

Fabulous Dried Florals

Designed by Marlene Ashby

Some might dismiss them as goners, but we say gather those seedpods, woody stalks, dried grasses, cattails, dock, thistle, Queen Anne's lace, and any other weedy stems that will bring interesting textures and forms to your arrangements. Almost anything that catches your eye along the roadside can be used in dried designs. Collect stems in the fall when they're naturally dry, and use them immediately to perk up baskets, vases and containers. Mist them with hairspray or clear acrylic spray to help retard seed loss and shedding.



Supplies:

- Large basket
- Clay pot to fit inside basket
- Floral foam
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Spanish moss
- Fresh grapevine
- Broomcorn
- Teasel
- Black-eyed Susan seed heads
- Browns dock
- Canary grass
- Pampas grass
- Foxtail millet
- Millet
- Cattail leaves

Note: If needed, reinforce stems using floral picks. Create stem extensions using floral tape and 20-gauge wire and/or floral picks.

1. Fill clay pot with floral foam, and hot glue in place. Cover floral foam with Spanish moss. Set the pot securely inside the basket so it will stand upright.
2. Create a long loop of fresh grapevine. Hot glue it to front of foam. Position the rounded portion of the grapevine loop about 10 inches outside front right edge

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of basket to balance height of design. (See photo.)

3. Create a design skeleton that establishes the finished arrangement's height, width and depth. Insert a 36" broomcorn stem into foam toward arrangements back left side. Insert a 15" broomcorn stem in foam on lower right of design. Drape the broomcorn so it curves over front edge of basket. Insert a 10" broomcorn stem in foam in lower left corner and drape as above.

4. Add teasel stems to create a focal point in lower center of design. Stairstep the stems downward and insert in foam.

5. Insert black-eyed Susan stems between teasel. Cut dock stems shorter than black-eyed Susan stems and insert into center of arrangement.

6. Starting at the top of the arrangement and working downward, add varying lengths of grasses. Alternate types of grass for interest.

7. Fill in arrangement with millet stems and cattail leaves. Drizzle hot glue around base of stems to secure them in foam, if desired.