

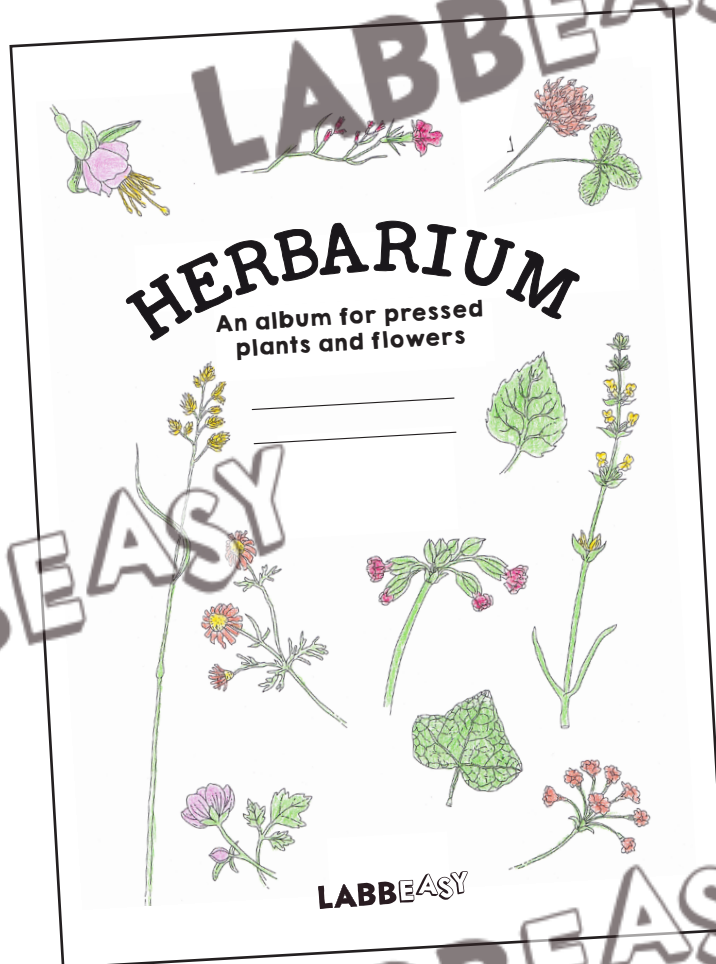
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Exploring Nature

Herbarium

An album for pressed plants and flowers



PDF 4387-EN

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PRINT SETTINGS

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INTRODUCTION

Herbarium

A herbarium is a book of pressed plants. In order to preserve the plants for a long time, they're pressed and then attached to individual sheets of paper. These sheets are later bound together as a book.

"Herbarium" is a Latin word that means 'herb book'. The first herbaria were made by plant lovers to look at in the winter as a replacement for the garden in the cold season. Later on, botanists and biologists borrowed this idea and created scientific herbaria full of plant specimens that they found on their research trips and travels. The Swedish naturalist Carl von Linné (1707-1778), for example, who established the tradition of giving Latin names to all plant species, collected together a herbarium that contained over 14,000 pressed plants.

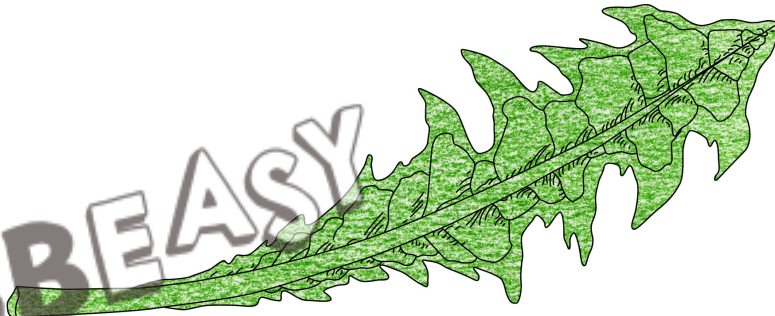


The herbaria that children made a couple of generations ago are now sought-after research material. With the help of these collections of pressed plants, scientists can detect the effects of environmental change, for example.

It's important to record specific information about each plant, since every species had its own characteristics such as leaf form, flower color, flowering season, and habitat – some plants grow in the forest and others in meadows. Most important are the plant's name, and the place and date it was found.

This herbarium has two different information tables. For smaller kids you can print out the table with just three criteria (plant name, place found, and date). For older and more motivated kids there's an information table containing nine scientific criteria:

Plant's common name:	What's the English name of this plant?
Botanical name:	What's the Latin name of this plant?
Plant family:	What species does this plant belong to?
Place discovered:	Where was the plant found?
Biotope:	In what sort of landscape was the plant found? Meadow, forest, wayside, riverbank...
Date:	When was the plant found?
Flower color:	What color are the flowers?
Leaf form:	What shape are the plant's leaves?
Special remarks:	What qualities does the plant have? Is it poisonous, edible, medicinal, etc.?



So if you're keen to learn about the plants in your area and want to be able to tell them apart, you should create an herbarium. You can do this by collecting plants while out walking and then pressing them at home afterwards. Heads up: There are many rare plants that are protected which you shouldn't pick! Therefore, it's important to first identify plants with a flower classification book before picking them.

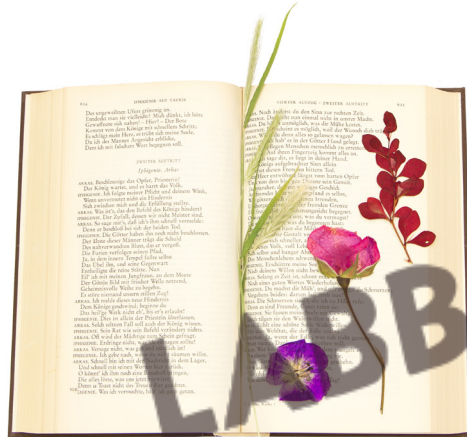
Creating your very own herbarium is lots of fun and well worth the effort. You only need to collect and press a few plants to put together a wonderful, personal plant encyclopaedia.

Micha Labbé

HOW TO DO IT

Herbarium

You can press and dry plants without using a plant press. For this you need several heavy books and some newspaper. Since the petals can stain the pages, only use books that you don't mind leaving marks on.



- 1 Put a sheet of newspaper down on an open page.
- 2 Lay the flower on the paper, petals face down.
- 3 Put another sheet of newspaper on top of the flower.
- 4 Carefully close the book and then weigh it down with other books and / or a weight, such as a brick.
- 5 Carefully replace the paper every couple of days until the plant is completely dried. The drying process can take up to fourteen days, depending on the type of flower.
- 6 Wait until flowers and leaves are completely dry before gluing them into your herbarium. Dried plants are very delicate, so it's best to use tweezers.



- 7 You can fasten pressed plants into the herbarium using cut-out paper strips and glue.