

## How to Press Plant Clippings

Supplies: pruning shears, hand trowel, dry cloth, plant press, acid free paper for pressing, cardboard inserts

Directions:

1. Carefully clip as many significant plant parts as possible. Do not cut thick plant parts because it takes a few weeks for the pressing to dry. If it is a small thin plant, use the hand trowel to gently dig out the entire plant including the root.
2. Gently wipe all dirt, insects, dry plant bits, etc.. from the plant using a dry cloth or your hand.
3. Have the students create labels with their name and plant name to place next to their sample. This will help identify the dried version of the specimen.
4. Create the plant sheets for the press. Put the plants on the acid free paper for pressing. Try to arrange the plant so all important parts will show. Spread the petals of flowers as much as possible. Make sure the plant parts do not overlap. Put the labels next to the plants but not touching.
5. Create a "plant sandwich" with the plant pages and cardboard. Make sure there is a least one piece of cardboard on the bottom, at least one on the top, and one between each set of plant sheets. Put the "plant sandwich" in the press and tighten it.

Alternate methods for constructing a plant press can be found at these websites:

<http://watershed.csumb.edu/ron/roncor/cor/press.htm>

[http://forestry.about.com/od/treeidentification/ht/build\\_leaf\\_pres.htm](http://forestry.about.com/od/treeidentification/ht/build_leaf_pres.htm)

[http://www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/adams/2006/flower\\_press.htm](http://www.emmitsburg.net/gardens/articles/adams/2006/flower_press.htm)

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/junior\\_naturalists/press.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/junior_naturalists/press.phtml)

Information on how to create your own plant press can be found at the following websites;

[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/junior\\_naturalists/press.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/junior_naturalists/press.phtml)

<http://www.exploringnature.org/db/detail.php?dbID=26&detID=2299>

[http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/4\\_0\\_0/4\\_1\\_0\\_supportingdocs/4\\_1\\_3\\_2/read\\_L2\\_how\\_to\\_plant\\_press.pdf](http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org/4_0_0/4_1_0_supportingdocs/4_1_3_2/read_L2_how_to_plant_press.pdf)

