

Then there are several colors of acroclinums, very graceful in outline. The amobiums, aelichrysum or eternal flowers, the rhodanthes, xeranthemums or straw flowers, all were common garden plants a few years ago.

Drying these flowers consists simply in cutting at the proper time, which is when in full bloom, and before seeds have formed. Where practicable the whole plant may be cut or pulled and hung bottom up in a partially darkened room or shed. Usually, however, the flowers come out at different times and must be cut as ready, leaving on as much stem as possible. Tie in bunches and hang up. The immortelles imported in such quantities from France and Germany, originally yellow but now to be had in various colors, are charming herbaceous plants. Unfortunately they are not hardy with us.

There are, however, several natives of the same genus, gnaphalium, in English cudweed or common everlasting, which may be preserved in a similar manner. There are also the purple cudweeds and the pearly everlastings, often found in dry, gravelly or sandy soils, which may be had for the gathering. All the work necessary is to hang up in the spare room until the whole collection is harvested or the material is wanted for making the winter bouquet.

As flowers in themselves will have a somewhat stiff appearance alone, dried grasses of various kinds will be found very useful. Hang bottom up to dry, as directed for flowers, for the reason that all plants when first cut wilt and are unable to hold their parts erect. They soon become rigid and when fully dried have had a quite natural appearance.

If flowers are allowed to even partially ripen seed, they will fall to pieces when taken into a warm room. Among the best grasses are foxtail, cat-tails, bents, feather grass and numerous march grasses and sedges. The many brizas or quaking grasses are all well known. Even wheat, rye and oats, if collected early enough, are quite desirable, as are also a number of summer grasses — Farm and Home.



FIG. 998—FLOWERS PRESERVED FOR WINTER USE.