



Making a Tree Herbarium

A dried plant collection is known as herbarium.

They are easy to make and you will know the trees in your school or local area better!

Finding Trees in Your Area and Collecting Samples

- 1 Find 3 trees - take time to look at them. Sketch them or take photos.
- 2 Write down some observations, e.g. the flower colours, draw what the seeds look like, record the size and shape of the plants.
- 3 Collect your 3 samples. It is difficult to identify trees from leaves alone so try to collect the flowers, fruits, leaves, bark and seeds.
- 4 Put your specimens in a numbered plastic bag and keep out of the sun.

What you will need:

3 plastic bags
3 labels
notebook
pencils
secateurs

What you will need:

Newspaper
House bricks, heavy books
or a plant press
3 sheets of paper (the size
of a newspaper sheet or A3)
pencils and ruler
Scissors
3 herbarium labels
secateurs

Preserving and Mounting the Samples

- 5 Get back to the classroom and record information about the plant on a herbarium label. Record a collection number, your name, when you collected the plant, and where from.
- 6 In your tree collection note book, write down the tag number and beside this add these details and other information that you think is important.
- 7 Spread your sample on one half piece of newspaper. Trim the samples to show important details such as flower and fruit. Remove crumpled leaves and keep plants separate. Take care because damp plants will become mouldy, and plant features are hard to see if not carefully arranged.
- 8 Fold the piece of newspaper over to cover the sample.
- 9 Separate all tree samples by several sheets of newspaper. Use heavy books or house bricks to press the plants.
- 10 Change the newspaper regularly until the samples are dry (maybe 3-4 weeks).
- 11 When the samples have dried, glue them to the large sheets of paper and glue the herbarium card in the top right hand corner.
- 12 Allow the glue to dry then place the specimens in clear plastic sleeves. Any tree seeds can be placed in a packet or envelope and stapled to the sheet of paper.



Identifying your trees

- 13 Use your observations and references such as "A Field Guide to Forest Trees of Northern Thailand" to identify the tree samples. Your teacher and local experts might help.
- 14 Find out the major trees in your area. Maybe the Forest Restoration Research Unit recommends them for forest restoration and there is information at the website. Create a poster or display.



SCHOOL:

TREE HERBARIUM VOUCHER

FAMILY:

BOTANICAL NAME:

PROVINCE:

DATE:

DISTRICT:

ELEVATION:

m

LOCATION:

HABITAT:

NOTE: Height

m;

dbh:

cm

Bark:

Fruit:

Seed:

Leaf:

COLLECTED BY:

NUMBER:

DUPLICATES:

OTHER NOTES:

FAMILY:

BOTANICAL NAME:

PROVINCE:

DATE:

DISTRICT:

ELEVATION:

m

LOCATION:

HABITAT:

NOTE: Height

m;

dbh:

cm

Bark:

Fruit:

Seed:

Leaf:

COLLECTED BY:

NUMBER:

DUPLICATES:

Examples of
herbarium
labels to use

(or design your
own with this
information)

