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## AUTUMN'S TREASURES

Summer has passed and the days are getting shorter and cooler. Many of the flowers, shrubs and trees have produced interesting seed pods. Collecting some of summer's byproducts is a perfect excuse, if you need one, to enjoy the out-of-doors, and with your collected items you could create a table centerpiece, an arrangement in a mason jar or pottery vase, a wreath for the front door, etc.

When I was about eleven or twelve years old, growing up in the hills of Connecticut, I remember scavenging for various seed pods, nuts, and other unusual plant stems and grass remains along the lane, field edges and gardens. I would use the wild grape vines that covered the stone wall, and some wire and glue to attach my treasures to create an autumn door wreath.

The photo shows a collection from my garden: the remains from coneflowers, iris pods, day lily pods, blackberry lily, grasses, sea oats, milkweed, etc. I was surprised at what I was able to collect. You may feel your garden would not provide enough variety of material; if so, a trip to the craft store may help with your collection. Also, if you're unsure of what to make, google '*Autumn craft ideas for wreaths, arrangements, centerpieces*' and see what Pinterest, DIY, and YouTube have to offer. These sites give many ideas as well as a list of materials needed. In no time you will be able to create a masterpiece equal to (or maybe even surpassing) one of Martha Stewart's!



An arrangement of autumn "treasures."