

# How to Press and Mount Plant Specimens

## Procedure:

1. Pick a “good-looking” specimen that has a stem and several leaves so that a person could use it to identify the plant.
2. Carefully lay out the specimen on a piece of newspaper.
3. Use paper strips and tape (NO TAPE DIRECTLY ON THE SPECIMEN!) to flatten any “puffy” leaves etc. down. When you do this, be sure to turn one leaf over so the underside is visible.
4. Cover the specimen with additional newspaper.
5. Place a heavy weight on top of the newspaper sheets to completely flatten the specimen.
6. Leave the specimen undisturbed for several days to dry. It must be completely dry before you proceed to the next step. (If the specimen is not completely dry, when you try to hold it up, it will droop.)
7. When the specimen is dry, carefully place it on sketch pad paper or construction paper. Make sure that the specimen does not extend over the edges of the paper and that you allow enough room for a label indicating the type of plant. When you have previewed the layout and it is satisfactory, cement the specimen to the page using some type of clear glue. Elmer's glue seems to work well, but you may choose to experiment with other glues on a test specimen before you do the “real thing.” (Make sure you don't use too much glue !!!!)
8. Place a piece of paper on top of the glued specimen and then place some weights on the specimen to make sure that it gets pressed down to the paper while the cement is drying.
9. Allow plenty of time for it to completely dry.
10. Test it by holding the page upright, checking to see if the specimen remains adhered to paper. If not, re-glue it.

## Extra Information:

- Start early enough so that you have plenty of time.
- Print labels neatly.
- Keep labels level.
- Check the spelling of each word (especially scientific names).
- Do not mount specimens on typing paper (it is too flimsy).
- Do not put specimens in wax paper or iron them.