

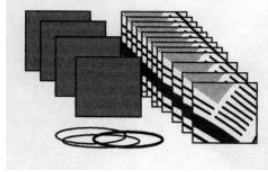


## How to Make a Plant Press

Drying and pressing plants is one way to preserve them to look at later. Choose plants that are OK to pick (not protected). Pick only one or two specimens- always leave more than you take.

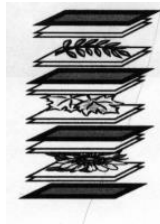
### Items needed:

- a large piece of cardboard
- 4 thick rubber bands
- sheets of old newspaper
- scissors
- flowers and leaves



### Making the Plant Press

1. Cut the cardboard into four 4" X 4" squares.
2. Cut the newspaper into twelve 4" X 4" squares.
3. Place 4 sheets of newspaper in between each cardboard piece.
4. Place the four rubber bands around the outside of the cardboard, so that the contents are secure and tight. This is how you will assemble the press with plants in it later.



### Pressing the Plants

1. Gather the flowers and leaves that you would like to press. This press has three plant layers.
2. Cut the plants so that they fit in the press-- no bigger than 4" X 4".
3. Neatly place a plant in between four sheets of newspaper (2 sheets on top, 2 on the bottom)- like a sandwich. Spread out the flower petals and leaves the way you want them. The newspaper absorbs excess plant moisture.
4. Place the plant-newspaper "sandwich" between two pieces of cardboard.
5. Repeat the process, stacking all three layers, until the plant press is full.
6. Secure the press with rubber bands. The tighter the press the better.
7. Place the press in a dry place and do not open for at least 48 hours. (Longer is even better).
8. After 48 hours, you may remove the plants and mount them on paper using glue or tape.

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