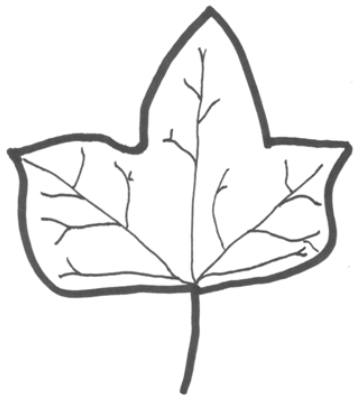


## Pressing Plants



### Instructions for pressing plants

- 1) Choose a plant specimen to press.
- 2) Put your plant inside a folded piece of newspaper.
- 3) If you are collecting a scientific specimen include notes about what the plant is, and where and when it was collected. Note the specific habitat you found it in, like a pond, the side of the road, or your backyard near the fence. Add details about the plant that may not last after pressing, like smell and color.
- 4) Put a few pieces of newspaper in each side of the folded piece to absorb moisture.
- 5) Put all of the newspaper with the plant in the middle in between the two pieces of cardboard.
- 6) Tie the strap around the cardboard tightly so it presses the plant flat.
- 7) At home, put the press under some heavy books to help flatten the plants.
- 8) Change the newspaper every few days until the plants are dried, then use them for art!



### Collection Rules

- Make sure you have permission to collect the plant: collecting in Regional, Provincial or National Parks is NOT allowed without written permission.
- Since collection kills the plant, make sure that the purpose of collecting is worth this loss of life.
- Collect less than 5% of what is present (1 in 20 plants). If something is rare, take pictures instead!
- If something is a weed, collect as much as you want but be careful to prevent the seeds from spreading, and to minimize soil disturbance (weeds love freshly dug soil).

### Plant Pressing Tips

- Press the plants right after collecting. The faster it dries the better the result.
- Try to collect all the parts needed to identify the plant: stem, leaves, roots, flowers and fruit.
- Lay out the plants in the press how you want them to look. Try to show both the top and the bottom of a leaf. If the plant doesn't cooperate right away, readjust it after an hour of pressing.
- Thick, juicy fruits or roots may need to be sliced into sections to dry properly.

