

Saving Summer Fragrance

make your own floral perfume

an idea from Val

Bringing a breath of summer to that Holiday Party may be easier than you think.

You'll need:

White lard from the supermarket

Rubbing alcohol

Glass plates or soup bowls or even small window glass panes.

Small glass bottles—perhaps washed spice bottles, the wide opening makes for easy filling.

Adhesive tape

And, of course, petals and/or sepals from fragrant flowers.

Here's what to do:

Lard should be at room temperature

You're going to eventually nest the glass soup bowls or plates (or even small panes of glass), so cover the side you will nest together on each plate with lard. Spread it like frosting in a layer over the plate/bowl.

Sprinkle the flower petals all over the lard on one of the plates. Place the other plate over the first plate and seal the edges with adhesive tape. Set the pairs or pair aside for 2-3 days, then open them up, discard the old petals and replace with new petals. Do this three or four times.

The last time, remove the petals, scrape the lard off the plates into small glass bottles. Fill the bottles about half way with the lard. Top the upper half with rubbing alcohol. (I am considering trying vodka because it is mainly odorless and otherwise useful.) Put the glass bottles away for three months. Open them, strain the contents into a pretty bottle (or not) and hope it will be spectacular.

No guarantees, but I am going to give it a try this summer with some heirloom heliotrope we have in Maine.

Notes: if the petals are left too long they may develop a bad odor and you might have to discard that set. Good Luck.

