



## **TREATING PLANTS WITH GLYCERIN**

**Do you have a favorite flower or shrub that you would like to preserve forever?**

The first Greens Sale workshop for 2022 will be held **Thursday, August 18, at 6:00pm at the Council House**. It will be at Chula Vista's monthly meeting so in-person seating is limited to 10 guests and the presentation will also be presented via ZOOM. It will last approximately 45 minutes and include time for you to ask questions.

Chula Vista member Inge Mesik is an expert of this process and will share her tips and tricks. This will be an informational demonstration, not a hands-on class. Once you learn this process, you can preserve plant materials for the fresh greens arrangers to use for this year's sale and your own projects. Attached is a list of plant materials that can be treated with glycerin for long lasting beauty, along with a list of natural materials to collect for embellishments.

**Please RSVP to register for in person attendance or via ZOOM.**

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Karla Labby

GS2022 Lead Chairperson

Email: [karlalabby@yahoo.com](mailto:karlalabby@yahoo.com)

Cell: 269-910-0724

## Workshop to be held Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the KGC House.

Below is a list of materials that can be treated. Start looking for them now and remember where they are to collect them for treatment.

### Glycerin Treatment of Plant Material

**Stem Absorption:** Mix two parts water to one part glycerine and 1-2 tablespoons of bleach to retard bacteria and mold. (I haven't added bleach) Heat the solution for more rapid absorption

**Note:** *adding food coloring may enrich greens*

**Selecting Plant Material:** should be done when the leaf is mature, but before the plant begins it's winter dormancy. Crush the ends of woody stems for better absorption. Allow plenty of room for good circulation.

**Note:** *to prevent excessive edge- drying, and keep the leaves pliable, rub a solution-soaked cloth over both sides of heavy leaves, until the solution has time to rise in the stem. Do this daily. Examples:*

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Color- treated</u></b>	<b><u>Time to pick</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>
Flowering Almond	beige to tan	Aug. to Sept.	7 to 10 days
Aruba	near black	Aug. to Sept.	3 weeks
<b><u>Note:</u></b> <i>afterwards, hang upside down for 3 days to distribute the solution and firm up the terminal leaves</i>			
Barberry	bright red	Spring	10 days
Barberry	mellow brown	Fall	10 days
American beech	dark brown	when green or when leaves lighten in early Fall	2-10 days
Boxwood	golden hue	Fall	4 days
Canna	brown	after frost	5-7 days
Canna	green	Summer	5-7 days
Celosia, plumed	helps retain color & reduces shedding		24 hrs in dark place, then air dry
Celosia, crested	fully treated		7-9 days
Deutzia, gracilis	brown	Sept. to Oct.	2 weeks
Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian Olive)	silvery underneath & deep golden on surface	Sept. to Oct.	7-10 days
Gardenia	dark green	Sept. to Oct.	2 weeks
Magnolia	dark brown	Oct. to Dec.	from southern states
Pear	dark brown	Aug. to Sept.	7-10 days
Pine, young fresh branches			10 days
Rugosa Rose	golden brown	September	7-10 days
Spirea, & seed spray	green, brown	Aug. to Sept.	7-10 days
Sweet gum	red hues	early fall	
Poplar – white under side barely darkens; upper surface turns brownish black			3 days

Other foliage: experiment with others

apple, crabapple, dogwood, forsythia, juniper, oak, peach, peony, rhododendron, viburnum, gladiolus leaves, holly, mahonia, maple- *some will*, yucca (or air dry), grasses & grains- keeps them more flexible than air drying. *Experiment !*

## Natural Materials to Collect for Embellishments

Please start collecting the following items from your gardens or during your summer hiking. We will be leaving some items natural (unpainted/treated) and will paint some to be used in fresh greens arrangements.

- Rose Hips
- White Birch
- Allium
- Teasel
- Hydrangea
- Seed pods
  - a Cones (unusual shapes)
- Spent flowers
- Straight branches for painting
- Dried tree fungus

Thank you! Please contact Kathy Kienle, Mary Beth Montague, or Karla Labby if you think of anything else we should add to this list.