

Flower Preservative #1

Materials:

- 1 part Powdered Borax
- 2 parts Cornmeal
- Covered cardboard box (shoe or stationery box)
- Fresh flowers

Directions:

Thoroughly mix borax and cornmeal. Cover the bottom of the box with $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of this mixture. Cut flower stems about 1 inch long. Lay the flowers face down in this mixture. Spread the petals and leaves so that they lie as flat as possible. Do not place flowers too close together. Cover the flowers with $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of the mixture. Place the lid on the box and keep at room temperature for 3 to 4 weeks. This is an excellent way to preserve corsages or flowers from someone special. Try daisies, pansies, apple blossoms, asters, violets, and other flowers with this method. They will stay summer fresh indefinitely.

Flower Preservative #2

Materials:

- Fresh Flowers
- Florist's wire
- Airtight container such as -a coffee can
- Plastic bag
- Borax
- Wire or string
- Soft brush

Directions:

Pick flowers at the peak of their bloom. Remove the stems. Make new stems with florist's wire. Run wire through the base of the flower and twist the two ends together. Line the coffee can with the plastic bag. Pour enough borax into the plastic bag to cover the bottom to a depth of 1 inch. Place flower face down in the borax. Pour about 1 inch of borax over the top of the flower. Add more flowers and borax until the container is full. Gather the top of the bag, squeezing out all the air inside it. Fasten shut with wire or string. Place lid on can and set aside in a dry place for at least 4 weeks. Remove flowers from borax and carefully brush away all borax with a soft brush.

USES: Flowers preserved in this way make colorful "permanent" floral arrangements. Flowers picked at the peak of their bloom remain fresh looking indefinitely.

TO USE: Using the wire stems, make an attractive flower arrangement as you would a fresh-flower bouquet.