



# DIY Plant Press

Plant presses were designed to dry out and flatten leaves and flowers. Presses were used by explorers and scientists to identify and preserve new species they would encounter when exploring new areas.

## Materials:

Plant to press  
Cardboard  
Newspaper  
Belt

Paper Towels  
Heavy books (2)  
Scissors



## Step 1

Find the plants you want to press. Make sure they are from your yard, and that you can 100% identify them before picking the plant.

## Step 2

Once picked make sure to keep your specimens moist until you are ready to press them. Fold specimens in newspaper to absorb any moisture. For large flowers uses a few layers of newspaper.

## Step 3

Starting with a piece of wood or a large book at the bottom, begin alternating cardboard, newspaper, paper towel, cardboard, then a heavy book or piece of wood on top. You can press multiple specimens, by layering the cardboard, newspaper, cardboard in a "layered cake" like fashion.

## Step 4

After placing the book on top of your specimen, secure the plant press "cake" with a belt in order to secure the press. It will take at least a week to dry, if the paper becomes damp make sure to swap it out with new dry paper.

## Step 5

Once the specimens are dry there are endless opportunities to use your newly dried flowers. You can paste them in a journal, on a canvas and frame your specimens! Let your creativity run wild!



If you're looking for some more ideas Pinterest has an endless supply of creativity!