

Appendix D

Collecting and Pressing Plants

1. Collect as much of the plant as possible, including roots, stems, flowers and fruits.
Aquatic plants are often sterile (non-flowering) but flowers and fruits are very helpful for identification.
2. Keep plant refrigerated until you can identify and press it (3-5 days).
3. Identify plant before pressing.
4. Using a pencil, label mounting sheet with plant name, location, date, and collector's serial number (a running tally of all his/her collections)
5. Rinse plant so it is free of epiphytes, silt, etc. and place on mounting paper. Plant may be bent into a "V" or "W" shape to fit on sheet.
6. If plant is limp or has finely dissected leaves*,
 - Fill sink or tub with about an inch of water.
 - Slip mounting paper under water and float and arrange plant on sheet.
 - If plant has a complex leaf, such as water-milfoil, cut off one leaf and display it spread out.
 - Slowly, lift paper out of water so that plant remains spread out.
7. Cover plant with a sheet of waxed paper or plastic wrap.
8. Place sheet with specimen and wax paper inside folds of newspaper.
9. Make a sandwich of cardboard, blotting paper, newspaper/specimen, blotting paper, cardboard. Repeat for each specimen.
10. Place sandwiches between top and bottom end boards. Use rope or straps to compress plants to keep specimens flat as they dry.
11. Place press somewhere warm and dry – preferable in a ventilated box with light bulbs for quick drying. Remove plants in 5-6 days or when thoroughly dry.
12. Make label for plant on cotton-bond paper, including
 - County, state
 - Plant scientific name and author
 - Location including lake or place name and township, range and section or lat/long coordinates. (Use topographic map or plat map).
 - Date collected
 - Person who collected plant and person who identified plant if different
 - Collector's specimen
 - Habitat information and associated plants.
13. Glue label on lower right-hand corner of sheet when plant is dry.

*If plant is not limp, simply place plant on mounting paper and proceed to make "sandwich" with newspaper, blotting paper and cardboard.