

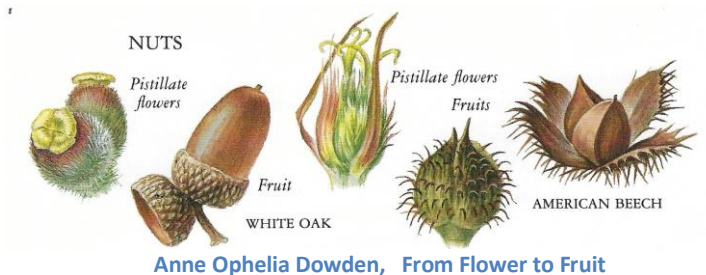
October in the Garden - Seeds and Pods

Following our gardens, through the year, this is a time to observe our plants going from flower to fruit. Last month, we looked at fruit that we eat and berries but there are all sorts of interesting pods and seeds, acorns and buckeyes.

When pollen lands on the stigma of the flower, pollen creates tubes that push down the style to the ovary where fertilization happens. The ovule grows into a seed and the ovary matures in different ways depending on the plant. This is when we see the apple forming or the bean or the pod. What we are looking at are basically the containers for the seeds.

All fruits (seed pods) are ripened ovaries. What is fascinating is the number of different ways that these ovaries develop to contain and eventually disperse seeds. They have scientific names, achenes, capsules, legumes, siliques, grains, nuts some of which we know and others that are more obscure. These classifications tell us whether the fruit is fleshy or dry and how it disperses its seed.

- ❖ Find a simple shape that will help you draw the seed or pod. Many of these pods are circles or have curved shapes. Some look like cones or cups. Show roundness with your shading by using a consistent light source.
- ❖ **Magnify** your subjects to study the details.
- ❖ If you need to, do an **enlargement**. Remember to note the size like 2X.
- ❖ **Simplify** some of the detail without losing important information
- ❖ Many of our pods are brown but we can have fun creating browns using the color wheel and working with complements.



Anne Ophelia Dowden, [From Flower to Fruit](#)

In addition to Anne Ophelia Dowden's book, I highly recommend Sarah Simblet's [Botany for the Artist](#), a treasure trove of botany and drawing, information and inspiration.

“Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plan.” ... *Henry David Thoreau*