



Preserving autumn leaves with glycerine

Pressed or dried leaves tend to lose their colour and become brittle. Here's a way to preserve them to use in craft projects.

What you need:

- Glycerine – chemists usually stock it.
- Water
- Two large plastic storage boxes that will stack together (or similar containers)
- Autumn leaves

Method:

1. Lay the leaves in one of the containers.
2. Mix one part glycerine to two parts water, making enough to cover the leaves well. Pour the mixture over the leaves.
3. Stack the second container inside the first, so that the leaves are kept submerged in the glycerine mixture.
4. Leave undisturbed to soak for at least three days.
5. Remove the leaves, blot them dry with a paper towel, then let them dry completely

Leaves treated this way will retain flexibility, and can be used to make wreaths, garlands or perhaps a lovely autumn head-dress or crown - perfect for a Hallowe'en party!