

2 Winter's palette

Inspiration for these designs came from a foraged woodland theme. For our table arrangement we chose to use dried hydrangea heads, artichokes and honesty seed heads. All of these dry really well and will last through Christmas to the new year. Autumn is a great time to start collecting flowers and seed heads for drying – go on a ramble to the nearest woodland or see what you can find in your garden.

When drying flowers, hang them somewhere cool and airy with plenty of ventilation. You don't want a damp environment as you will end up with mouldy flower and seed heads.

Honesty, artichokes and hydrangea are my three favourite foraged items to use at Christmas. Honesty, with its beautiful shimmering seed heads, look iridescent when they catch the light and the weight and shape of artichokes make them perfect for decorating a Christmas swag. They look great nestled in with Christmas foliage but I think look more majestic with their stems left on to create a striking candle holder display for a Christmas feast.

Lucy Anna Flowers is a vibrant florist set in the beautiful glass arcade at St Nicholas market in Bristol. Lucy has been a florist for over 10 years and specialises in wedding flowers and event design. lucyannaflores.co.uk



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Foraged berries and honesty place setting

1 These are so simple to make. You can use most winter berries so making something the day before would be fine: rose hips, holly berries even crab apples would work. I've used stillingia, which lasts for ages and you can get it from most good florists around Christmas.

2 Take a cutting of honesty and make a small tied posy using your berries or stillingia with some silvery blue foliage or pine. I've used blue spruce. Rosemary or sage also look good.

3 Tie with brown twine or raffia for a simple, natural look. Attach a vintage decoration and a name tag and place at the table.

Artichoke candle holder

1 If you're harvesting your own artichokes, be sure to do so before they blow open too much. Dry them in a well ventilated area, it's important that they're hung upside down and not resting on anything.

2 Once dried (around two weeks) hollow out the centre with a sharp knife, just where the flower was, and trim the base.

3 You can leave the artichokes natural or spray them lightly with silver floral spray paint to highlight all the creases and curves. The candle should fit well without the need for any glue but if needed you could use a glue gun to fix the candle in place.

