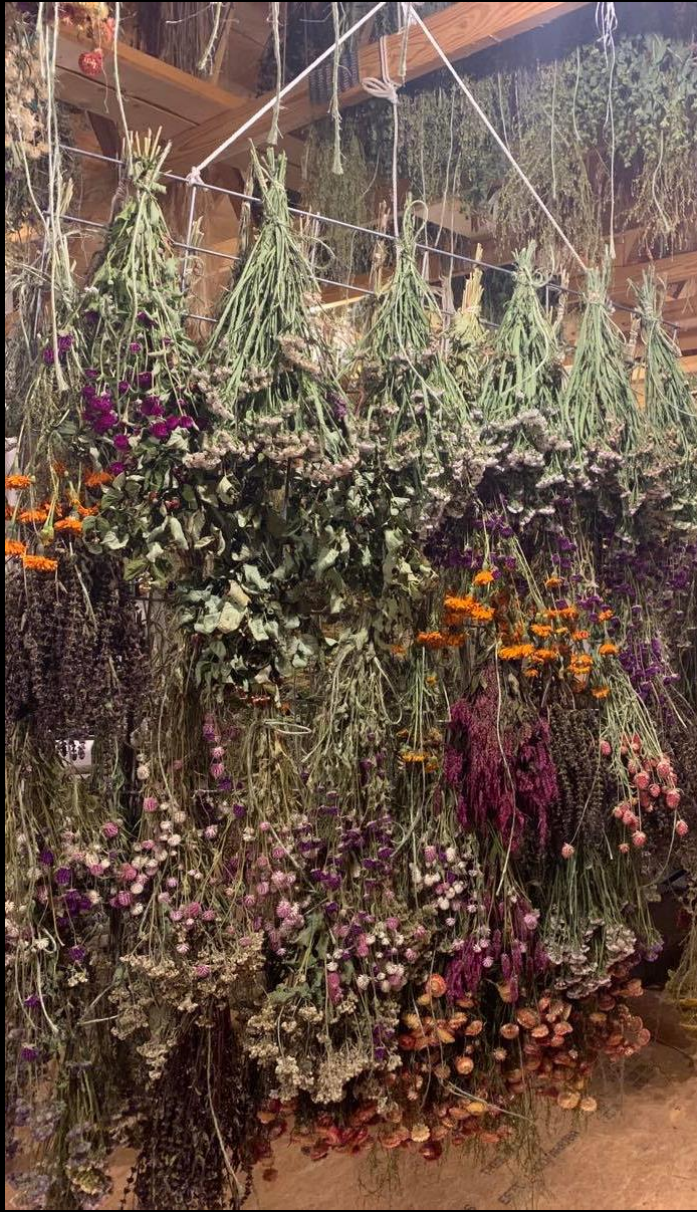
Preparing the flowers to be hung



- Should be at their peak
- Should be fully hydrated
- Bunches should not be too large
- Rubberband bunch
- Secure bunch with twine to hanging mechanism



Methods to hang



Drying in Water



Sand or Silica





Pressing



Freeze Drying

Freeze drying flowers uses a process called lyophilization to lower the temperature of the flowers to below freezing, and then a high-pressure vacuum is applied to extract the water in the form of vapor. The vapor collects on a condensing surface outside the chamber, turns back to ice and is removed.

Post Care of Dried Flowers

Storage

Out of direct sunlight or heat

Low Humidity

Areas Free of Pest

Keep area clean

Rotate stock

Workspace

Have a separate area

Keep area clean

Suggested Customer Care

Keep away from direct sun, heat
& humidity

Will last for several years in the
right conditions

Inspirers

Charles Little
and Co

Full Belly Farm
The Wreath Room

Sunny Meadow
Flower Farm