



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
DIY Plant Press



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

DIY PLANT PRESS



OBJECTIVE:

KIDS WILL CREATE THEIR OWN REUSABLE PLANT PRESS TO PRESERVE FLOWERS AND LEAVES FOR SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION OR GIFTS.

BACKGROUND

Preserve plant cuttings for scientific exploration with this easy DIY plant press.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find or cut two pieces of wood to the same size (approximately 12in. x 12in.)
2. Cut 6-10 pieces of corrugated cardboard to the same size.
3. Cut blank newsprint, watercolor paper or other absorbent unprinted paper to the same size.
4. Collect leaves and flowers that you'd like to preserve from your garden or neighborhood. Be sure to have permission to collect prior to collecting!
5. Stack your plant press as follows: base: wood, next: cardboard, then: 2 pieces of paper.
6. Arrange your plant parts with flowers and leaves facing downward. Cover with 2 more pieces of paper.
7. Add more layers following the same pattern (without the wooden base).
8. Once complete with layers, add the second piece of wood.
9. Use 2 utility straps (or webbing belts) and wrap around the press. Then, tighten by hand.
10. Leave two dry for at least a week or two in a dry place.
11. Then, gently disassemble to reveal your dried, pressed flowers and leaves.
12. Optional: Use the flowers to create herbarium specimens by gluing to cardstock and labeling with species information and collection date and location.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WikiHow Make a Flower Press:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Flower-Press>

Instructables Plant Press:

<https://www.instructables.com/plant-press/>

Wilderness Scoutcraft Portable Plant Press:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjLGzntyZk>

Garden Answer: Pressed Flower Ornaments:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7MHY3vAJN4>

HGTV DIY Flower Press:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bnsQ_LAwevQ

Gardening Lab for Kids by Renata Fossen Brown; ISBN: 978-1-59253-904-8