<dryingMethod>How to Dry Artichoke Flowers (not food)

While there are many ways to dry flowers, air drying is the method recommended for artichoke flowers, according to "Preserving Flowers and Foliage", on the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture's website. The artichoke flower is actually the artichoke fruit that has be left on the plant and allowed to come to full flower. The dried artichoke flower can be used in floral arrangements or craft projects.

Cut the flower from the plant using gardening shears, leaving as much of the stem as possible attached to the flower. Don't use a flower if it looks wilted, faded or limp. An immature flower or one at its prime is the best for drying.

Remove any foliage by cutting at its end near the stem.

Secure one end of the twine to the flower by tying a knot around the stem.

Tie the other end of the twine to a hook in the ceiling or doorway, or another area so that the flower will hang upside down from the string. Choose a dry, warm, ventilated area that is not in the direct sunlight.

Leave hanging for two to three weeks or until dry. Drying times vary, depending on humidity factors.

How to Dry the Flowers From an Artichoke

Let artichokes grow into flowers. Each artichoke head will become a round, purple flower.

Cut the artichoke flowers near the base of the plant using pruning shears when white, fluffy seeds are visible in the flower's center. Keeping the stems long enables you to tie them together for drying.

Gather two or three stems and secure them together tightly near the base with a rubber band.

Tie a 6-inch length of string to the rubber band and hang the artichoke flowers upside down in a warm, dry environment. Ample air circulation is also important for suitable drying.

Leave the artichoke flowers hanging until they feel brittle to the touch. Drying time can take up to two or three weeks, depending upon the humidity level.

Tip

Use dried artichoke flowers with other dried flowers in floral arrangements. To seed a dried artichoke flower, separate the fluff from the seeds. Place the dried flower in a paper sack, close the sack and shake vigorously to loosen the seeds. If the seeds will not loosen with shaking, pound the flower carefully with a mallet to dislodge them. Discard the fluff and use the seeds for future planting.

How to Store Dried Flowers

Lay a sheet of newspaper on a flat surface. If you have a large bouquet of flowers, you'll need another piece of newspaper or two.

Place the flowers on the newspaper and roll them up into it.

Fold the ends over so that the flowers are completely wrapped in the newspaper. Use tape to secure loose edges of newspaper.

Place the wrapped flowers gently into a box. Make sure that the box is big enough as you don’t want to have to force them into the box and destroy them.

Place the box in a cool, dry place and make sure not to set anything on top of them.

Tip

Put mothballs into the box to keep unwanted pests from nibbling on your stored flowers.</dryingMethod>